



# **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**

*An Open and Affirming Church*

**August 14, 2022**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome! We welcome you to our worship this morning and are grateful for your presence. No matter who you are, or who you love, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Please introduce yourself to an usher or Rev. Jake Miles Joseph to learn more about our ministries.*

## SHARING OF OUR GIFTS

Those attending worship in the sanctuary please leave your offerings in the giving baskets located in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like to gift electronically visit our website where you can find a donation link.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send request to the Prayer Request Email:

[PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org](mailto:PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org)

## ***We thank our worship leaders for their participation in this morning's service:***

Rev. Jake Miles Joseph

Organist: Linda Wrenn

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh

## *Church Contact Information:*

Telephone: (203) 743-1877. Address: 46 Main Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Supply Pastor: Reverend Suzanne Wagner ([swagner5@yahoo.com](mailto:swagner5@yahoo.com))

Director of Music: Dana Mancuso ([dmancuso.live@gmail.com](mailto:dmancuso.live@gmail.com))

Secretary: Kathy MacAulay ([secretary@firstchurchbethel.org](mailto:secretary@firstchurchbethel.org))

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith

Senior Deacon: Marcia Merritt ([pesinger37@aol.com](mailto:pesinger37@aol.com))

Head Trustee: Jim Welsh ([jim.welsh.jr@gmail.com](mailto:jim.welsh.jr@gmail.com))

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**SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*\*Please stand either in body or spirit.*

**PRELUDE #356**      *We, Your People, God, Confessing*      vs. 1, 3, 4

**Call to Worship**

One: We gather every Sunday to worship God...

**All: ...by Faith!**

One: We show up for each other in times of need, hospitalizations, illness, and death...

**All: ... with faith!**

One: We gather to reconnect with one another...

**All: ...in faith!**

One: In good times and bad times,

**All: we come together faithfully to worship God.**

One: We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears, rivers and waters stirring deep within, and yet we are...

**All: ...united by a shared faith.**

One: God, help us to be bridges of hope in times of trouble.

**All: Let us open ourselves to your presence, O God, at work in us, among us, and through us!**

**INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN #637**      *For All the Saints*      vs. 1, 4, 5

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

**Unison Prayer of Reconciliation**

**God who inspires a courage of faith, who hold us in the heart of mystery, who allows our questions, and who accepts and loves us even in our times of**

weariness—hear our prayer of forgiveness. Today, as we take your Communion and hear your Word, help us to be bridges of faithfulness to a down and out, weary, and increasingly small world—help us to be bridge builders to your Realm of Peace and Hope. Amen.

*Silence is observed*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

If we confess our sins, we recognize the pain we have caused, we come face to face with the division and anger of our day, and we know that God is with us. Jesus the Christ walks among us. The Holy Spirit enables us to wake again to a new day and strive to make all things right, well, and good. God is with us and has forgiven us. You are forgiven! I am forgiven. We are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

### **A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #601**

*I Am Thine, O Lord*

vs. 1 & 4

**SCRIPTURE  
SERMON**

Hebrews 11:29-34 NRSV

“Faith: Bridge Over Troubled Water”

### **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

#### **Invitation**

Our Scripture this morning reminds us of the power and transformation of faith. With faith (comfort in mystery, confidence in things unseen, commitment to a way of living) we can become bridges of change in a time of troubled waters. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. Every cent and every dollar is a new plank, nail, screw, parapet, anchorage, bearing, pier, deck, cable, and joist needed to build and maintain this bridge of faith for Bethel in a troubled world.

**Musical Offering #635**

*Faith of Our Fathers*

Frederick W. Faber

#### **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**God of grace, accept these gifts as a sign of our commitment to you. With faith, we build new pathways of grace and courage. We do this with you. We do this together. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION LITURGY**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN #288**

*O God of Vision*

vs. 1 & 5

## **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God is always with us promising always to never leave us. When we are weary, feeling small, when tears are in our eyes... God will dry them all! God is on your side when times get rough. Here at Church, friends are found! Like a bridge over troubled water, we all take our part. If darkness comes and pain is all around, like a bridge over troubled water, through these gifts and our shared faith, hope for a new day is found. Again, O God, if darkness comes and pain is all around, like a bridge over troubled water, through these gifts and our shared faith in you, hope for a new day is found. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #619**      *My Life Flows On*      vs. 1, 2, 4

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*      by Paul Simon

## **Attributions**

**Prelude #356** We, Your People, God, Confessing vs. 1, 3, 4

Words: From the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church, adapt. 1993

Music: Traditional Dutch melody; arr. Julius Roentgen, 1906

**Opening Hymn #637** For All the Saints vs. 1, 4, 5

Words: William W. How, 1864, alt.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

**Hymn of Praise #601** I Am Thine, O Lord vs. 1& 4

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875

Music: William H. Doane, 1875

**Musical Offering #635** Faith of Our Fathers

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1849, alt.

Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; adapt. James G. Walton, 1874

**Communion Hymn #288** O God of Vision vs. 1& 5

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: Erneuereten Gesangbunch, 1665

**Closing Hymn #619** My Life Flows On vs. 1, 2, 4

Words: and Music: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

**Postlude** Bridge Over Troubled Waters by Paul Simon

Words and Music by Paul Simon 1969, 1970

**Prelude # 356** We, Your People, God, Confessing vs. 1, 3, 4

Words: From the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church, adapt. 1993

Music: Traditional Dutch melody; arr. Julius Roentgen, 1906

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#1 We, your people, God, confessing Jesus Christ your Son as Lord,  
Gather here in common worship praising your Incarnate Word.  
Through the power of Christ within us we are strengthened to proclaim  
Gospel truth in witness, service offered in Christ's holy name.

#3 We, your people, God, communing through the Holy Spirit, here,  
Joined together as disciples, in obedience now draw near.  
At the table where the emblems of Christ's sacrifice are spread,  
Here we celebrate his presence with the cup and broken bread.

#4 We, your people, God, receiving gifts of ministry outpoured  
In the light of holy scripture are set free, refreshed, restored.  
In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we adore.  
Yours the blessing, yours the glory, one God, reigning evermore!

**Opening Hymn #637** For All the Saints vs. 1, 4, 5

Words: William W. How, 1864, alt.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1 For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

4 And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia!

**Hymn of Praise # 601 I Am Thine, O Lord vs. 1& 4**

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875

Music: William H. Doane, 1875

1 I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

4 There are depths of love that I cannot know  
Till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
Till I rest in peace with Thee. [Refrain]

**Musical Offering # 635 Faith of Our Fathers**

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1849, alt.

Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1864; adapt. James G. Walton, 1874

1 Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword,  
oh, how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word!  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

2 The martyrs bound in prison chains, were still in heart and conscience free,  
and bless'd would be their children's fate, if they, like them, should live for thee!  
Faith of the martyrs, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

3 Faith of our mothers, we will love both friend and foe in all our strife,  
and preach thee, too, as love knows how, by saving word and faithful life!  
Faith of our mothers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

**Communion Hymn # 288 O God of Vision vs. 1& 5**

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: Erneuertten Gesangbunch, 1665

1 O God of vision far greater than all human scheming,  
Gather us now in your presence, refreshing,  
Redeeming. Show us a new life in your breathtaking view,



Lovely beyond all our dreaming.

5 Grateful, we come now by Christ's invitation clear-spoken.  
We seek the nourishment found in fruit crushed and bread broken.  
Christ for us all! Come, let us answer the call,  
Offering our lives as the token.

**Closing Hymn # 619 My Life Flows On vs. 1, 2, 4**

Words: and Music: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

1 My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

[Refrain:]

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

**Postlude Bridge Over Troubled Waters by Paul Simon**

Words and Music by Paul Simon 1969, 1970