Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church, UCC April 14th, 2024 –3rd Sunday of Easter "Witness"



Centering Words (Acts 3, Psalm 4, 1 John 3, Luke 24) Trust God. Trust the miracles you have known. Trust the miracle you can be



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762 In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter Also available On Demand on Vimeo and Amazon Fire TV

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC Sunday – April 14th, 2024

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

All: "Peace be with you."

One: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

All: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

One: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.

All: Let our lives be witnesses of these things.

One: Help us to be instruments of Christ's peace to all in need of God's healing love. Love, not merely in thought and word, but in truth and action. All: We will love one another, as Christ loves us.

Unison Invocation

Risen Christ, create in us a clean heart so that we can meditate in your peace; abide in your mercy; be filled with your justice; and be made new by your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love

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

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 the land. *Refrain...*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. *Refrain...*

All Praise to our Creator from whom all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit who makes us all one: *Refrain...*

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Words and Music by Peter Scholtes



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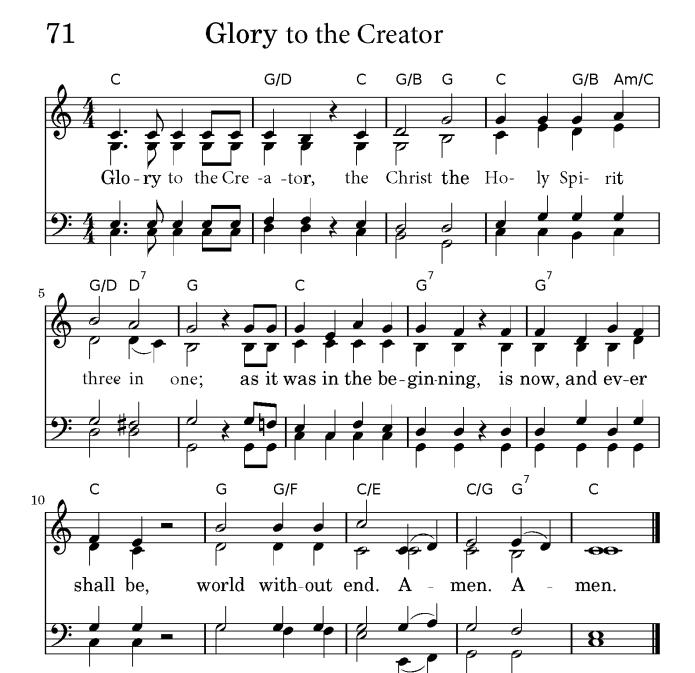
Passing the Peace

Welcome/Announcements

- Spiritual Studies continues Wednesdays at 7pm The "OTHER" Books
- Southland Jazz Orchestra Concert Saturday April 20 4pm
- Southland Wind Ensemble Concert Saturday April 27 4pm
- Saturday May 4 Music and Arts Student Recital 2pm (?) Cello Recital (Garibaldi Caputo) 5pm (?)
- Sunday May 5 Southland Symphony Season Final with Ruslan Biryukov 4pm

*Special Music Children's' Time Gloria

Glory to the Creator The Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be World without end, Amen, Amen.



1 John 3:1-7

Donna Saxton

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24:36b-48

Pastor Sylvia

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things.

SERMON

Witness

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

PRAYER OF YEARNING (Unison) (Acts 3, Psalm 4)

Answer us, O God, as we turn to you for mercy and strength. Listen to the yearnings of our hearts and the regrets of our lives. Comfort us in our distress and pour your grace into our lives. Redeem us with your love, that we might rise with Christ, newborn and vibrantly alive. Grant us the confidence to witness to your life-giving love. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Loving God, thank you for the assurance of your grace. You grant us all your peace. Help us to trust in your peace, especially in times of conflict. Believing you will bring peace in our hearts, and to all the earth. Guiding us, so that all may come to know Jesus Christ, who is our Prince of Peace. In his name, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns Silent Prayers – Call to mind the joys and concerns on your heart

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 and ever. Amen

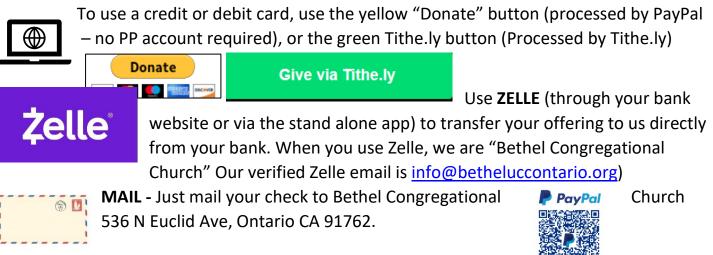
Call to the Offering - Invitation

Dr. Mann

Scan. Pav. Go

Please remember to send your offerings in so that we can continue our ministries. (If you want a portion of your offering to be designated as something specific, just write that in the message area.) If you forget to write a note with the offering – just email us (<u>info@BethelUCCOntario.org</u>) or message us through Facebook.

Giving Options: In person –We are not yet "passing the plate". You may leave your offering in one of the offering plates (front of the sanctuary, or usher's table in the rear). Give online at <u>www.betheluccontario.org</u>,



QR Code – Scan the code to send your offering to us through PayPal

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (Unison)

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation.

*Singing into Mission

Verse 1

Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me Let there be peace on earth The peace that was meant to be With God as our Father Brothers/Children all are we Let us walk with each other In perfect harmony

Verse 2

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow To take each moment And live each moment In peace eternally Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me



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Benediction (Unison)

Living God, we are witnesses to your love and light.

Your peace is seen in the dawning of each new day.

Your equal justice bears witness in the interconnected universe that you have created.

Faithful God, help us to feel the warmth of your loving light in the cooler moments of life.

As we leave this worship service, let us go back into the world renewed as instruments of your loving peace and justice for all.

May it be so. Amen.



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Live Stream Worship Sundays at 9:55am on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Twitch</u> - (Videos remain available for access any time) Also available on <u>Roku</u> and <u>Amazon Fire TV</u>. *All music licensed and used by permission (CCLI, One License, Artist Permission, PD)

God sends us to serve, but God does not send us alone. The Spirit is with us in the world, guiding our steps and protecting our paths. Christ yearns for us to be one in ministry and service, and one in community and faith—a unity that we discover through the Spirit's miraculous power in our lives. Sent to serve, we are sent not only with the power of the Spirit, but also with the power of unity with one another. Embracing this unity with both the Holy Spirit and one another opens a path to the "complete joy" that Christ prays we may one day know.