

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC
February 11th, 2024 – Transfiguration Sunday
“Transfigured-Transformed”



Centering Words

(Psalm 50)

The mighty one speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. God calls to the heavens and to the earth, “Gather to me my faithful ones.”



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

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Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and
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Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – February 11th, 2024

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive)

ONE: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

MANY: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

ONE: God's glory fills the earth, but sometimes we, like Elisha, do not think we are ready to encounter glory.

MANY: And yet, God's glory showed up anyway.

ONE: Sometimes we are like the disciples who witnessed Jesus' transfiguration and wanted to cling to that one glorious moment.

MANY: And yet, God called them down from the mountain.

ONE: So, we gather today, some of us feeling ready and some of us feeling wholly unprepared, yet all are called together to worship and to be led by glory out into the world.

MANY: God, may we perceive your glory all around us, pointing us in the way you would have us go. Amen.

Unison Invocation

Mighty God, you call to us.

You call to the heavens and to the earth in covenant.

And so we call to you: be present as we worship.

Gather us, that we may hear your voice

and respond to your ways of righteousness.

We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

1 We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

2 Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
We, like Peter, find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

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Passing the Peace

Welcome/Announcements - Next Sunday Feb 18 - Annual Meeting follows Worship.

Mondays 10am - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi; **Tuesday Feb 13th.** First Christian Church Pancake Supper & Game Night; **Wednesday:** Ashes to Go 7:30 - 9am (Parking Lot), Ash Wednesday Service 7pm.

Children's' Time

Transfiguration

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

Glory to the Creator

three in one; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-4) has lyrics 'Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ the Ho-ly Spi-rit'. The second system (measures 5-8) has lyrics 'three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er'. The third system (measures 9-12) has lyrics 'shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.' Chord symbols are provided above the staves: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C, G/D, D7, G, C, G7, G7, C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G7, C. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6 (Responsive)

ONE: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

MANY: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

ONE: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

MANY: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

ONE: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

**MANY: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.
Selah**

Mark 9: 2-9

Pastor Sylvia

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON

Transfigured-Transformed

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

UNISON PRAYER OF YEARNING

God of life, you never stop shining.
Yet, sometimes we forget to keep looking.
It is not always easy to remember
to keep our eyes on you—
to watch until you are out of sight,
to remember that you are never really out of sight.
We long for you, O God,
especially when we have wandered away
and yearn to come home.
Entrust us with a double portion of your Spirit—
when we need it most,
when we don't even know we need it,
when we have no words to ask.
Bless us, we pray,
and bring us home. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Pastor)

When we have turned away and have lost our way—still, God is with us;
still, God will not leave us.
When we have stopped looking for God—God is still looking for us,
shining as brightly as we need, so we can find and be found
again . . . and again.

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

Please remember to send your offerings in so that we can continue our ministries.

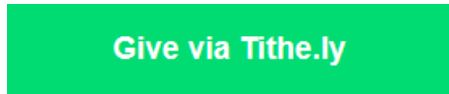
(If you want a portion of your offering to be designated as something specific, just write that in the message area.) If you forget to write a note with the offering – just email us (info@BethelUCCOntario.org) or message us through Facebook.

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 the green Tithe.ly button (Processed by



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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.



Scan. Pay. Go.

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

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, you have given us a double share
of your Spirit . . . and even more . . .

more than we could ask for or ever repay.

You have blessed us with your love
and filled our lives with your grace.

Take now this offering of our hearts and our lives,
that they may be instruments
of your love and your mercy,
your justice and your grace. Amen.

You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the City of God!

REFRAIN: *Bring forth the reign of mercy,
bring forth the reign of peace;
Bring forth the reign of justice,
bring forth the City of God!*

You are a light on the hill, O people:
light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the City of God! [REFRAIN]

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
bring forth the reign of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the City of God! [REFRAIN]

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people:
bound for the reign of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
love is the City of God! [REFRAIN]

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

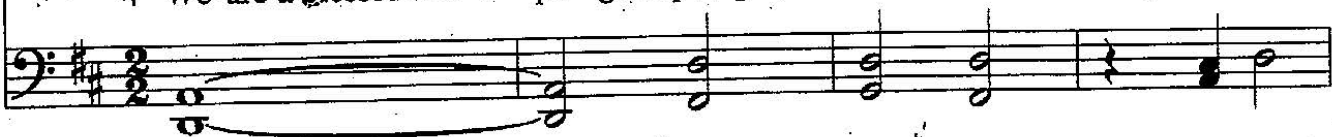
Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

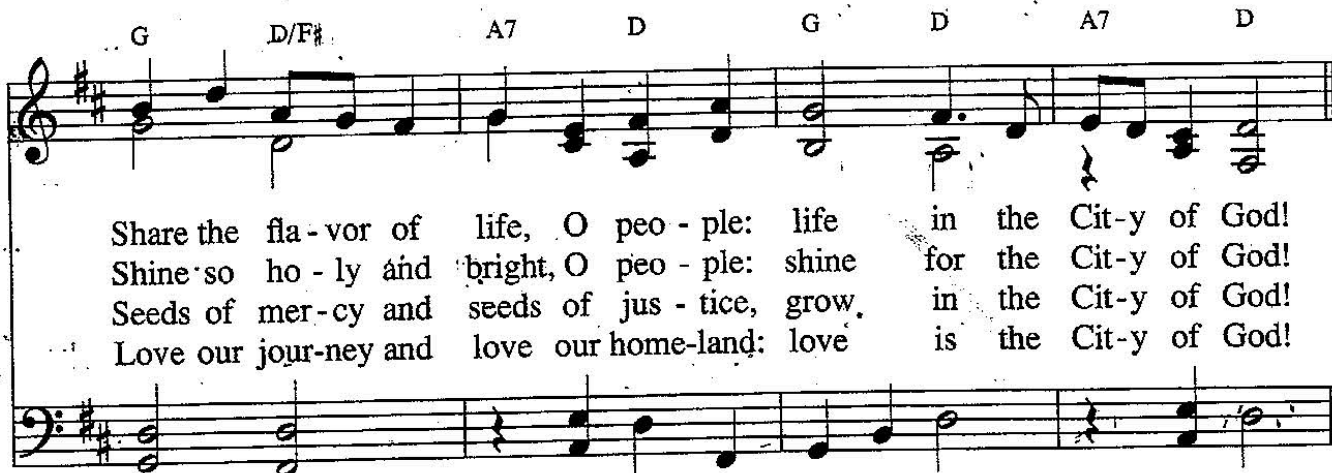
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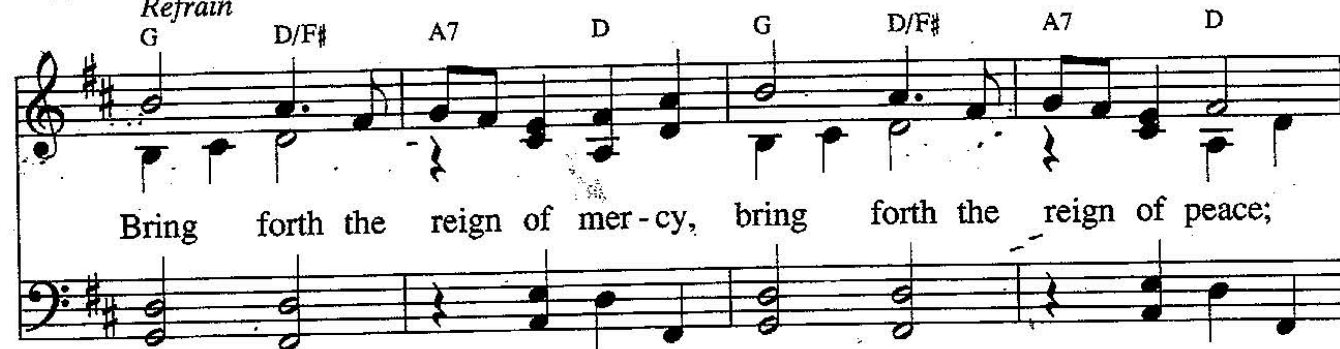
1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



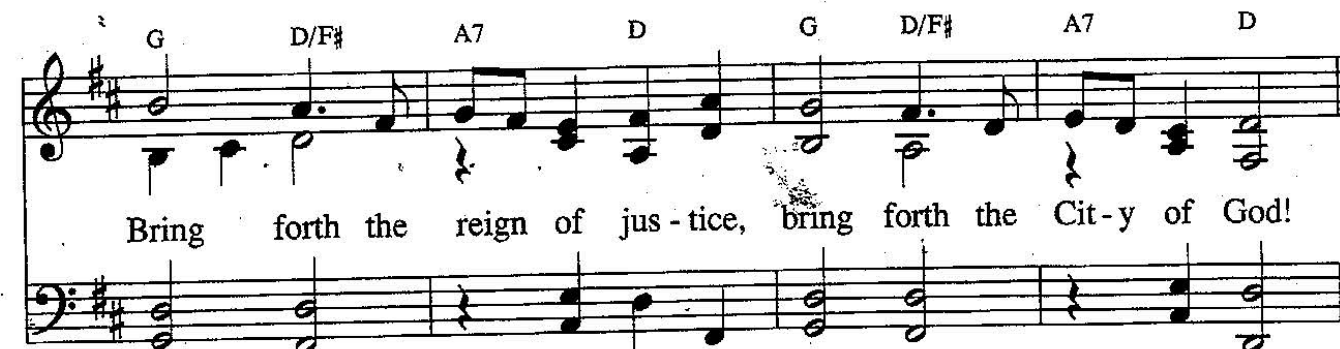
Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

Benediction (Unison)

May you go renewed in spirit,
May you go, rising to new life,
May you go with God's mantle of mercy
And blessing of peace upon you,
Now and forever.
Amen!



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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](#).
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*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.*