



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

October 16th, 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 Pastor Paul Goodman 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children K-8th are welcomed to leave following the Stewardship Message.

CABINET MEETING Monday October 17, 2022 7:00 PM on Zoom

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: Pastor Paul Goodman
Organist: Dana Mancuso
Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt
Video & Tech Support: Mary O'Hare, Jackie Pflieger, Pam Smith

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

All the Ends of the Earth

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We gather to honor our covenant with God, to worship the God who has covenanted with us.

People: Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth. Our wisdom comes from the One who meets us here.

Leader: Open your eyes to meet God face to face. Open your ears to hear God's instruction.

People: God takes us by the hand to lead us. The Word of God is written on our hearts.

Leader: Come to taste God's Word, which is sweeter than honey. Come to touch the reality of God's presence.

People: Surely God will welcome and protect us. We will walk with new understanding of truth.

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Sow your seed in our midst, O God, for we are prepared to receive what you offer. We want to know you and to bear fruit for your reign among us. We want to understand your law and keep your commandments. Draw us into the new covenant you have shaped for us in Jesus Christ so that we may fulfill the mission and ministry entrusted to us by the one who taught us to pray to you with the words:

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 #64**

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

vs. 1 & 3

Unison Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we are not eager to wrestle with you or to take responsibility for sin in our own lives. We see ourselves as basically decent, respectable people. Yet we have bent your commandments to our own conveniences. We listen only to the word we want to hear. We participate in the greed that is destroying your good earth, and we allow evil to triumph through our neglect. Shake us into awareness that brings change, and support us, we pray, on the difficult path toward greater faithfulness. Amen.

A moment of Silence is kept

Assurance of God's Forgiving Nature

Our self-disclosing God proclaims: "I will forgive your iniquity and remember your sin no more. I will be your God and you will be my people. I will put my law within you; I will write it on your hearts." Give thanks for the new life God offers, attuned to eternal values. Praise be to God.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #565** *If You Will Trust in God to Guide* vs. 1-3

Scripture: Psalm 121 (Chalice Hymnal page 760,) Genesis 32:22-31

Sermon: "Where Can I Look?" Pastor Paul

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation to Offering

We do not lose heart amid all the problems that compete for our attention. We have the resources to make a difference in our work of evangelism, teaching, and outreach. What we dedicate here is a symbol of our larger commitment of time and talents to the work of ministry.

Musical Offering *I Surrender*

Unison Prayer of Dedication

With thanksgiving for your presence in all our coming and going, through all our work and leisure, in our times of faithfulness and when we break covenant, we bring our offerings. May these resources help your people to know you more fully and serve you more effectively. Equip us for every good work, that your church may witness boldly and influence profoundly. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #557** *Just A Closer Walk with Thee*

vs.1-3

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

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Prelude

All the Ends of the Earth

Words & Music: Bob Dufford

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Opening Hymn

#64 *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God* vs. 1 & 3

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.

Music: Gesangbuch der H. W k. Hofkapelle, 1784

Hymn of Praise

#565 *If You Will Trust in God to Guide* vs. 1-3

Words: Georg Neumark, 1657; tr. St.1,3, Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt; WER NUN DEN LIEBEN GOTT st.2 tr. Jaroslav Vajda, alt.

Music: Georg Neumark, 1657

Musical Offering

I Surrender

Words & Music: Matthew Philip Crocker

© Capitol Christian Music Group

Closing Hymn

#557 *Just A Closer Walk with Thee* vs.1-3

Words and Music: Anonymous

Postlude

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Prelude

All the Ends of the Earth

Opening Hymn

#64 *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God* vs. 1 & 3

1 We sing your mighty power, O God, that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies. We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day. The moon shines full at your command, and all the stars obey.

3 There's not a plant or flower below, but makes your glories known; and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from your throne. While all that borrows life from you is ever in your care, and everywhere that we can be, you, God are present there.

Hymn of Praise

#565 *If You Will Trust in God to Guide* vs. 1-3

1 If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through all your ways, God will give strength, whate'er betide you, and bear through the evil days. Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that will not move.

2 God will embrace your pain and weeping, your helpless anger and distress. If you are in God's care and keeping, in sorrow will God love you less? For Christ, who took for you a cross, will bring you safe through every loss.

3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; so do your own part faithfully, and trust God's word; though undeserving, you'll find God's promise true to be. God never will forsake in need the soul that trusts in God indeed.

Musical Offering

I Surrender

Closing Hymn

#557 *Just A Closer Walk with Thee vs.1-3*

[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.

Postlude

Every Time I Feel the Spirit