



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

September 11, 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 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.

BLOOD DRIVE 9/30/2022 1PM-6PM at FCCB. Sign up at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS to set up an appointment.

This Sunday, September 11- Rally Sunday

We will picnic together after the church service. Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

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: Marcia Merritt:

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Guest Vocalist: Mary O'Hare

Guest Musician: Greg Mable

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh, Jackie Pflieger, 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

Broken Vessels/Whom Shall I Fear

CALL TO WORSHIP #122

Comfort, Comfort You My People vs.1

INVOCATION #487

Help Us Accept Each Other vs. 2

The 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 #618

How Firm a Foundation vs.1-3

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION #433

Blest Be the Tie That Binds vs. 1&2

ASSURANCE OF PARDON #543

Blessed Assurance vs. 1

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marcia Merritt

*HYMN OF PRAISE #234

Crown Him with Many Crowns vs. 1&3

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:28-31, Isaiah 41:10, John 3:16-17,
Romans 14:7-12, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Revelation 21:1-4

SERMON

Tribute To 9/11

Marcia Merritt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE #722

This Is My Song

vs. 1

A PRAYER FOR THE NATION #723 (Read Only in Unison)

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage.

Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will.

Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion: from pride and arrogance and from every evil course of action.

Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people.

Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land.

When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR'S REFLECTION OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

#517 *Love Divine, all Loves Excelling* vs.1

INVITATION #382 *We Give Thee but Thine Own* vs.1

MUSICAL OFFERING (Medley)

#631 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

#705 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

#720 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION #609 *Take My Life* vs. 1

***CLOSING HYMN #546** *Amazing Grace!* vs. 1-4

BENEDICTION #434 *God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again* vs.1

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

POSTLUDE #677 *Let There Be Peace on Earth* vs. 1&2

Attributions

Picture on Cover

https://search.aol.com/aol/image;_ylt=AwrJ6SQ74O1iTJUAo1tpCWVH;_ylu=Y29sbwNiZjEEcG9zAzIEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Nj?q=Ground+zero+cross&v_t=webmail-searchbox
Benediction delivered at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Sept. 11, 2019, in the Memorial Church of Harvard University by Professor Stephanie Paulsell, Interim Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church and Susan Shallcross Swartz Professor of the Practice of Christian Studies, Harvard Divinity School.

<https://memorialchurch.harvard.edu/blog/benediction-remembrance-911>

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/us-news/for-survivors-of-9-11-it-never-goes-away.html>

<https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/flight-93>

Patriotism

<https://www.city-journal.org/post-9-11-patriotism>

<https://www.michigandaily.com/uncategorized/outburst-patriotism-after-911-still-evident/>

Aftermath of 9/11

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-the-911-attack-aftermath/>

Where was God?

‘MEET ME IN THE STAIRWELL’

<https://myktis.com/2021/09/where-was-god-on-911-answered-in-poem/>

How can an individual make a better world after 9/11?

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/316800>

Moment of Madness

Zelda Zieselman, from *Laughter, Love and Lunacy*, copyright, 2002, 2018, published by ZZ Publications

Children’s Message

Luke 13:1-5 When Bad Things Happen to Good People (McLarty) – Sermon Writer
Why Does God Allow Bad Days? Children's Sermon | Sermon... (sermons4kids.com)

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-why-do-bad-things-happen/>

Prelude (Medley)

1. Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

CCLI Song # 7019974

Joel Houston | Jonas Myrin

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2. Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)

CCLI Song # 6440288

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Scott Cash

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Call To Worship

#122 Comfort, Comfort You My People vs. 1

Words: Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

Music Louis Bourgeois, 1553; harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564

Invocation

#487 Help Us Accept Each Other vs. 2

Words: Fred Kaan, 1974

Music: John Ness Beck, 1977

© 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Chalice Hymnal

***Opening Hymn**

#618 How Firm a Foundation vs. 1-3

Words: John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

Music: Traditional American melody

Prayer of Reconciliation

#433 Blest Be the Tie That Binds vs. 1&2

Words: John Fawcett, 1872

Music: Johann G. Nageli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

Chalice Hymnal

Assurance of Pardon

#543 Blessed Assurance vs. 1

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873

Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

Chalice Hymnal

Hymn of Praise

#234 Crown Him with Many Crowns vs. 1&3

Words: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874

Music: George J. Elvey, 1868

Chalice Hymnal

Prayers of the People

#722 This is My Song vs. 1

Words: Lloyd Stone, 1934; st. 3, Georgia Harkness, c. 1939, alt

Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. The Hymnal, 1933

Chalice Hymnal

#723 Prayer of the Nation Read Only

1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Chalice Hymnal

Pastor's Reflection of Joys and Concerns

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vs. 1

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Chalice Hymnal

Invitation

#382 We Give Thee but Thine Own vs. 1

Words: William W. How, c 1858

Music: Mason and Webb's Cantica Laudis, 1850

MUSICAL OFFERING

(631) Lift Every Voice and Sing

(705) Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

(720) O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921

Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

© 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Co., renewed

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Words: Julia Ward Howe, 1861, alt.

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

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
Words: Katherine Lee Bates, 1893
Music: Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

Prayer of Dedication

609 Take My Life vs. 1
Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1874
Music: H. A. Cesar Malan, 1827
Chalice Hymnal

Closing Hymn

#546 Amazing Grace! vs. 1-4
Words: John Newton, 1779
Music: Virginia Harmony, 1831; Harm. Edwin O., Excell, 1900
Public Domain

Benediction

#434 God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again vs. 1
Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880
Music: William G. Tomer, 1880
Chalice Hymnal

Start Spangled Banner

by Francis Scott Key 1814

Postlude

#677 Let There Be Peace on Earth
Words: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955
Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987
© 1955, renewed 1983, Jan-Lee Music

PRELUDE (Medley)

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)/Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)

Call To Worship

#122 Comfort, Comfort You My People vs. 1

1 Comfort, comfort you my people,
tell of peace, thus says our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.

Invocation

#487 Help Us Accept Each Other vs. 2

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.

***Opening Hymn**

#618 How Firm a Foundation vs. 1-3

1. "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said then to you God has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. "When through deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;

for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

Prayer of Reconciliation

#433 Blest Be the Tie That Binds vs. 1&2

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love:
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2. When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

Assurance of Pardon

#543 Blessed Assurance vs. 1

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

[Refrain:]

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

***Hymn of Praise**

#234 Crown Him with Many Crowns vs. 1&3

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem
drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,

and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall no end,
and round his pieced feet
fair flowers of paradise
extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Prayers of the People

#722 This is My Song vs. 1

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine

#723 Prayer of the Nation Read Only in Unison

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage.
Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will.
Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life.
Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance and from every evil course of action.
Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people.
Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land.
When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail.
We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Pastor's Reflection of Joys and Concerns

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vs. 1

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Invitation

#382 We Give Thee but Thine Own vs. 1

1. We give Thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Musical Offering (Medley)

(631) Lift Every Voice and Sing
(705) Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
(720) O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Prayer of Dedication

#609 Take My Life vs 1

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Closing Hymn

#546 Amazing Grace! vs. 1-4

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Benediction

#434 God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again vs.1

1 God be with you till we meet again;

loving counsels guide, uphold you,

with a shepherd's care enfold you:

God be with you till we meet again.

[Refrain:] Till we meet (Till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)

till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet;)

till we meet (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)

God be with you till we meet again.

Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

POSTLUDE

#677 Let There Be Peace on Earth

1. Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me

Let There Be Peace on Earth

The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father

Brothers all are we

Let me walk with my brother

In perfect harmony.

2. Let peace begin with me

Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take

Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment and live

Each moment in peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me.