



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

October 2, 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 Reverend Dr. Jane Ellingwood 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 give electronically visit our website where you can find a donation link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Children K-8th are welcomed to leave following the Children's Message.

Please Note: The Deacons have decided to return to serving Communion in the pews. We will only have two Deacons serving so we are asking that on Communion Sundays, when it is time to receive Communion, that anyone in the outside aisles please move to the center aisle pews. You may move back after you have received Communion. Thank you!

Coming Up: October 16th Stewardship/Generosity Sunday
Saturday October 22nd Fall Harvest Festival/Children's Pumpkin Festival 9AM-3PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/MISSON/OUTREACH Monday October 3, 2022 7:00PM 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: Rev. Dr. Jane Ellingwood

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Video & Tech Support: Jim Welsh, Wade Anderson, Eric Hermansen, Mary O'Hare, 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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SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

City of God

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 66:1-4)

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name; give to God glorious praise.

All: O God, how awesome are your deeds!

One: All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.

All: Come now, let us worship God with all creation!

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Good morning, God. We are here to praise you. The sun praises you as the day goes by. The stars praise you with their twinkle. The rain praises you by refreshing the earth. The trees praise you in seeds to grow more trees. Birds praise you in a chirp. Dogs praise you in a yap. How do we praise you, O God? In how we live and what we say and do in this time of worship. Praise be to you, O God, from all your many creatures in all our many ways. Amen.

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 #22**

All Creatures of Our God and King

vs. 1 - 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O God of all creation, we have to say sorry for many things we do without thinking. Some days we eat too much. Some days we talk too much. Some days we don't pay attention to the birds and the butterflies and the trees and what they have to say. We're sorry we spoil places where we walk with litter and sometimes forget to do the recycling. We can make a mess of things, O God. And we're sorry.

A moment of Silence is kept.

Dear friends, while it is true we have all made a mess of God's world in some ways, it is also true that God forgives us when we own up to what we've done. With Jesus' love we can become new people. So know that we make God glad when we remember to say we're sorry.

A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #651** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* vs. 1 & 4

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 17:5-6**
SERMON: **Faith and Creation** Rev. Dr. Jane Ellingwood

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

We offer God our gifts to say thanks for all God has given to us, to the church, to all people and to all creation. We give in faith, with open hearts, minds, and hands.

Musical Offering *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Unison Prayer of Dedication

God, you are so good to us. We bring you our gifts to say thank you for all you have made and shared with us. Help us share what we have just like St. Francis did – in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***COMMUNION HYMN #419** *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* v. 1

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God who made us and everything that is, thank you for caring for us day by day. We pray for every person who needs your help and healing and for every other creature your blessing is feeling. Help us be thankful every day that we live, grateful for Jesus and the life he gives. Dear God, we pray you will make us a blessing so others will see the love we're confessing in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #696**

For Beauty of Meadows

vs. 1 & 3

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Sing a New Song

Attributions

Artwork: Cara B. Hochhalter, *A Parable - The Mustard Seed*. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57507>.

Liturgy: Most of the liturgy is adapted from *Celebrating Love for All God's Creation: An all-age communion service for the Feast of Saint Francis (including a blessing of animals)*, © Nancy Cocks (2018, Wild Goose Publications, www.ionabooks.com). Used by permission for non-commercial worship services.

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Prelude

"City of God" Dan Schutte
© 1981, Daniel L. Schutte

Opening Hymn

#22 All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 1 - 3)
Words: Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925, alt.
Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Hymn of Praise

#651 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (vs. 1 & 4)
Words: Catherine Cameron, 1967
Music: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

Communion

#419 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (v. 1)
Words: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990
Music: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

Musical Offering

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Text: Saint Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997
Music: Sebastian Temple, 1928-1997
© 1976, OCP Publications

Closing Hymn

#696 For Beauty of Meadows (vs. 1 & 3)
Words: Walter H. Farquharson, 1969
Music: Traditional Welsh melody

Postlude

Sing a New Song
Text: Based on Psalm 98; Dan Schutte, b.1947
Music: Dan Schutte, b. 1947
© 1972, 1974, Daniel L. Schutte; adm. by OCP Publications

Prelude

“City of God” Dan Schutte

Opening Hymn

#22 All Creatures of Our God and King (vs. 1 - 3)

1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam,
O silver moon with softer gleam:

[Refrain]

O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

2 O rushing wind with voice so strong,
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise God, Alleluia!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice,
you lights of evening find a voice: [refrain]

3 O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your God to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
O blazing fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight, [refrain]

Hymn of Praise

#651 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (vs. 1 & 4)

1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens,
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space;
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you.
Great creator still creating,
show us what we yet may do.

4 As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,

each endeavor well begun.
Great creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.

Communion

#419 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (v. 1)

1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Musical Offering

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Closing Hymn

#696 For Beauty of Meadows (vs. 1 & 3)

1 For beauty of meadows,
for grandeur of trees,
for flowers of woodlands,
for creatures of seas,
for all you created and gave us to share,
we praise you, Creator,
extolling your care.

3 Teach us once again
to be gardeners in peace;
all nature around us
is ours but on lease;
your name we would hallow
in all that we do,
fulfilling our calling,
creating with you.

Postlude

Sing a New Song