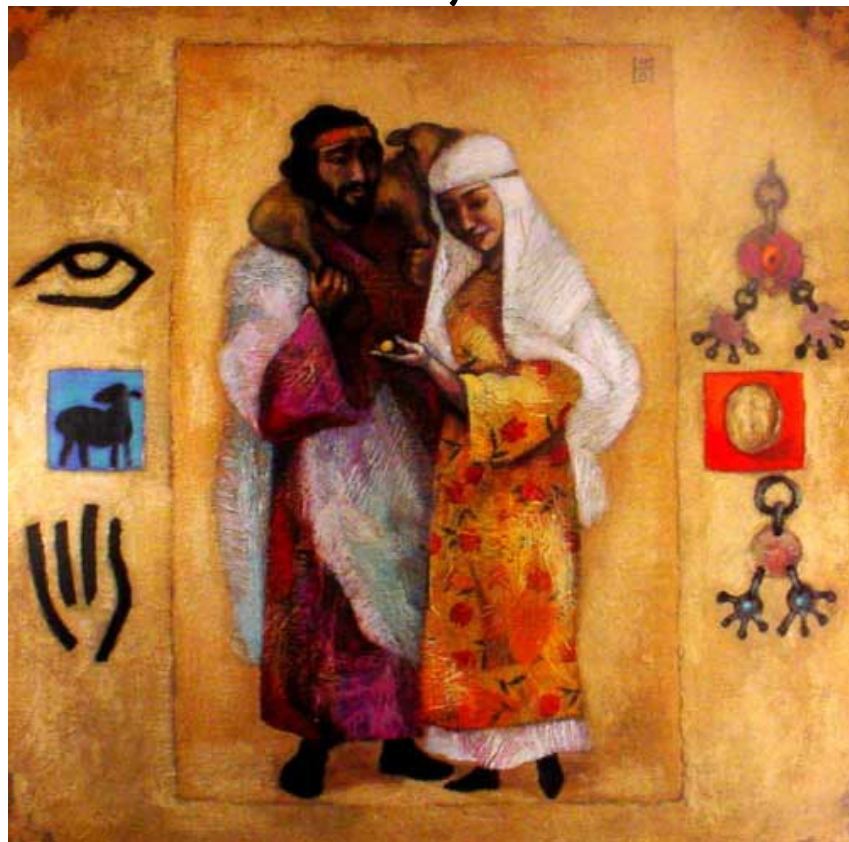


# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

September 14, 2025 -

HOMECOMING

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**“Once was lost...”**

**Centering Words** (Jeremiah 4, Psalm 14, 1 Timothy 1, Luke 15)

*Return to God, no matter how long you’ve been away. Come home, no matter how far you’ve wandered. But if you don’t return on your own, don’t be surprised if God comes and finds you anyway.*

*That’s what we call grace.*

[www.betheluccontario.org](http://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 – September 14, 2025

## Prelude Music

## Responsive Call to Worship

**One:** Let us enter the presence of our God with a renewed heart and a right spirit.

**Many:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**One:** Let us speak, hear, and embrace truth and the wisdom of God.

**Many:** Strengthen and empower us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**One:** Let us hear joy and gladness. Restore our crushed spirits.

**Many:** Revive us again, O God, according to your steadfast love.

## Unison Opening Prayer

Maker of Heaven and Earth, we rejoice in your presence. In you, we find joy and strength, comfort and courage, truth and insight. Speak to us again. Reveal your power in and through us. Show us your glory and be glorified in our worship. May your glorious light shine through hidden spaces. May your blessed darkness make space for rest. Fortify us for this journey and make us instruments of your kingdom. Amen.

## Gathering Hymn

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

NCH 188

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you,  
God fix my heart so that I may be used by you.  
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings,  
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.  
(sing 2 times)

# Give Me a Clean Heart

Ps. 51:1-12

Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.

The musical score is written for a voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

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

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Wednesdays** – **Scouts**: 6pm (basement).
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – evenings Occasional SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2

Children's Time

*The Lost Sheep*

Kids Video

*(used by permission)*

**\*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 choir (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 musical notation such as rests, beams, 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 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 32:7–14**

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ”

The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’?

Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ”

And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**Psalm 51:1–10 (Responsive)**

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

**2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

5 Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**6 You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

9 Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**SERMON***“Once was lost...”**Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann*

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Holy God, you seek us when we are lost. You do not turn away from those who others minimize and demean. Help us to recognize the belovedness of every human being and all your creation. Give us courage and curiosity to engage with those that others would ignore or isolate. Let us rejoice on earth as your rejoice in heaven as we make restoration, redemption, and reconciliation abound among us. Amen.

## **Words of Assurance**

*Beloved, the Holy One seeks you and rejoices when you turn from the ways of the world that minimize and marginalize the community God has prepared for us. We can be builders of a future that celebrates the kingdom of God alive and rejoicing on earth.*

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

**Silent Prayer** – *bring your personal prayers to God*

## **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**

**Words of Remembrance**

**Sharing of the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring your light and love 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

The resourcing of our shared ministry depends upon the gifts that we bring. As image bearers of the divine, we receive the privilege of generosity. Through our gifts, we demonstrate trust in the Sovereign One and hope in our collective future. Let us give with an abundance of love and faith.

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

## Offering Music

***“Bless This House”*** by Helen Taylor and May Brahe  
*arranged by Sandy Gunn*

## Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

God our Provider, receive these gifts in gratitude from your people. We pray that these offerings meet the needs of the world and our community. May they serve as a public witness of our commitment to being your church. Amen.

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.

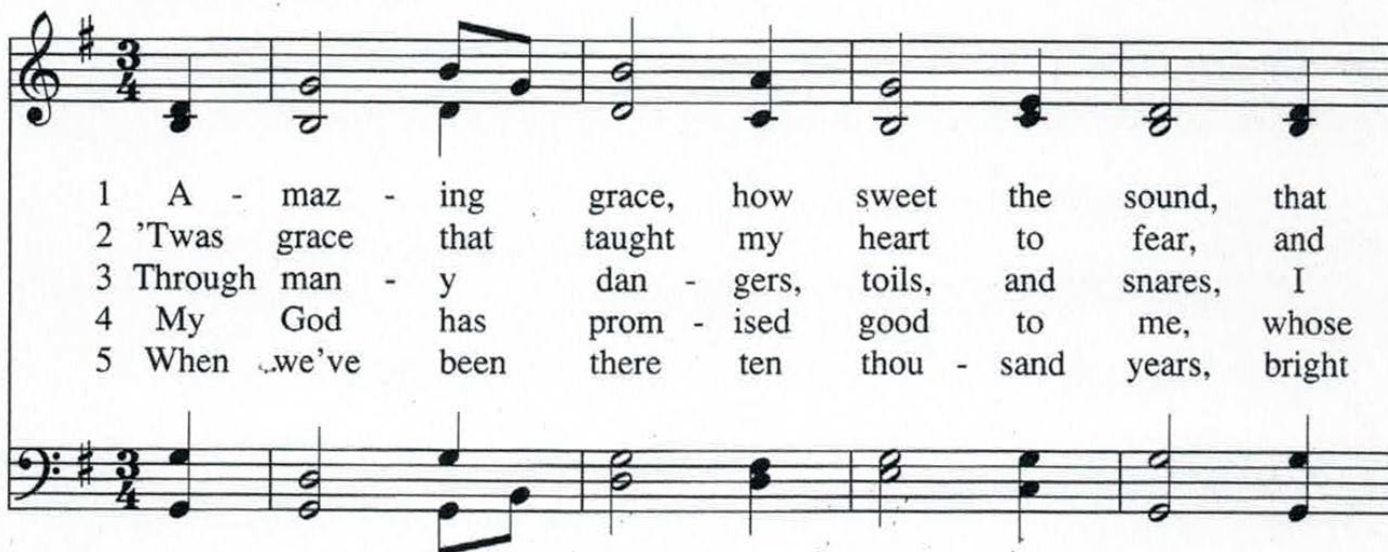
5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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

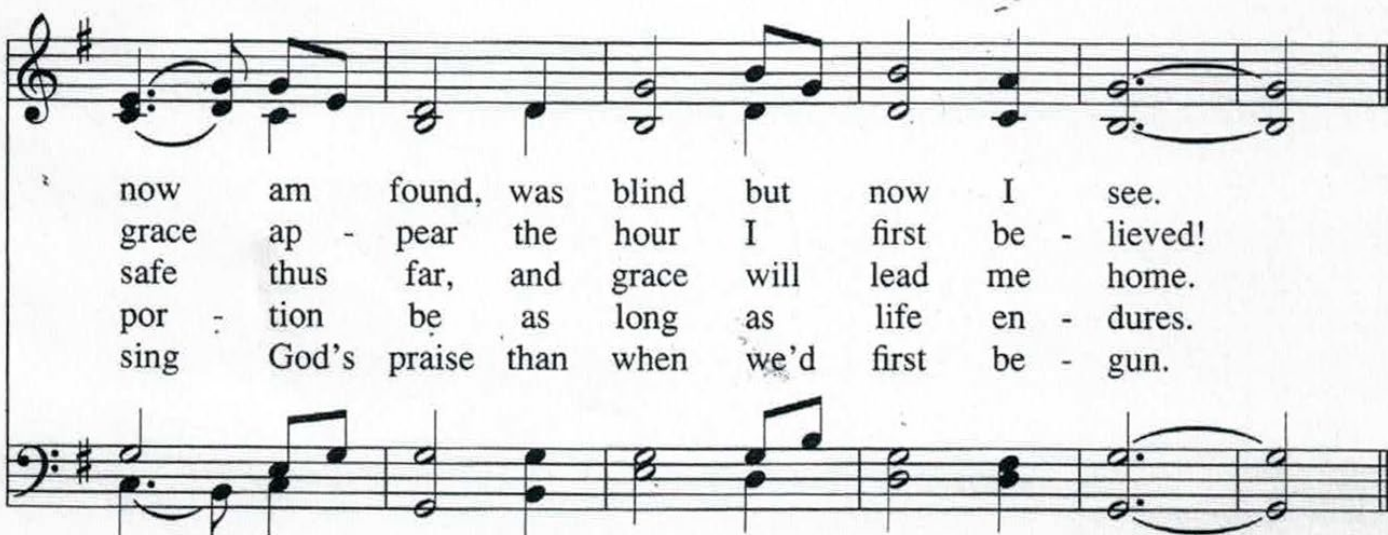
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



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.

## Benediction – Unison

Like a lost sheep, you are found by the Good Shepherd.

Like a lost coin, you are gathered up by God.

Be a good shepherd to those who are lonely.

Be a good home for those longing to belong.

Go in the untiring goodness of God,

the unending patience of Christ,

and the infinite peace of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Go in Peace**

## 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.*