

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

January 12, 2025 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of Jesus
“Fire and Water”



Centering Words

(Isaiah 43, Psalm 29, Luke 3)

*The waters of God's blessing flow through our lives,
quenching our thirst, bringing forth new hope.*



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 – January 12, 2025

Prelude

Musicians

Responsive Call to Worship

ONE: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

MANY: I will be with you.

ONE: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

MANY: I will be with you.

ONE: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

MANY: I will be with you.

ONE: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

MANY: Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.

Unison Opening Prayer

Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love.

Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace.

Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing.

Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope.

Yes, soak our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D to beginning

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events:

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am upstairs)
- **Mondays** – Southland Jazz Orchestra Rehearsals 7-9:30 (per calendar) resumes in Feb.
- **Tuesdays** – SSO Chorus Rehearsals 7:30 – 9pm resume late Feb
- **Wednesdays** – OYS resumes Jan 22; Cub Scouts 6pm (basement).
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** – Mornings SSO Rehearsals / FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2 (upstairs).
- **CONCERTS:** Sat Feb 8 4pm – SWE; Sat Feb 15 4pm – SJO.; Sun Feb 23 4pm – SSO

Special Music

How Great Thou Art

Coril Prochnow

Children's Time

Jesus and the Wise Men Saddleback Kids

*Gloria

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.

Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22****Dr. Mann**

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON**"Fire and Water"****Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

LITURGY - REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BAPTISMS

We gather today to worship and praise the God of awe and majesty. We come to encounter the God who knows us each by name and who walks with us in intimate love. We come to reaffirm the blessing we have received through our baptism. In baptism, we remember God's saving actions throughout history, and we have the opportunity to answer yes as God whispers our names. As a community of God, we gather today at the waters of baptism to reaffirm our commitment to Christ and to experience anew the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastoral prayer of sanctification of the water

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.

We thank you that you claim us,

that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,

that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.

Bless this water, make it holy, to be a sign and a blessing unto us.

In the way of Jesus, make us as holy water in a dry and thirsty world.

Establish us to be places of refreshment.

Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people,

that we may rightly and justly serve you.

Fill us with your fullness, that our lives may overflow

in service and love. Amen.

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Pastor: Hear now, and remember our Baptismal promises:

To promise, by the grace of God, to be a disciple, to follow in the way of

Jesus Christ, to resist oppression, to show love and justice,

and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ,

as best you are able. And, according to the grace given to you,

to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,

celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism? **I do.**

Do you recognize the call of God to be God's people always? **I do.**

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry? **I do**

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day? **I do.**

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God? **I do.**

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Invitation *(Pastor): If you choose, you may come forward to recall the promises of your baptism— made either by you or on your behalf by your parents or guardians. Please come forward to the font and as you touch your forehead with the water, say, “I am God’s Beloved!”*

Response (Each person): “I am God’s beloved!”

In renewing your baptismal vows,
remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance
and welcome into the care of Christ's church.
Here you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

(If you have never been baptized, consider whether this is the day you would like to take that step. If you choose to do so, you may be baptized today!)

Unison Prayer of Commitment *(Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-23)*

**Loving Father, you anointed Jesus at his baptism
with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your dear Son.
Thank you for making us your children by water and the Spirit.
Keep us faithful to you throughout our lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen**

Words of Assurance *(Isaiah 43)*

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:
“I have called you by name. You are mine.
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

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

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Remembrance

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring love and justice to the world. May this bread and drink nourish us as they are the symbol of Christ's essence in all of us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Offering - Invitation to Generosity (Pastor)

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.bethelucontario.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@bethelucontario.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 (*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*)

Loving God, who guides us with your everlasting presence,
we offer these gifts with grateful hearts.

As Jesus stood with us in the waters of baptism,
may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace.
Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Singing into Mission Shall We Gather at the River**

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *[Refrain]*

3 As we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *[Refrain]*

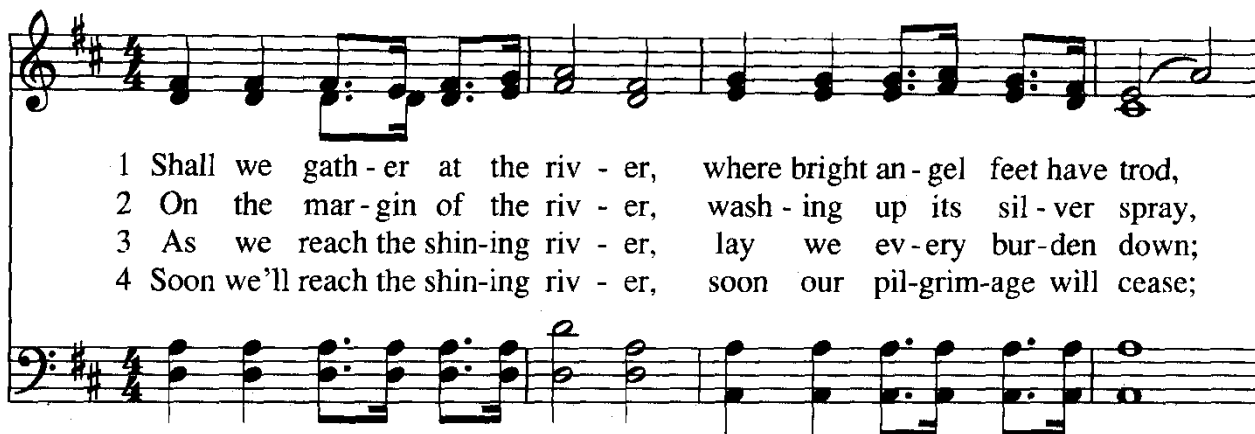
4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *[Refrain]*

Shall We Gather at the River

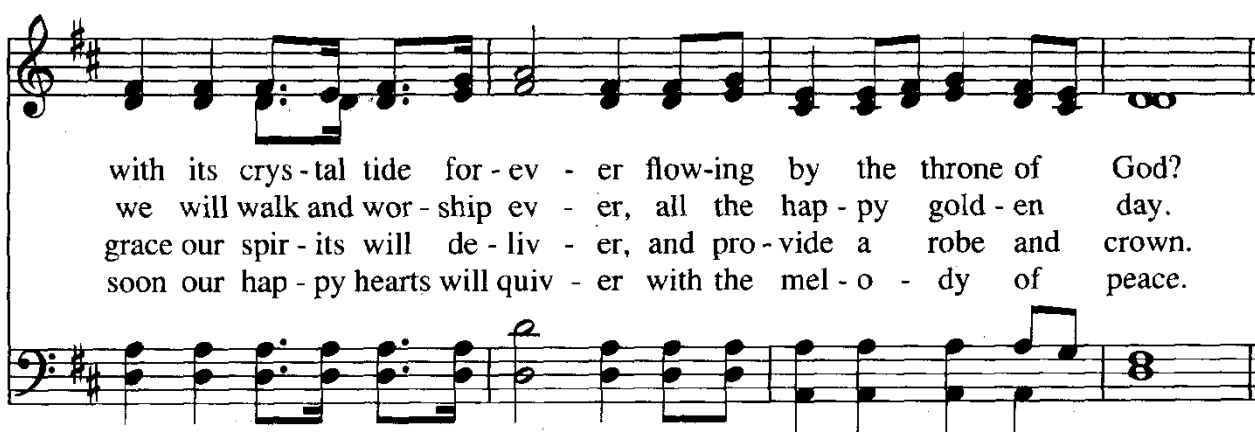
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Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

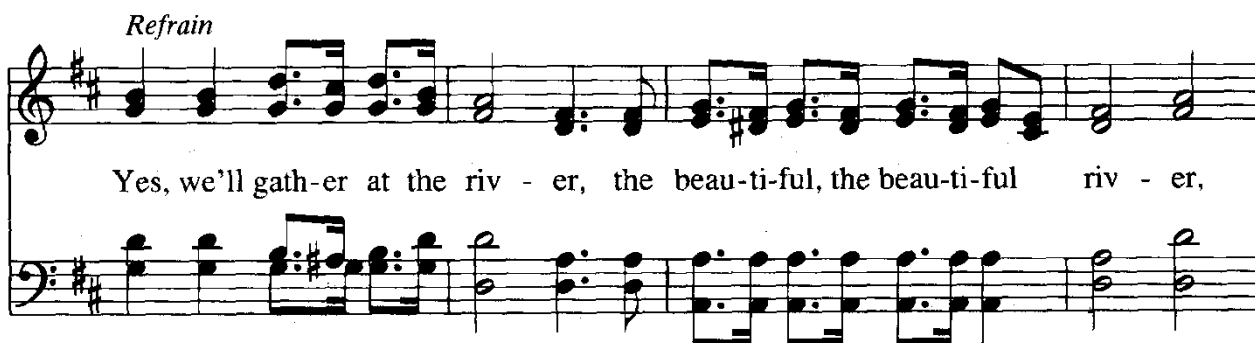


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

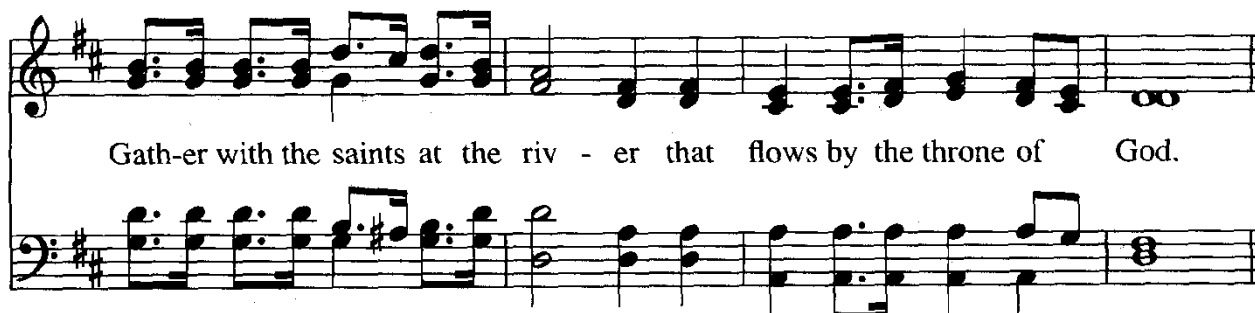


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York. Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. with refrain
Robert Lowry, 1864

Benediction - Unison

May the Triune God, whose presence surrounds you always and everywhere, bless you with the deep assurance that you are never alone.

In the waters, in the fires, in the far corners of the world, God is with us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon



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Pastor & Minister of Music
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Live Stream Sundays at 10am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)*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.