



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

September 4, 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. Sheldon Smith 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.

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.

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:

Reverend Sheldon Smith

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh, Mary O'Hare, Jackie Pflieger

Church Contact Information:

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

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

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit*

PRELUDE #221

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

vs. 1&2

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Great Healer, send your Spirit here to lead us in our worship.

People: Touch us deep in our hearts with your healing and loving power.

Leader: Enable us to lift our hearts in song and praise.

People: Fill us with your mercy and grace so that we may be empowered to serve effectively in the world.

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 #100**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

vs. 1&2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

One: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

Many: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

A moment of Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We believe, and although we fall short, we must persevere to the end. Hold tight to God's Word. In Christ we are forgiven. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE #14**

Womb of Life and Source of Being

vs. 1-3

Scripture: I Corinthians 15:42-58
Sermon: Work in A Pandemic Age

Rev. Sheldon Smith

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our offerings so the ministry of the church will continue the saving works of God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Musical Offering #561 *It is Well with My Soul* vs. 1-4

Unison Prayer of Dedication

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION HYMN #417** *We Place Upon Your Table Lord* vs. 1&3

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, with gratitude for your holy nourishment about this table, we dedicate:

**Our lips to be the hopeful voice of Christ to the despairing.
Our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken.
Our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned.
Our bodies to be Christ's living sacrifice to break the power of death.
Take us, empower us. Use us. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #453** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* vs. 1&4

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #231 *Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us* vs. 1-3

Attributions

PRELUDE #221 The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done vs. 1&2

Words: Francis Pott 1861

Music: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1591; adapt. William Henry Monk, 1861

OPENING HYMN #100 When Morning Gilds the Skies vs. 1&2

Words: German hymn (early 19th century); tr. Edward Caswall, 1858

Music: Joseph Barnby, 1868

HYMN OF PRAISE #14 Womb of Life and Source of Being vs. 1-3

Words: Ruth Duck, 1986,1990

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

Musical Offering #561 It is Well with My Soul vs. 1-4

Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

COMMUNION HYMN #417 We Place Upon Your Table Lord vs. 1&3

Words: M.F.C. Wilson (20th century)

Music: Adapt. From Musicalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690

CLOSING HYMN #453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service vs. 1&4

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Music: John Zundel, 1870

POSTLUDE #231 Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us vs. 1-3

Words: Ralph Wright, 1989

Music: William Moore, Columbian Harmony, 1825

PRELUDE #221The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done vs. 1&2

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

2 The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed;
let shouts of holy joy outburst:
Alleluia!

***OPENING HYMN #100** When Morning Gilds the Skies vs. 1&2

1 When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair;
may Jesus Christ be praised!

2 Discordant humankind,
in this your concord find,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all earth around
ring joyous with the sound,
may Jesus Christ be praised!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #14** Womb of Life and Source of Being vs. 1-3

1. Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart,
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.

2. Word in flesh, our brother Jesus born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.

3. Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.
When our mem'ry fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.

Musical Offering #561 It is Well with My Soul vs. 1-4

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

[Refrain:]

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

[Refrain:]

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

3 My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

[Refrain:]

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

4 May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

[Refrain:]

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.

***COMMUNION HYMN #417 We Place Upon Your Table Lord vs. 1&3**

1 We place upon your table, Lord,
the food of life, the bread and wine,
as symbols of our daily work,
according to your grand design.

3 Accept them, Lord, they come from you;
we take them humbly from your hand.
These gifts of yours for higher use
we offer up as you command.

***CLOSING HYMN #453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service vs. 1&4**

1. Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

4. So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

POSTLUDE #231 Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us vs. 1-3

1. Sing of one who walks beside us and this day a living still,
one who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill,
Christ who once upon a hilltop, raised against the power of sin,
Died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and Friend!

2. We have walked with him as strangers through the journey of the day,
And have told him of the violence that has swept our hope away.
He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light.
Did our hearts not blaze within us as he broke the bread this night?

3. Risen one, stay with us, raise us, once again the night is near.
Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from every fear.
In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn,
if you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone.