



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

November 6, 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 Bekah Anderson 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.

Coming Up:

November 20th after morning service The Annual Congregational Meeting. It is an important meeting for our church. Please attend if you can.

November 20th after morning service Thanksgiving Pot-luck Brunch Bring your family's favorite dish, and share and enjoy!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/MISSON/OUTREACH Monday November 7, 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: Pastor Bekah Anderson

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Video & Tech Support: Jim Welsh, Wade Anderson, 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

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather with joys and sorrows and memories of joy and sorrow.

Many: We gather from hope or habit, with happiness or heartbreak.

One: We gather knowing every scuffed pew is a place a child sat and that every dusty hymnal was held by someone singing.

Many: We gather, not only to remember, but to be present in this place to our own faith, and to be truly supportive of one another.

One: As a community, let us worship.

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

We take courage, O God, for your Spirit abides with us and we rejoice in your treasure that enriches the community inside these walls and online today in word and song, prayer and story, and the community of those who live around us and are blessed by this church, and those who will be blessed by them, and those who will be blessed by them, and those who are always blessed by an expanding circle of love. We strive to follow the example of your Son, Jesus Christ, an epicenter of love, who taught us to pray, saying ...

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 #461**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

vs. 1 & 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of Goodness, we confess that we are quick to point the finger of blame. We feel and are taught that there is evil in the world, and we point to other people, other countries, other ways of being in the world that we do not understand, and label them "evil," whether we use that particular word or not. Remind us, O God, that the potential for harm and the potential for good are in each person; that no person and no group of people are entirely good or bad. Help us to view ourselves, each other, and the world with complexity and compassion.

A moment of Silence is kept.

Friends, God knows our full complexity. God lifts up the patterns of love and goodness within us, and forgives and breaks our patterns of harm, calling us earnestly toward change. God is with us, and with God's help, we all may be epicenters of love. Amen.

A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #356** *We Your People, God, Confessing* vs. 1 & 2, 4

SCRIPTURE: **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17**

SERMON: **Where is the Lawless One?** Pastor Bekah Anderson

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Musical Offering *Quando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones)*

Unison Prayer of Dedication

We take courage, O God, for your Spirit abides with us and we rejoice to bring our treasure to meet yours enriching the community inside this familiar place, and the community of those who live around us and may be blessed by our gifts and share your love as our hearts expand. Amen

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #714** For the Fruit of All Creation vs. 1-3

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE #620 The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow

Attributions:

Call to Worship: From Worship Ways <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2/>

Invocation: From Worship Ways <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/worship-resources/worship-ways-2/>

Prelude

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible and Traditional; arr. by Ken Bible

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CCLI Song #4014575.

Opening Hymn

#461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.

Music: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

Words © 1961 Oxford University Press, Inc.; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Hymn of Praise

#356 We Your People, God, Confessing (vs. 1 & 2, 4)

Words: From the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ), adapt. 1993

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

Adapt © 1995 Chalice Press

Musical Offering

Cuando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones)

Words: J.A. Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1971; tr. George Lockwoods, 1980

Music: J.A. Olivar and Miguel Manzano, 1971; arr. Alvin Schutmaat

© 1971 J.A. Olivar, Miguel Manzano and San Pablo Internacional - SSP;
all rights reserved; sole US agent: OCP Publications; tr. © 1980 The
United Methodist Publishing House

Closing Hymn

#714 For the Fruit of All Creation (1 - 3)

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

Music: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. Luther Orlando Emerson, 1906

Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

Postlude

#620 The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow

Words and Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1943

© 1943 Unichappell Music Inc.

Prelude

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

Opening Hymn

#461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs. 1 & 3)

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.

Hymn of Praise

#356 We Your People, God, Confessing (vs. 1 & 2, 4)

1 We, your people, God, confessing Jesus Christ your Son as Lord,
gather here in common worship praising your Incarnate Word.
Through the power of Christ within us we are strengthened to proclaim
gospel truth in witness, service offered in Christ's holy name.

2 We, your people, God, rejoicing in your vast creative power,
bind ourselves, each with the other, covenant in love this hour.
Through baptismal rite we enter, rising, newly born to be
unified with your whole people here in perfect liberty.

4 We, your people, God, receiving gift of ministry outpoured
in the light of holy scripture are set free, refreshed, restored.
In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we adore.
Yours the blessing, yours the glory, one God, reigning evermore!

Musical Offering

Cuando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones)

Closing Hymn

#714 For the Fruit of All Creation (1 - 3)

1 For the fruit of all creation,
Thanks be to God.
For good gifts to ev'ry nation,
Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
Thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

#620 The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow

1 Like a ship that's toss'd and driven, battered by an angry sea
When the storms of life are raging, and their fury falls on me
I wonder what I have done, that makes this race so hard to run
Then I say to my soul, "Take courage, the Lord will make a way somehow."

[Refrain]:

The Lord will make a way somehow when beneath the cross I bow

He will take away each sorrow; let Him have your burdens now
When the load bears down so heavy the weight is shown upon my brow
There's a sweet relief in knowing , oh, the Lord will make a way somehow.

2 Try to do my best in service, try to live the best I can
When I choose to do the right thing evil's present on every hand
I look up and wonder why that good fortune pass me by
Then I say to my soul, "Be patient, the Lord will make a way somehow." [Refrain]

3 Often there's misunderstanding out of all the good I do
Go to friends for consolation, and I find them complaining, too
So many nights I toss in pain, wondering what the day will bring
But I say to my heart, "Don't worry, the Lord will make a way somehow." [Refrain]