

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

July 13, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Sermon – “Who is My Neighbor?”

Centering Words (Amos 7, Psalm 82, Colossians 1, Luke 10)

If we are all people of God, who is our neighbor? The sinner, the saint, the outcast, the beloved, the oppressed, the powerful, the poor, and the wealthy. We all need God's love; we all need to love one another.

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 – July 13, 2025

Prelude Music

Responsive Call to Worship

One: We come to worship this day, knowing deeply what it means to struggle.

Many: We remember times in our lives when we've felt hopeless, yearning for someone to care for us.

One: In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the neighbors in our midst, we need only tap into our own humanity.

Many: Because we know what it means to struggle, we are challenged each day to show radical love to our neighbors.

One: Even those who aren't like us.

Many: Especially those who aren't like us.

One: May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped...

Many: ...and how we can become the helpers, and the hope-bearers, in this world.

Unison Opening Prayer

Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us into community together, onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example. may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian

in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving

in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy

in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus

in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

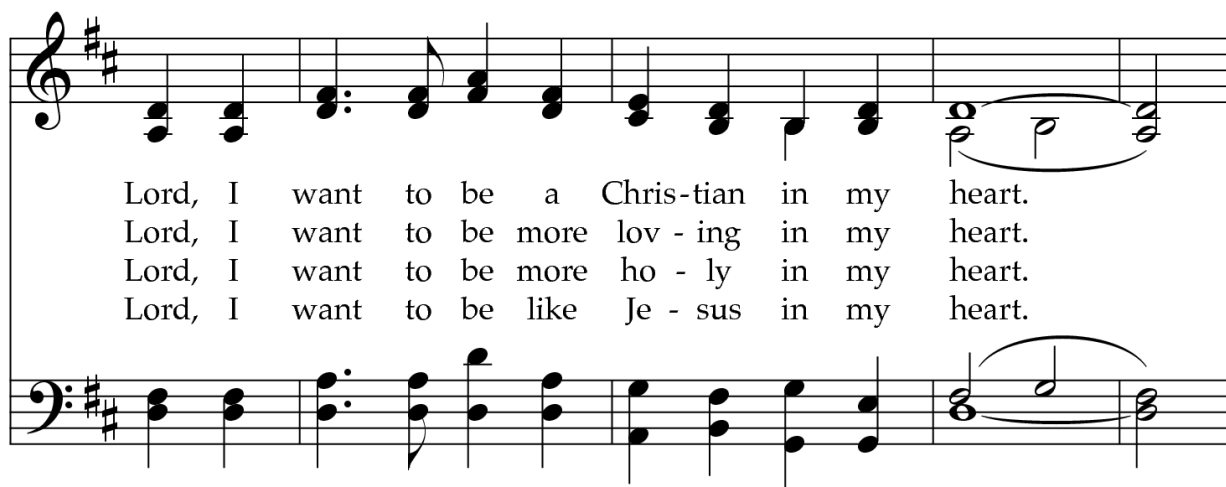
In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart, In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Through its recurring phrase, "in my heart," this poignant African American spiritual expresses the desire that our professed faith will not be superficial or hypocritical but will permeate the very center of our being.

Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events - Summer

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Wednesdays** – Scouts: 6pm (basement).
 - **OYS: Final Summer Class (@ 5:30) and Concert (@ 6:30) THIS WEEK!**
 - **Spiritual Studies: On Break**
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – evenings Occasional SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2

Children's Time

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

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. 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.' The score includes various chords (C, G/D, G, C, G/B, Am/C, D7, G7, G/F, C/E, C/G) and a final double bar line with a repeat sign.

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.

Psalm 82 (Responsive)

One: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

**Many: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?
Selah**

One: Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

Many: Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

One: They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Many: I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;

One: nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince."

Many: Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you!

.

Gospel: Luke 10:25–37**Pastor Sylvia**

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

SERMON**“Who Is My Neighbor?”***Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann*

Unison Prayer of Yearning

Merciful God, help us remember to love and care
for our neighbors.

When we would rather walk around people in need
and avoid situations that trouble us,
soften our hearts.

Give us the courage to care for our neighbors
and to love others as graciously
as you love us.

In your grace and love, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People – *Sharing our Joys and Concerns*

Silent Prayer – *bring your personal prayers to God*

Words of Assurance (Pastor)

In grace, we are strengthened.

In love, our hearts are freed.

In God, grace and love are ours.

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)

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.bethelucanario.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@bethelucanario.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 (Amos 7, Psalm 82, Luke 10)

Gracious God, bless these gifts.

May they bring your love, justice, and compassion
to where they are most needed in our world.

Help us be good neighbors to everyone we meet.

With gratitude and love, we pray. Amen.

Called as partners in Christ's service,
Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering,
Reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
All God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens,
Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action,
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
Our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace.

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



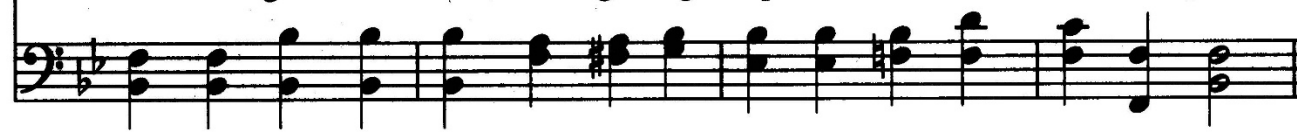
We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



Benediction (Blessing) - Unison (Psalm 82, Luke 10)

Christ reminds us that being a neighbor to others
calls us to show mercy to those in need.

So may you go from this place and do likewise.

Comfort others because you know what it means to cry.

Love others because you know what it means to be left behind.

Even when it isn't easy. Especially when it isn't easy.

As you go, may you go with courage,

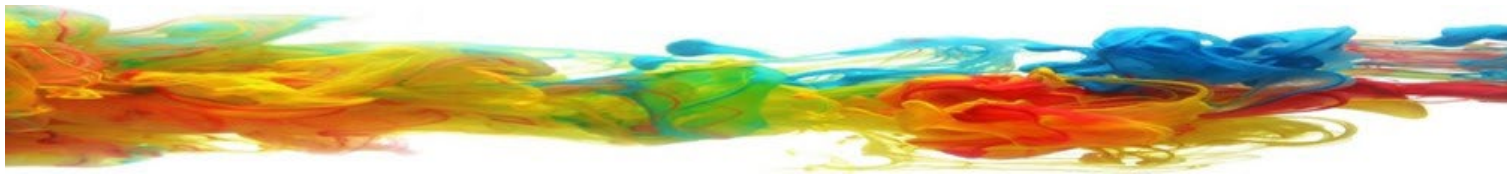
knowing that the God who created you, the Christ who guides you,
and the Spirit who moves in and through you, goes forth with you.

Go with the Peace of God

AMEN

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Sundays at 10am 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.