



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

August 21, 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 Worship Leader Bekah Anderson or an usher 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.

CALL To a SPECIAL Congregational MEETING (Quarterly) The Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Bethel will be held in Main Hall following worship on Sunday, August 21, 2022 for the following purposes: • To hear about Pastoral Search – update from Committee • To Consider and act upon the Prioritization of Facility Projects, as presented by Trustee Committee • To consider possible changes to the 2023 Slate of Officers • To enact any other business that may properly come before the group.

Coming Up: Dana and Marcia will be presenting another musical Sunday honoring those who died on 9/11 on September 11, 2022. Come and enjoy lots of music plus giving a tribute to those who died and those who gave their time to rescue and recover from the devastation of that day. It should be a meaningful service.

PRAAYER REQUESTS --Please send request to the Prayer Request Email:
PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org

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

Worship Leader: Bekah Anderson

Guest Musician: Nancy Wildman

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Eric Hermansen & Jackie Pflieger

Church Contact Information:

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

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

Secretary: Kathy MacAulay (secretary@firstchurchbethel.org)

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith

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

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

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SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE #286

This is the Day

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our God knows us intimately.

Many: God, you knew us before we knew us, before we knew ourselves.

One: Our God is holy.

Many: Holy God, you consecrate us.

One: Our God will reassure.

Many: Holy God, you will give us words to speak.

One: May we speak the words that come from God ...

Many: And do the work God would have us do.

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

Mothering God, we rejoice that you placed us in the womb and called us forth. You called us forth to build and to plant. Give us the blueprint as we build and bless our hands as we sow seeds. We rejoice in knowing that our steps are guided by you, and you are reliable. We delight in your presence and give thanks as you deliver us from fear and let your love have its way in us. Embolden us to speak your truth to power, and let the power of your truth always be evident in us. Guide as to live the prayer your son Jesus taught us, saying ...

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 #227

In the Garden

vs. 1 & 2

PRAYER OF CONFESSON AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

Transforming God, too often we have been afraid to speak out against the injustices of this world. We have worshiped in ways that made us feel good rather than honor you in our words and deed. Show us the path to faithful living. Show us how to build beloved and just communities. Teach us how to do your work in this world. Empower us to plant seeds of love, faith, and hope. May we bloom where we have been planted to your glory.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

The Mystery we name God, leads us into all truth. Feel the gentle nudges without and within, helping us to course correct. Life in the Spirit is not static, and neither are we. Let the grace of God help us to build that which lasts and plant what nourishes. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bekah Anderson

***HYMN OF PRAISE #705**

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:4-10

SERMON

God's Words in Our Mouths?

Bekah Anderson

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Musical Offering

I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, as we offer these gifts, we remember what you have asked of us. Not strict adherence of rules or unquestioned obedience to tradition, but to act justly, to cherish kindness, and to be humble companions of Love. By your Spirit, may we be faithful to you in the practice of our religion, not losing sight of the purpose of our worship or the foundation of our faith. In all aspects of our lives, may Love be at the center. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #557**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

vs. 1 & 2

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Sweet Sweet Spirit

Attributions:

Enfleshed: <https://enfleshed.com/>

Prelude: # 286 This is the Day

Words: Psalm 118:24 para. Les Garrett, 1967

Music: Les Garrett, 1967

1967 Scripture in Song, used by permission of Maranatha! Music

Chalice Hymnal

Opening Hymn: # 227 In the Garden vs. 1 & 2

Words and Music: C. Austin Miles, 1913

Chalice Hymnal

Hymn of Praise: # 705 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Words: Julia Ward Howe, 1861

Music: American camp-meeting tune (19th century)

Chalice Hymnal

Musical Offering

“Lift My Life Up” Unspoken

Words and Music: John Ylvidaker-1985

Songwriters: Chad Mattson / Jason Ingram / Jon Lowry / Seth Mosley

Lift My Life Up lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Closing Hymn: #557 Just a Closer Walk with Thee vs. 1 & 2

Words: John H. Sammis, 1887

Music: Daniel B. Towner, 1887

Chalice Hymnal

Postlude: Sweet Sweet Spirit

(Hymns of the Spirit) Doris Akers, 1962

Prelude: # 286 This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Opening Hymn: # 227 In the Garden vs. 1 & 2

1 I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
and the voice I hear falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own,
and the joy we share, as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice,
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

Hymn of Praise: # 705 Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.

[Refrain:]

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out all human hearts before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;

as he died to make us holy, let us die to make all free,
while God is marching on. [Refrain]

Musical Offering: I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry

Closing Hymn: #557 Just a Closer Walk with Thee vs. 1 & 2

1 I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

[Refrain:]

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2 Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]

Postlude: Sweet Sweet Spirit