



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

August 28th, 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 Worship Leader Bekah Anderson 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

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

Worship Leader: Bekah Anderson
Guest Musician: Linda Wrenn
Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt
Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Mary O'Hare

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

Aria from the Suite in D

W.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Come, let us ground ourselves in the sacred wonder of this ordinary day, for the Holy infuses all of our lives.

Many: Let us gather together expectantly, for the Living God sets the table for all Her Beloveds.

One: Let us rejoice, for Love is not earned but freely given.

Many: Our birthright is Belonging, Let us welcome one another in.

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

God, we come to this to gather with you, where there are no barriers, and all that we are is celebrated as a gift. We come to receive your hospitality of caring for each one of us and to learn from you how to offer such a celebration to stranger, friend, chosen family, those whose faces are unfamiliar to us, and the face who meets us in the mirror. We seek to emulate your son, who showed hospitality to all, and we pray as he 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 #18**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

vs. 1&2

Prayer of Confession

God, sometimes we say, "I'm too busy," to invitations to kindness, friendship, or activism, or pretend to be "too busy," and avoid being indebted, pitied, or rubbing

elbows with those who make us uncomfortable. Sometimes we accept an invitation to be involved, celebrate with someone, or just have coffee, but back out or "no-show." Forgive us when we skip your parties. God, sometimes we are "imperfect guests," wanting to be the center of attention, and other times we insist on always being host, giver, one in control, receiver of praise and gratefulness. Forgive us when we fail, in gratitude or generosity. Amen.

A moment of Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon:

God loves, invites, nudges, embraces us in all our resistance to simply hold a balloon of joy and clap at the candles of another's cake. We are forgiven; a plate is set for us. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #452** *Here I am Lord* vs. 1&3

Scripture: Luke 14:1, 7-14
Sermon: Jesus' Advice on Throwing Parties

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Musical Offering #487 *Help Us Accept Each Other* vs. 1&3

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Wisdom of Christ, bless our gifts of money, time, and skills to the flourishing of your people. For we desire a world where nothing is hoarded and abundance abounds, that all may live in the rich landscape of freedom and belonging. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #494** *They'll Know We Are Christians* vs. 1-3

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Attributions

Prayers: from Worship Ways and Enfleshed

Prelude

Aria from the Suite in D

Bach, Edited & Arranged: A. D. Wolff

Opening Hymn

18 All People That on Earth Do Dwell vs. 1&2

Words: William Kethe, 1561

Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Hymn of Praise

452 Here I am Lord vs. 1&3

Words: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981

Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm. James Snyder, 1994

Musical Offering

#487 Help Us Accept Each Other vs. 1&3

Words: Fred Kaan. 1974

Music: John Ness Beck, 1977

1992 Hope Publishing Co.

Chalice Hymnal

Closing Hymn

494 They'll Know We Are Christians vs.1-3

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838 Arr. J. Mansfield

PRELUDE Aria from the Suite in D

OPENING HYMN # 18 All People That on Earth Do Dwell vs. 1&2

1. 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

2. Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.

HYMN OF PRAISE # 452 Here I am Lord vs. 1&3

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

MUSICAL OFFERING #487 Help Us Accept Each Other vs. 1&3

1. Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe

we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

3. Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love,
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

CLOSING HYMN # 494 They'll Know We Are Christians

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land'
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

POSTLUDE: For the Beauty of the Earth