



Quis nos reparabit. Rem. VIII = n° 110

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

October 23, 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.

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

Please remember our time for the Book of Remembrance/Whitcomb Fund Contributions is coming up soon. If you would like to be included, there is an application inside your bulletins. You may call the Church office for more details.

Next Weekend is the Fall Harvest Festival/Children's Pumpkin Festival on Saturday October 22nd from 1PM-3PM. Come join us for Fall crafts, Storytelling, Pumpkin Painting, Games, and delicious snacks!

DEACON'S MEETING on Monday October 24 7:15 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: Marcia Merritt

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Guest Reader: Marcia Merritt

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Mary O'Hare, Pam Smith & 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Who may worship in your sanctuary, oh God?

People: All who love and praise you are worshipping you.

Leader: How do we love you, oh God?

People: We love you when we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Leader: How do we praise you, oh God?

People: We praise you when we are being the church in the world. Let us gather our hearts to praise and worship God.

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

All: Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray and to consider the impact of Christ on our lives. Jesus the Christ has become for us the measure of life. He represents to us your gift of love and eternal life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Be known to us in this hour. 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 #517** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

v. 1 & 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Call to Reconciliation

Loving God, open our hearts so we can admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Beloved of God, hear the good news:

People: God's love never fails us.

Leader: Even in our division and despair,

People: God is present.

Leader: We are forgiven.

People: We are loved. We are one. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Frank Basler given by Marcia Merritt

***HYMN OF PRAISE #526** *The Gift of Love*

SCRIPTURE Romans 8:31-39
SERMON Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God
Frank Basler read by Marcia Merritt

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Musical Offering "Lift My Life Up" Unspoken

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Jesus, Good Shepherd, we thank you for the ways in which you have enfolded us in your love and called us by name to follow you. May these gifts and our lives offered in your name, be used to enfold others in your love. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #494** *They'll Know We Are Christians* vs. 1 & 2

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #490 *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant* vs. 2, 3 & 5

Attributions:

Children's Message: <https://faithformationjourneys.org/childrens-sermon-pentecost-7a-romans-826-39/>

Sermon: [1] https://www.huffpost.com/entry/13-pictures-showing-the-adorable-ways-kids-describe-god_n_5625244be4b02f6a900d2331

[2] "Good Goats, Healing our Image of God," by Dennis Linn, page 7.

https://www.amazon.com/Good-Goats-Healing-Our-Image/dp/0809134632/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Prelude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1868

Tune: Irish Melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Opening Hymn

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v. 1 & 3)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1870

Hymn of Praise

#526 The Gift of Love

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1972

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

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Musical Offering

"Lift My Life Up" Unspoken

Songwriters: Chad Mattson / Jason Ingram / Jon Lowry / Seth Mosley

Lift My Life Up lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Closing Hymn

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians (vs. 1 & 2)

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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Postlude (All welcome to sing)

#490 Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant (vs. 2, 3 & 5)

Words: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

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

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Prelude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Opening Hymn

#517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v. 1 & 3)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1743

Music: John Zundel, 1870

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, 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 ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Hymn of Praise

#526 The Gift of Love

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

“Lift My Life Up” Unspoken

Closing Hymn

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians (vs. 1 & 2)

1 We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

[Refrain]:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. [Refrain]

Postlude (All welcome to sing)

#490 Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant (vs. 2, 3 & 5)

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.

3 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey thro'.

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.