

# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

September 13, 2026 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

“Worship, Wonder, and Amazing Grace”



*CENTERING WORDS (Exodus 14, Romans 14, Matthew 18)*

*Forgiveness is a complex notion. Forgiving ourselves and forgiving others can be equally challenging, but even more so when oppression and injustice are part of the story. May God guide our forgiving and our living, to embrace the deeper truth of Christ's teachings.*



**536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762**

**In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am**

*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 – September 13, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

**Call to Worship** (*Inspired by Psalm 103*)

One: Bless the Holy One! Bless God's holy name!

**Many: Bless God our Healer, Redeemer, and Friend.**

One: Bless the Holy One! Remember the works of God.

**Many: Bless the God who saves us, loves us, and forgives us.**

One: Bless the Holy One! Bless the God of life and justice!

**Many: Bless the One whose loves and mercy endures but whose anger does not. Bless God, O our souls!**

**Unison Opening Prayer** (*Exodus 12, Romans 14, Matthew 18*)

**Ancient of days, we enter your presence  
to remember and rejoice.**

**We come looking for your steadfast faithfulness  
and your loving care.**

**Thank you for the great mercy and grace  
that draw us close to your holiness.**

**Flow through our worship and through our lives  
with your holy presence and your forgiving grace.**

**May we be a people who seek reconciliation  
and genuine forgiveness with one another.**

**In remembrance and gratitude for your mercy  
and your grace, we pray. Amen.**

1 On River Jordan's banks I stand,  
and cast a wishful eye  
Upon the fair and happy land  
where my possessions lie.

Refrain:

I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound for the promised land.  
Oh, who will come and go with me?  
I am bound for the promised land.

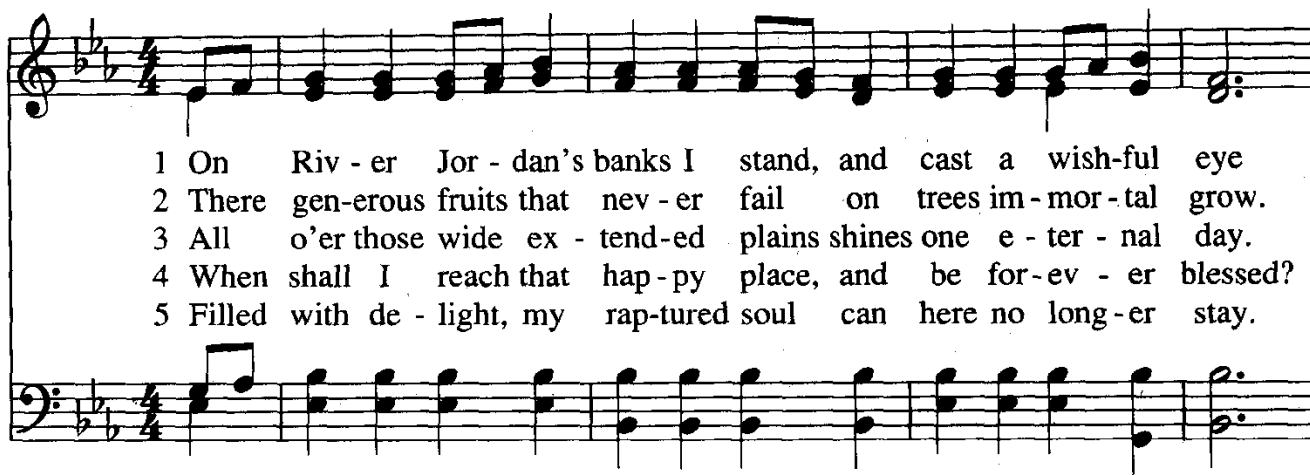
2 There generous fruits that never fail  
on trees immortal grow.  
There rocks and hills and brooks and vales  
with milk and honey flow. *[Refrain]*

3 All o'er those wide extended plains  
shines one eternal day.  
There God, the Sun, forever reigns,  
and scatters night away. *[Refrain]*

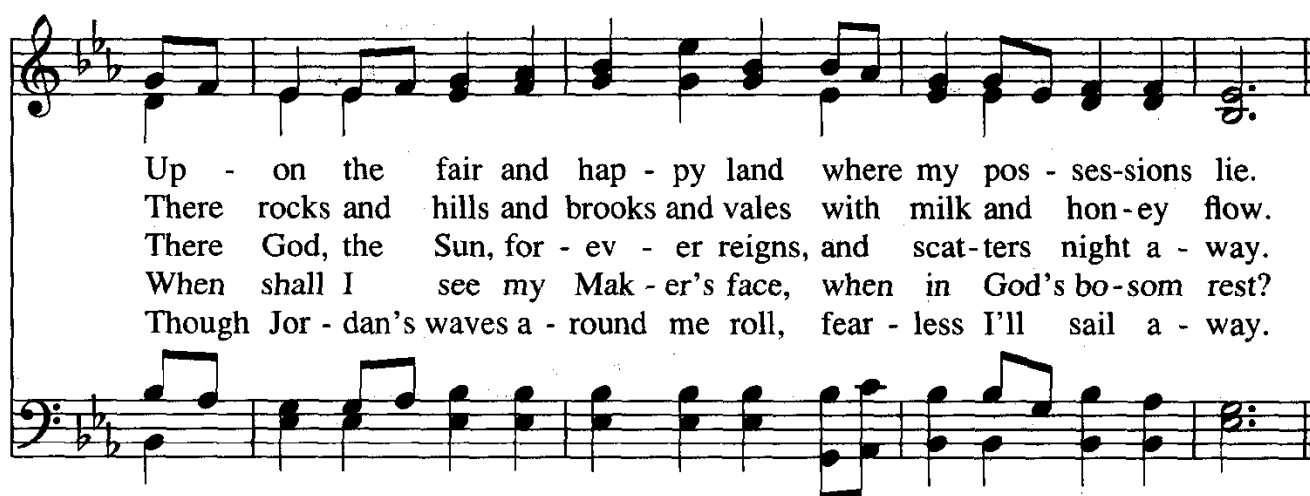
4 When shall I reach that happy place,  
and be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Maker's face,  
when in God's bosom rest? *[Refrain]*

5 Filled with delight, my raptured soul  
can here no longer stay.  
Though Jordan's waves around me roll,  
fearless I'll sail away. *[Refrain]*

## On River Jordan's Banks I Stand

*Samuel Stennett, 1787; alt.*


1 On Riv - er Jor - dan's banks I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye  
 2 There gen-erous fruits that nev - er fail on trees im - mor - tal grow.  
 3 All o'er those wide ex - tend-ed plains shines one e - ter - nal day.  
 4 When shall I reach that hap - py place, and be for-ev - er blessed?  
 5 Filled with de - light, my rap-tured soul can here no long-er stay.

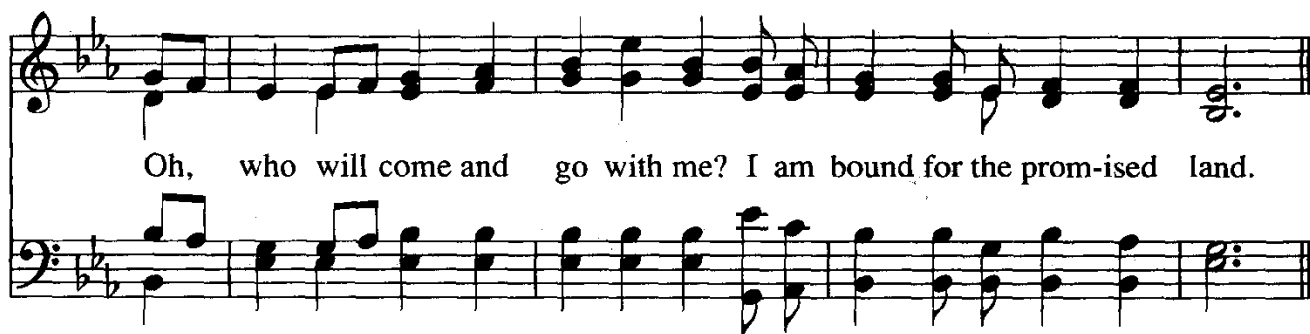


Up - on the fair and hap - py land where my pos - ses-sions lie.  
 There rocks and hills and brooks and vales with milk and hon - ey flow.  
 There God, the Sun, for - ev - er reigns, and scat-ters night a - way.  
 When shall I see my Mak - er's face, when in God's bo-som rest?  
 Though Jor - dan's waves a - round me roll, fear - less I'll sail a - way.

*Refrain*



I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land.



Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

## Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- Sundays 9:15am – Pop-Up Choir practice!
- Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- August 30<sup>th</sup> – Special Offering “Save the Church”
- Sign up to join Bethel’s Relay Team!
- <https://secure.acsevents.org/goto/BethelOntario>

Special Music

Pop-Up Choir

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.

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 D<sup>7</sup> G C G<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

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 G<sup>7</sup> C

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

## **Exodus 14:19-31**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**Sermon    “Worship, Wonder, and Amazing Grace”    Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*Unison*)**

God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgmental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.

### **Words Assurance and Grace (*Pastor*)**

*Beloved, grace has always been part of God's relationship with humanity. God does not want you condemned or held captive by unresolved anger leading to bitterness. Rather, Creator desires you to be released as both forgiven and forgiver so that all may live a life that is whole, free, and flourishing..*

### **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

*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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

### Blessing of the Gifts (*Unison*)

Thank you, God, for the generosity of your love,  
Forgiveness, and grace.

Thank you for trusting us to share this generosity  
with others.

Bless our offerings with grace, forgiveness, and love.

Bless our lives, our giving, and our actions,  
that they may reflect and share these gifts  
in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.

## **Singing into Mission *Amazing Grace***

1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 My God has promised good to me,  
whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

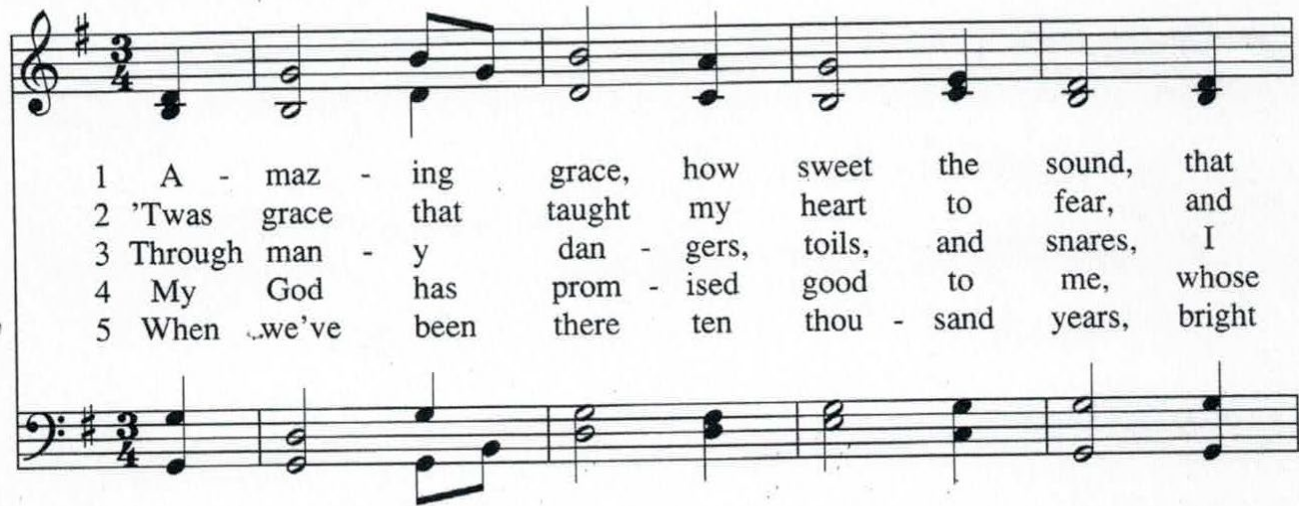
5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

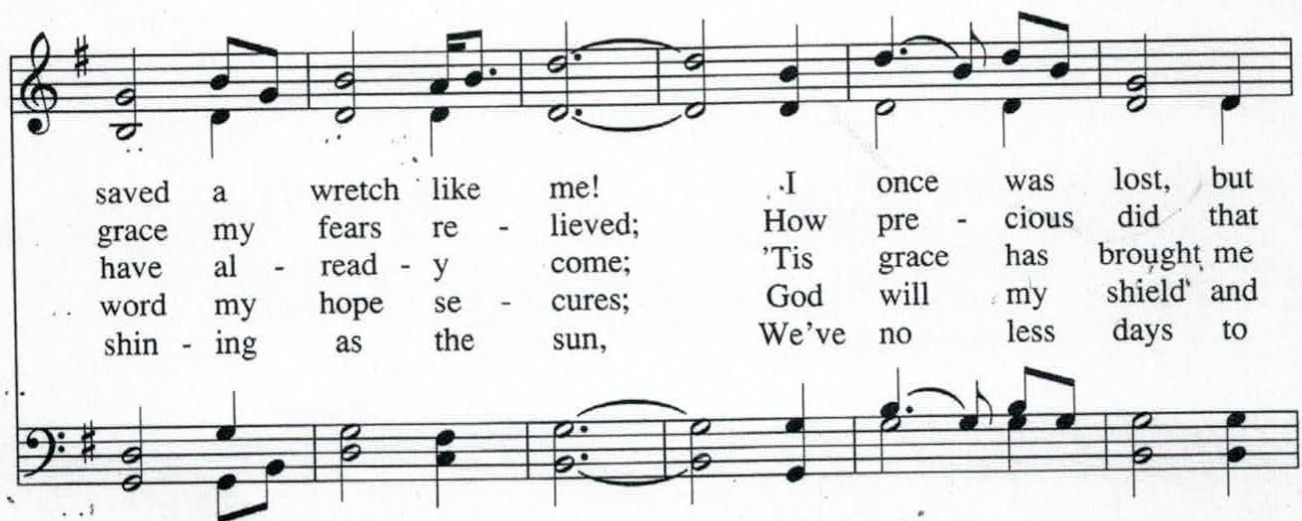
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St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

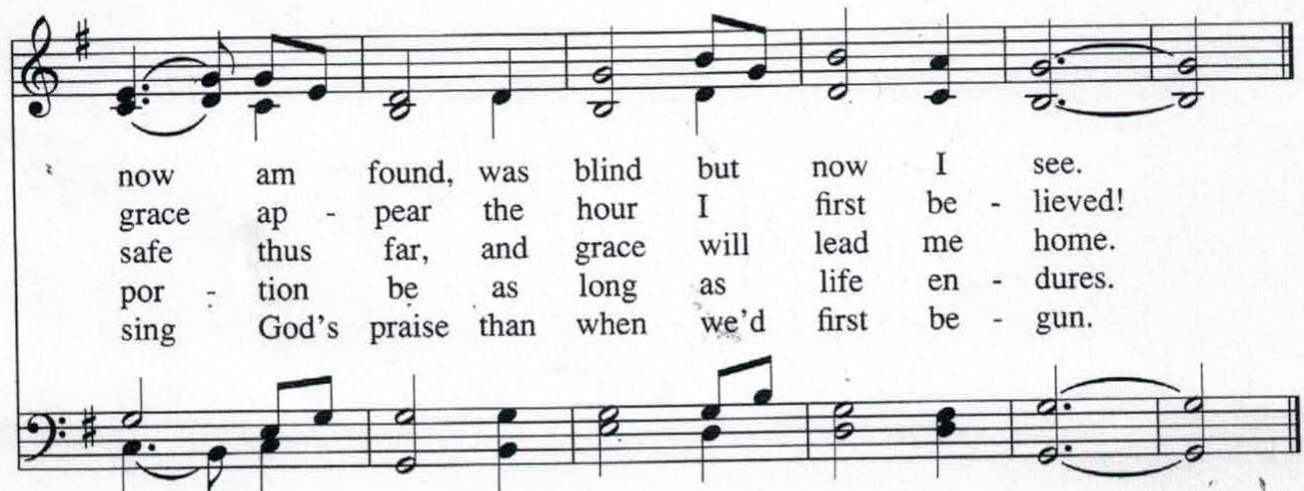
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield' and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## Unison Benediction

May the blessings of God empower you.  
May the accountability of God transform you.  
May the mercy and forgiveness of God release you.  
May the love of God embolden you.  
May the peace of God assure you.  
And, may the grace you receive be the grace you extend.

## Postlude

Carillon



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Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann  
Pastor & Minister of Music  
[drmann@bethelucontario.org](mailto:drmann@bethelucontario.org)  
(626) 393-5507

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.*

[www.bethelucontario.org](http://www.bethelucontario.org)