

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

May 5, 2024 – 6th Sunday of Easter – The Greatest Victory
Communion Sunday



““The Greatest Victory””

Centering Words (Psalm 98, John 15)

The Holy One’s steadfast love and faithfulness are shared with all. We are called to the greatest commandment: to abide in God’s love and to love one another as God has loved us—not as servants, but as friends.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch

Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and Amazon
Fire TV

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
Sunday – May 5, 2024

Prelude

Music for Meditation

Sandy Gunn

Responsive Call to Worship (*Psalm 98*)

ONE: Sing to our God a new song,

MANY: for God has done wondrous things.

ONE: The Holy One's might is not found in destruction,

MANY: but in steadfast love and constant faithfulness.

ONE: These gifts are not for us alone,

MANY: they are for one and all.

ONE: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

MANY: Break forth into songs of praise. Let all creation praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer (*Acts 10, John 15*)

**God of Love, let your Holy Spirit come upon us—
into our hearts, into our minds,
and into our souls.**

**Let your presence speak within us—
in the languages we speak,
in the ways we live and have our being.**

**For we long to hear you, Gracious One,
and to understand.**

**We pray that you would abide in us,
that we may abide in you,
this day and all days. Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

The Gift of Love

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift of all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed,
By this we worship, and are freed.

The Gift Of Love

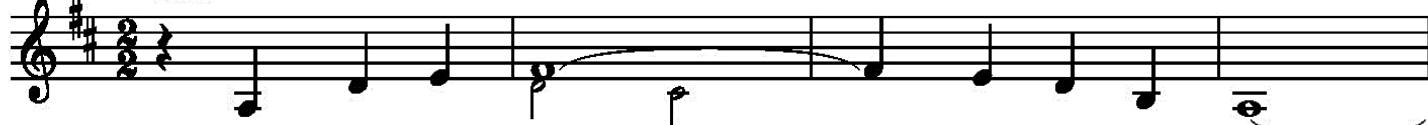
Words and Music by
Hal H. Hopson

♩=53

VERSE

D Dmaj⁷ Gmaj⁷/D Em/D D/F# G D

N.C.



1. Though I may speak _____ with brav - est fire, _____
 2. Though I may give _____ all I pos - sess, _____
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, _____ our hearts con - trol, _____

F#m Bm Bm/A Em⁷/G Em/G D A A/G F#m Em⁷

5



— and have the gift _____ to all in - spire, _____ and have not
 — and striv - ing so _____ my love pro - fess, _____ but not be
 — our spir - its long _____ to be made _____ whole. _____ Let in - ward

10

D D^{sus}/E D/F# Em⁷ D/F# G D



love, _____ my words are _____ vain, _____
 giv'n _____ by love with - in, _____
 love _____ guide ev - 'ry _____ deed; _____

13

Em D/F# G A^{sus} A G² G D



— as sound - ing brass, _____ and hope - less _____ gain.
 — the prof - it soon _____ turns strange - ly _____ thin.
 — By this we wor - ship, and are _____ freed.

Passing the Peace

Announcements/Special Events: *TODAY – Southland Symphony Concert 4pm. Wednesday – Spiritual Studies 7pm; Sun May 19 – 3pm Ontario Youth Symphony Concert; Saturday June 1 4pm – Southland Wind Ensemble Season Finale*

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.

71

Glory to the Creator

C G/D C G/B G C G/B Am/C

Glo-ry to the Cre-a -tor, the Christ the Ho- ly Spi- rit

5 G/D D⁷ G C G⁷ G⁷

three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

10 C G G/F C/E C/G G⁷ C

shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble and bass staff with guitar chords indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system covers measures 1-4, the second system covers measures 5-8, and the third system covers measures 9-12. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the final measure.

Gospel Reading**John 15:9-17****Dr. Mann**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon**“The Greatest Victory”****Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

Prayer of Yearning (Unison) (Acts 10, Psalm 98, 1 John 5)

**O God, you are bigger than the world,
bigger than our fears,
bigger even than our folly.
We are grateful for the immensity of your love,
even when it sometimes scares us.
When the immensity of your love frightens us,
we long to return to you in hope.
When we want to make you smaller—
small enough that we can hold you—
help us see beyond our narrow vision.
Remind us again, O God,
that you will always find and hold us,
for your heart is big enough
to hold the whole world, including us.
Teach us once more that we will always grow
when we love others as we love you. Amen.**

Words Assurance and Grace (Pastor)(Acts 10, Psalm 98, 1 John 5)

*The God of mercy speaks every language.
When we open our ears, we hear and receive God's grace.
Whenever we are afraid or overwhelmed,
we have only to remember these truths.
God's love is the greatest power of all.
God's mercy is there for every one of us.
God's grace is present every moment of our lives. Amen.*

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

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**

Holy Communion

(this brief version is in bulletin – full script next page)

Bethel serves an open communion table – all are welcome!

Invitation (Pastor)

Prayer of Blessing and Consecration

Words of Remembrance

Sharing of the Elements - All are invited to partake at God's table

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

Offering

Invitation to Generosity (Pastor)

The Holy Spirit's gifts have been poured into our hearts and our lives. In response, let us share these blessings for the good of God's people.

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 (info@BethelUCCOntario.org) 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 www.betheluccontario.org,



To use a credit or debit card, use the yellow “Donate” button (processed by PayPal – no PP account required), or green Tithe.ly button (Processed by Tithe.ly)



Use **ZELLE** (through your bank website or via the stand alone app) to transfer your offering to us directly from your bank. When you use Zelle, we are “Bethel Congregational Church” Our verified Zelle email is info@betheluccontario.org



MAIL - Just mail your check to Bethel Congregational Church 536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.

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



Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.

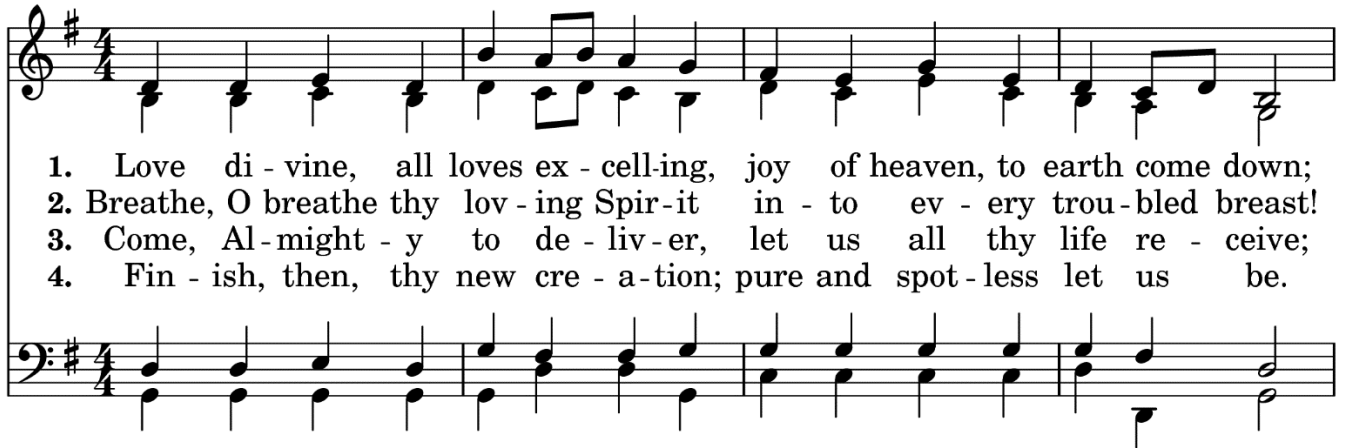
1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

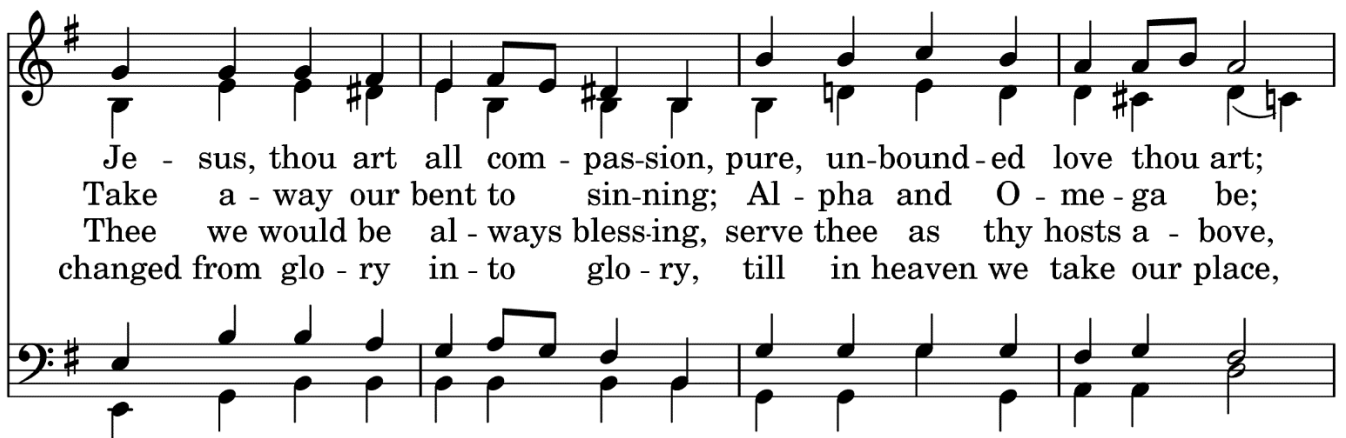
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



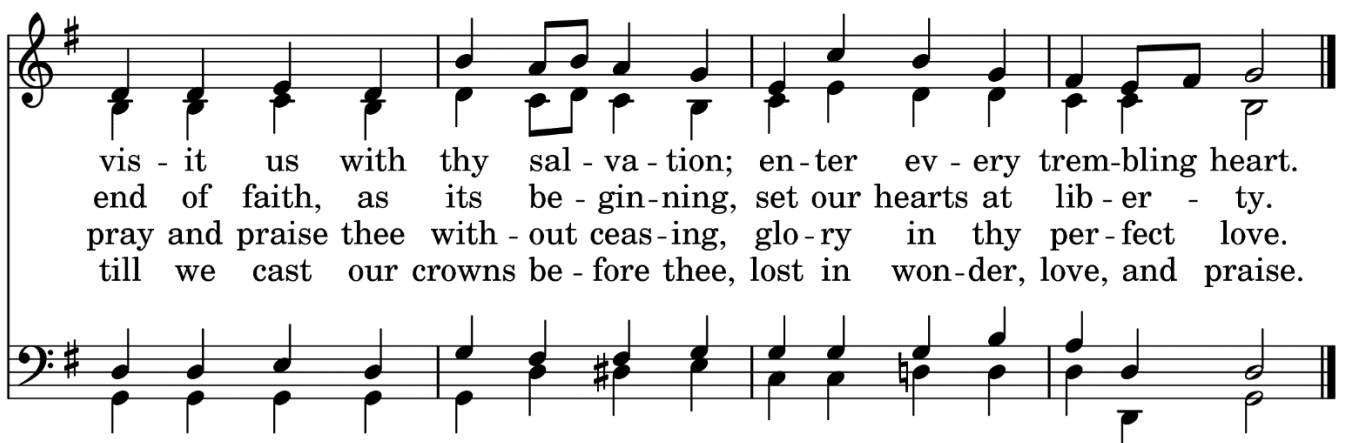
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell-ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast!
3. Come, Al-might - y to de - liv-er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a-tion; pure and spot-less let us be.



fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing; all thy faith-ful mer - cies crown!
Let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find that sec - ond rest.
sud-den-ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see thy great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re-stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;
Take a - way our bent to sin-ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion; en-ter ev - ery trem-bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray and praise thee with - out ceas-ing, glo - ry in thy per-fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

Benediction (Unison)

Friends of God, as we leave this place, remember that God has chosen you to share the love you've found with a world of need.

Go bear fruit that will last.

Let your joyful hearts be signs of hope in these anxious times.

Go in Love

Go in Joy

Go in Peace

Amen

Postlude

Carillon



Bethel Ontario Online
Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
526 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
www.bethelucanario.org
info@bethelucanario.org
(909) 984-9111

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@bethelucanario.org
(626) 393-5507

Live Stream Worship Sundays at 9:55am
on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)

Also available on [Roku](#) and [Amazon Fire TV](#).

**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.