



# **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL**

*An Open and Affirming Church*

August 7th, 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 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](mailto:PRAYER@firstchurchbethel.org)**

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

Worship Leader: Bekah Anderson  
Organist: Dana Mancuso  
Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt  
Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh & 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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*An Open and Affirming Church*

**August 7, 2022**

## **SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*\*Please stand either in body or spirit*

### **PRELUDE #496**

*Unidos (Together)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: The Creator resides in the midst of creation, calling us to this community.

**All: Our world waits for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: God our Righteousness gazes upon the beloved with delight and concern.

**All: Our bodies wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: The Spirit of the Living God greets us with fresh winds and new mercies.

**All: Our souls wait for the Holy One, our help and shield.**

One: Let us enter into community with God with worship and praise.

**All: Amen**

### **INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Abundant God, we wait for you with longing, hope, and anticipation. May your kingdom be realized in this community. May your people be your ambassadors. May your love be our propeller in the world and our beacon to direct us home. Fill us with the bread of life and nourish our spirits to be your good news in the world. We pray all of this in the name of your son Jesus, who taught us to pray, 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 #276**

*We Gather Together*

vs. 1 & 2

### **Call to Reconciliation**

Gracious God, you have created a world of abundance and flourishing. Every resource, every gift, every product originates from the generosity of your creation and the creativity you have bestowed upon us. Forgive us for misuse and overuse of your gifts. Reveal our miserly attitudes toward the plentiful trove of resources you have

entrusted to our care. Sow generosity in us, reveal abundance to us, and enable flourishing through us. Amen.

A moment of Silence is kept

### **Assurance of Pardon:**

Every good and perfect gift comes from above. Grace is such a gift; mercy is another. Transformation and new life descend freely from the Most High to all who would receive it. Receive the assurance of God's grace and compassion as precious treasure made available to all. Amen.

### **Children's Message**

Bekah Anderson

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE #526**

*The Gift of Love*

### **Scripture:**

Luke 12:32-40

### **Sermon:**

Preparing for Generosity

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

### **Invitation**

Luke 12:34 informs us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let our hearts direct the use of our resources, our time, and our talents. May our generosity meet God's abundance in attending to the needs and hopes of our community.

### **Musical Offering**

*Quando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones)*

### **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous One, receive the gifts we bring as we return a portion of your treasure to the use of your kingdom. May your will be manifested and your creation restored through sharing these offerings. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

### **\*CLOSING HYMN #490**

*Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant*

vs. 1, 2 & 5

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE #557**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

## Attributions

<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-c-august-7-2022/>

## Prelude

#496 Unidos (Together)

Words: Benjamin Villanueva, 1982; tr. George Lockwood, 1983

Music: Benjamin Villanueva, 1982; arr. Esther Frances, 1983, alt.

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## Opening Hymn

#276 We Gather Together (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: *Nederlandsche Gedenckclanck*, 1626; tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

Music: Dutch melody (16th century); arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

Adapt. © 1981 Ruth Duck; used by permission

## Hymn of Praise

#526 The Gift of Love

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

## Musical Offering

Quando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones)

Words: J.A. Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1971; tr. George Lockwoods, 1980

Music: J.A. Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1971; arr. Alvin Schutmaat

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## Closing Hymn

#490 Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

Words: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

Music: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

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## Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#557 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Words and Music: Anonymous

## **Prelude**

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Adapt. © 1981 Ruth Duck; used by permission

1 We gather together to ask the God's blessing;  
to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;  
The powers that oppress us now cease to distress us.  
O God, be present with us, and make your will unknown.

2 Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you,  
Ordaining, maintaining the power of life;  
Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story.  
Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife.

## **Hymn of Praise**

#526 The Gift of Love

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

Music: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

© 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.

## **Musical Offering**

Cuando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones)

Words: J.A. Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1971; tr. George Lockwoods, 1980

Music: J.A. Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1971; arr. Alvin Schutmaat

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1 Sister, let me be your servant.  
brother, let me walk with you;  
Pray that I might have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey.  
fellow trav'lers on the road.  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

5 Brother, let me be your servant.  
Sister, let me walk with you;  
Pray that I might have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

## **Postlude (all welcome to sing)**

#557 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Words and Music: Anonymous

### *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.

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.

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.

3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.