

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

July 12, 2026 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

“Sower, Seeds, and Soil”



CENTERING WORDS (Matt 13)

*Ask the Sower to cast you onto good, fertile soil,
that you may bear the fruit of faith and love.*



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am : Facebook,
YouTube, Twitch, Twitter

Also available on Vimeo, Roku and Amazon Fire TV

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Quienquiera que seas y dondequiera que estés en el camino de la vida, eres bienvenido aquí.

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – July 12, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

L: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

P: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....

L: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

P: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.

L: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

P: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.

L: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!

P: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.

Unison Opening Prayer

Great Sower, cast us like seeds
upon the winds of your mercy,
that we may grow in fertile ground.

Keep our lives from stony pathways,
where the heat of life's cares and strife
strip our strength and vitality.

Protect us from thorny gullies,
where the snares of life's worries and fears
block the sunshine of your Spirit.

Land us safely in rich soil, Master Gardener,
and bless us with the kiss of gentle rain,
that our faith may increase
and our joy may be complete. Amen.

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Unison


1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Sundays 9:15am** – **Pop-Up Choir practice!**
- **Wednesdays** – **4:30pm** – OYS; **6pm** Scouts(basement)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi

Special Music

Flying Free

Pop-Up Choir

Children's Time

The Farmer and the Seeds

Kids' Video

*** 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.

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Glory to the Creator

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.

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

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NRSVUE)****Dr. Mann**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Sermon**“Sower, Seeds, and Soil”**

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning

Caretaker of our souls, we yearn to resist the allures
of status and prestige,
for we often pierce ourselves with wounds
of our own making.

We long to bloom where we are planted,
that righteousness and peace
might flower in our lives.

Free us of the fear of appearing foolish before others,
as we seek new growth in your Spirit.

Nurture us with your grace and mercy,
that we might blossom and bloom
as followers of Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Those who abide in the Spirit are set free.
Those who reside in Christ find no condemnation.
Rejoice that we have been planted in the fertile ground
of God's love and mercy. 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

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.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
N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.



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

Unison Prayer of Dedication &Thanksgiving

Master Gardener, as you have sown our lives
in a rich and fertile soil,
may we bear much fruit through our giving.

With these offerings,
may your realm be brought to earth,
as we plant seeds of hope in the fields of life.

Bless our gifts and our ministry,
that the world may reap a harvest
of generosity and love. Amen.

1 Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty
teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.*

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.*

2 Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
wonderful words of life;
sinner, wake to the loving call,
wonderful words of life;
All so freely given,
one sure hope of heaven. *[Refrain]*

3 Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
keep me with you forever. *[Refrain]*

(Wonderful Words of Life)

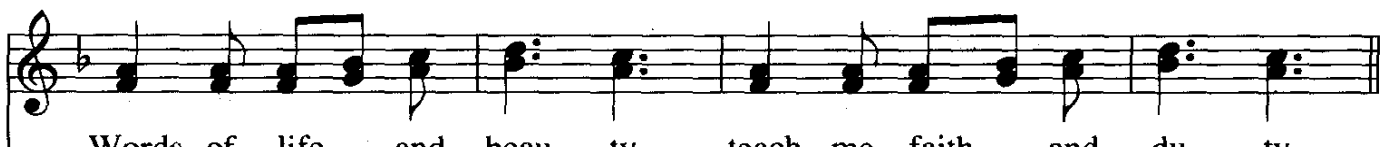
Philip P. Bliss, 1874; alt.



1 Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won-der-ful words of life;
2 Christ, the bless-ed one, gives to all won-der-ful words of life;
3 Sweet-ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won-der-ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won-der - ful words of life;
sin - ner, wake to the lov - ing call, won-der - ful words of life;
of - fer par-don and peace to all, won-der - ful words of life;



Words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.
All so free - ly giv - en, our sure hope of heav - en.
Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, keep me with you for - ev - er.

Refrain



Beau-ti - ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life.



Beau-ti - ful words, won-der - ful words, won-der - ful words of life.

Unison Benediction

God has placed the seed of love and forgiveness in your heart.
As you have received the seeds of faith and hope;
go now into God's world to scatter the seeds
of reconciliation and peace,
Go into God's world with joy,
telling of the good news of God's abundant,
lavish love for all creation.
Go to be a witness to all the miraculous possibilities for hope and peace.
AMEN.

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Worship Sundays at 10 am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#)

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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.*

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