



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

November 13, 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 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 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 one Deacon 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!

Reminder: The Annual Congregation Meeting is **November 20th at 11AM** after morning Service in the Main Hall and on Zoom

Also on **November 20** the Thanksgiving Pot-luck Brunch is after morning service. Bring your family's favorite dish, and share and enjoy!

CABINET MEETING

Monday November 14, 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. Paul Goodman

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Video & Tech Support: Jim Welsh, Wade Anderson, and 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

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand either in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is ready to answer us, even before we call. God is eager to listen, though we are not ready to speak.

People: The hills sing together before God's presence. All nature proclaims God's glory.

Leader: If the seas join in praise, how much more should we? If hills are alive with song, let us, too, awake to sing!

People: Make a joyful noise to God, all people on earth! Break forth into joyous song!

Leader: Be glad! Rejoice in all that God is creating. Welcome the new heaven and earth God has planned.

People: We worship God with great joy and delight. We welcome God's healing touch in our midst.

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

God of hosts, our strength and our salvation, there are no words large enough to praise you. No response by us can match the love you have shown us.

Gather us now in your warm embrace, that our faith may be renewed and our work empowered to the honor and glory of your holy name – the name we praise with the bold words Jesus taught us:

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 #16** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* vs. all

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are here to renew our relationship with God and one another. We are often led astray, we follow our own desires rather than the model Jesus sets for us. We often neglect our spiritual side. We need to honestly ask for God's mercy that we might move to new glorious places.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our salvation, we confess that we have tried to live apart from you. Our daily habits deny your reality. We toil without seeking your will. We work without giving our best. We compete with brothers and sisters without valuing them as your children or seeing them as our kin. We follow fads and false leaders while neglecting our faith. Forgive our errant trust, our hesitation to take risks of caring witness, and our failure to empathize with others. Restore our connections with all from whom we are alienated.

A moment of Silent Confession is kept.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVING NATURE

Those who revere God's name will find healing when they come to God in sincere, heartfelt prayer. Those who model themselves after saints will grow in love and trust. Be glad and rejoice in what God is creating among us. God grants forgiveness along with wisdom and strength to face life's challenges in the days and years ahead.

A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #90** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* vs. all

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 14:12-16**
SERMON: **The Little Table** Rev. Paul Goodman

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 *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Unison Prayer of Dedication

We offer our gifts and ourselves to you, the perfect One, who calls us and all creation to wholeness and completeness. May our offerings and our lives be part of your great plan. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***COMMUNION HYMN #422** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* vs. all

COMMUNION LITURGY

Words of invitation

Prayer of dedication

Words of institution

Sharing of bread and cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this meal by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #717** *Let All Things Now Living* vs. all

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (All Welcome to Sing)

Down by the Riverside

Attributions:

Prelude

Table of Plenty

Text and Music: Dan Schutte, b.1947

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Opening Hymn

#16 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* vs. all

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt

Music: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

Hymn of Praise

#90 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* vs. all

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt.

Music: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927

Harm. Used by permission of Oxford University Press

Musical Offering

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807; John P. Rees; Chris Tomlin, b.1972; and Louie Giglio, b.1958

Tune: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; Chris Tomlin, b.1972; and Louie Giglio, b.1958

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Communion

#422 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* vs. all

Words: Fred Kaan, 1975

Music: Jamaican folk melody, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

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Closing Hymn

#717 *Let All Things Now Living* vs. all

Words: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.

Music: Welsh folk melody; desc. Katherine K. Davis, 1939

Words and desc. Copyright 1939, 1966, ECS Publishing; harm Copyright 1978

Lutheran Book of Worship, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Postlude

Down by the Riverside

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

Public Domain

Lyrics:

Prelude

Table of Plenty

Opening Hymn

#16 *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* vs. all

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debt or daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Hymn of Praise

#90 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* vs. all

1. Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ we bring; Alleluia! Amen! Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice; praise we with grateful choice; Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen! Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen! Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend; his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!
3. Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen! Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen! On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore, singing forevermore; Alleluia! Amen!

Musical Offering

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Communion

#422 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* vs. all

1. Let us talents and tongues employ. Reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again.
2. Christ is able to make us one. At the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again.
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share, God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again.

Closing Hymn

#717 *Let All Things Now Living* vs. all

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night; till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.
2. By law God enforces, The stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine. We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing with glad adoration, a song let us raise: till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Postlude (All Welcome to Sing) [Lyrics included below]

Down by the Riverside

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

Public Domain

1. **Gonna lay down my burden,**

Down by the riverside,

Down by the riverside,

Down by the riverside;

Gonna lay down my burden,

Down by the riverside,

to study war no more.

[Refrain]:

I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.

2. Gonna lay down my sword and shield,...

3. Gonna try on my long white robe,...

4. Gonna try on my starry crown,...