



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BETHEL

An Open and Affirming Church

June 19, 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.

Deacon's meeting Monday June 20th 7:00 PM on Zoom

Save the Date Children's Summer Festival Aug. 6, 2022, 11 AM-2PM

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: David Karraker

Organist: Dana Mancuso

Deacon of the Day: Marcia Merritt

Video & Tech Support: Wade Anderson, Eric Hermansen & 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

Less of Me by Glenn Campbell –

banjo, David Karraker

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "This is one of the days the Lord has made."

People: "Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Leader: "He has called us to be His People and to witness to His story."

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

All: We have not loved the world, O Lord, as we should. We have not forgiven our enemies seventy times seven. We have not gladly turned the other cheek when people have offended us. We have not gone the second mile with most people, and with some not even the first. We have not befriended the stranger, nor spoken kindly to the foolish. Yet You have loved us with a steady and unchangeable love. You have been generous to us far beyond our worth, and merciful when we deserve no mercy. Forgive us, Lord, for seeing the faults of others and not seeing our own. Receive us again as Your followers and teach us anew how to love and to be loved. For Yours is the kingdom that will be forever. 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 #623**

Woke Up This Morning

vs. 1-3

Call to Reconciliation

All too often we look at the outside and forget the inside. We have made - and make - quick judgments. Forgive our shortsightedness. Open our hearts to our brothers and sisters whoever they may be. Give us new and clearer insight into ourselves and help us to open our hearts to our neighbors. And give us the

presence to move and act as did our Lord Jesus when he was on earth. In the name of our living Lord we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news.

People: If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.

Leader: So, you must also consider yourselves dead to sin

People: and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news

People: in Jesus Christ, by grace, through faith, we are forgiven. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Have you ever seen God?"

David Karraker

***HYMN OF PRAISE #18**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

vs. 1 & 2

SCRIPTURE

Matthew: 5: 44-48

SERMON

Hard is What Makes it Great

David Karraker

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Musical Offering

Unclouded Day by Willy Nelson

banjo, David Karraker

Unison Prayer of Dedication

O Lord, we thank You for each member who uses their spiritual gifts to bless others. We thank You for the rich fellowship we enjoy with each other and corporately with You. We give our tithes and offering to You now, to support the ministry of this church in our community and worldwide. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

***CLOSING HYMN #589**

Lord, I Want to Be A Christian

vs. 1-3

***BENEDICTION**

May the God of hope go with us every day. Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Let us work for peace, singing, sharing our joy with all. Help us to work for a world that is faithful and true to the call to serve the Lord. Amen

POSTLUDE #673

Down by the Riverside

vs. 1 & 2

Attributions:

Prelude

Less of Me by Glenn Campbell

Opening Hymn

#623 Woke Up This Morning (vs. 1-3)

Words and Music : African-American spiritual

Hymn of Praise

#18 All People That on Earth Do Dwell (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: William Kethe, 1561, alt.

Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Musical Offering

Unclouded Day by Willy Nelson banjo, David Karraker

Closing Hymn

#589 Lord, I Want to Be A Christian (vs. 1-3)

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Larry Sivils, 1993

Harm. © 1995 Chalice Press

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#673 Down by the Riverside (vs. 1 & 2)

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

Opening Hymn

#623 Woke Up This Morning (vs. 1-3)

Words and Music : African-American spiritual

1 Oh, I woke up this mornin' with my mind, (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
Woke up this mornin' with my mind, (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
Woke up this mornin' with my mind, (and it was) stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, (Hallelu), Hallelu, (Hallelu), Hallelujah.

2 Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, (if you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, (if you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, (if you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, (Hallelu), Hallelu, (Hallelu), Hallelujah.

3 Makes you love ev'rybody with your mind, (when you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Love ev'rybody with your mind, (when you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Love ev'rybody with your mind, (when you keep it) stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, (Hallelu), Hallelu, (Hallelu), Hallelujah.

Hymn of Praise

#18 All People That on Earth Do Dwell (vs. 1 & 2)

Words: William Kethe, 1561, alt.

Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

2 Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.

Musical Offering*Unclouded Day* by Willy Nelson

banjo, David Karraker

Closing Hymn

#589 Lord, I Want to Be A Christian (vs. 1-3)

Words: African-American spiritual

Music: African-American spiritual; harm. Larry Sivils, 1993

Harm. © 1995 Chalice Press

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, (in-a my heart),
In-a my heart, (in-a my heart),
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, (in-a my heart),
In-a my heart, (in-a my heart),
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, (in-a my heart),
In-a my heart, (in-a my heart),
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

Postlude (all welcome to sing)

#673 Down by the Riverside (vs. 1 & 2)

Words and Music: African-American spiritual

1 Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, gonna 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;
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 burden,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside; down by the riverside;
Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, gonna study war no more. *[Refrain]*