



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

February 20th, 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 Rev. Suzanne Wagner 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. For those using pledge envelopes, 2022 materials are on the back table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

DEACON'S MEETING

February 28th, 2022

7:15 PM on Zoom

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

February 28th, 2022

1:00PM-6:00PM

FCCB

Sign up online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Save the Dates! Do You Know Jonah? Thursday eves March 3,10,17,31 7:00PM. (please note no study on March 24) Using the Viva Series we will think more deeply on themes that appear in the Book: Trouble, Time Out, Trabajo, Temper Tantrum. We hope you'll join us. The weekly study will last for one hour and be offered via Zoom. All you need is a Bible! **Please register and you will be sent the Zoom link.** Registration is open throughout the study, but you only have to one time. As a follow up Rev. Suzanne will be preaching on Jonah for four Sundays in Lent. Click to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcOCqQToqHNZYsNsDC4gi4-k1DZDU47Gb>

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:

Rev. Suzanne Wagner

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Claudia Anderson

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Jim Welsh & Eric Hermansen

Church Contact Information:

Telephone: (203) 743-1877. Address: 46 Main Street, Bethel, CT 06801.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Suzanne Wagner (swagner5@yahoo.com)

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 #530

I've Got Peace Like a River

v. 1-3

Call to Worship

L: Gather around, you are welcome here, and you will hear Good News.

P: In a world where there are so many discouraging and negative voices

L: it is the God of encouragement who will speak to you today. The God of Jesus Christ.

P: So come in, relax, let your tiredness roll away. Lift up your hearts, and listen.

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer

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

v. 1 & 3

Unison Prayer of Reconciliation

Holy One, You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, so that we might fully experience Your love, grace and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others.

Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon:

Gentle Spirit, move in us, stir in us the remembrance of Your covenant. Restore us to each other and to You, and help us to follow Your commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. In the name of Christ, our Redeemer and Friend, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN OF PRAISE #73** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* v. 1, 2 & 3

SCRIPTURE **Hebrew Bible: Genesis 45:3-11,15**
GOSPEL READING **Luke 6: 27-38**
SERMON ***Plain Speak*** Rev. Suzanne Wagner

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor's Reflection of Our Joys and Concerns

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Our offerings for the work of ministry in this time and place and beyond, shall now be received. Let us remember that all of our gifts are acceptable in the sight of God.

Musical Offering *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* St Francis of Assisi

Unison Prayer of Dedication

You give to us in so many ways O God and we are forever grateful. Accept now these gifts from our hearts so that we can serve you and your people throughout our world bearing the love of Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #461** *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* v. 1 & 4

Benediction

***POSTLUDE #546** *Amazing Grace! (All welcome to sing)* v. 1-4

Attributions:

Liturgy adapted from the following resources:

-Ann Siddall, and posted on the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community** website. <http://stillpointsa.org.au/prayer/prayers-and-liturgies/>

Literature & Liturgy. <http://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/an-opening-prayer/>

Rev-o-lution. [Rev-o-lution – Rev-o-lution Worship Resources](#)

Prelude

#530 I've Got Peace Like a River (vs. 1—3)

Words & Music: African-American spiritual

Opening Hymn

#16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1 & 3)

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

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

Hymn of Praise

#73 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

Words: Frederick W. Faber, 1854

Music: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

Harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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

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Closing Hymn

#461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs. 1 & 4)

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

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#546 Amazing Grace! (vs. 1—4)

Words: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

Music: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Prelude (all welcome to sing)

#530 I've Got Peace Like a River (vs. 1—3)

1 I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

2 I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul.
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul

3 I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.

Opening Hymn

#16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1 & 3)

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 God's redeeming love.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, 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

#73 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (vs. 1, 2 & 3)

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior,
there is healing in his blood.

3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Musical Offering

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Closing Hymn

#461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (vs. 1 & 4)

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.

4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#546 Amazing Grace! (vs. 1—4)

1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.