

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

March 15, 2026 – “See”

4th Sunday of Lent



Centering Words

(1 Samuel 16, John 9)

*Open the eyes of my heart, O God. Help us see more clearly,
think more openly, feel more deeply, and love more abundantly.*

Some portions of today's worship are offered in both English and Spanish.

A bilingual participation guide is available inside the bulletin.

Algunas partes del culto de hoy se ofrecerán en inglés y español.

Una guía bilingüe de participación se encuentra dentro del boletín.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter

Also available On Demand 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 – March 15, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

ONE: Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

MANY: We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

ONE: The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

MANY: We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.

ONE: The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

MANY: We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.

ONE: Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.

**MANY: Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together!
Amen.**

Unison Opening Prayer (*1 Samuel 16, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5, John 9*)

Shepherd of love, guide our steps,
open the eyes of our hearts,
and fling wide the doors of our minds
to perceive as you perceive.

Open our lives to love as you love.

Open our world to become the world you envision
for your creation.

In the light of your love, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;
2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear;
3. O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where;

place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will
o-pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren

Refrain

set me free.
dis-ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share.

will to see. O-pen my eyes,
O-pen my ears, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
O-pen my heart,

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

Bienvenida – Saludo de la Paz – Anuncios

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays** – 7pm SSO Chorus Rehearsals
- **Wednesdays** – **4:30pm** – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement). 3rd Wednesdays 7pm(Mar 18) – Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (*“The Tears of Things”* by Richard Rohr.)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – evenings** SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –SSO Rehearsals (mornings, resume March 21)
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - Southland Wind Ensemble - 4pm SATURDAY March 21;
 - Southland Symphony Orchestra and Chorus – 4pm SUNDAY April 21.

Para información en español, por favor hable con nosotros después del servicio.

Children’s Time

Jesus heals a Man Born Blind

Kids Video

*Gloria

71

Glory to the Creator

Musical score for "Glory to the Creator" in 4/4 time. The score is written for voice and guitar. It 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." The score includes guitar chords (C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C, G/D, D7, G, C, G7, G7, C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G7, C) and a double bar line with a repeat sign at the end.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD."

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-41

Dr. Mann

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. "

Prayer of Yearning (*John 9, 1 Samuel 16, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5*)

Christ our Healer, we want to see and be seen fully.
We long to heal and be healed fully.
We yearn to love and be loved fully.
Yet, these desires seem beyond our reach
when our minds are set on earthly things.
Set our minds instead on you.
Help us perceive the possibilities of fullness,
of shalom, of your realm on this earth.
Then guide us to help live into the reality
you show us. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Psalm 23, Ephesians 5*)

Surely goodness and faithful love follow us
all the days of our lives.
For these gifts are already ours through the grace
and the power of Christ Jesus

Prayers of the People: Joys and Concerns ; Silent Prayer

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

Giving Options: In person – *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** to send 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 - Bethel Congregational Church 536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.

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



Blessing and Dedication of the Gifts (*Ephesians 5, John 9, 1 Samuel 16*)

All-seeing God, you see the gifts we have given

and the offering we are giving:

our treasure and our time, our service and our lives.

Help us perceive the value of your gifts you,

and the ways our generous sharing brings your realm more closely to this earth.

Bless our lives and our gifts, that they might become points of light

to bring all of creation closer to you and to your love. 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.

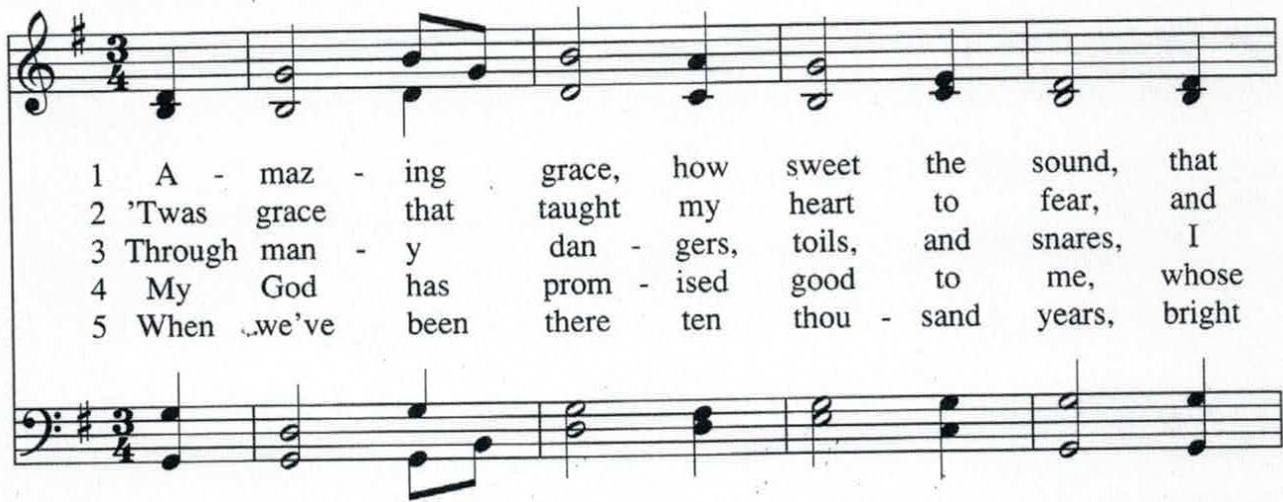
5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

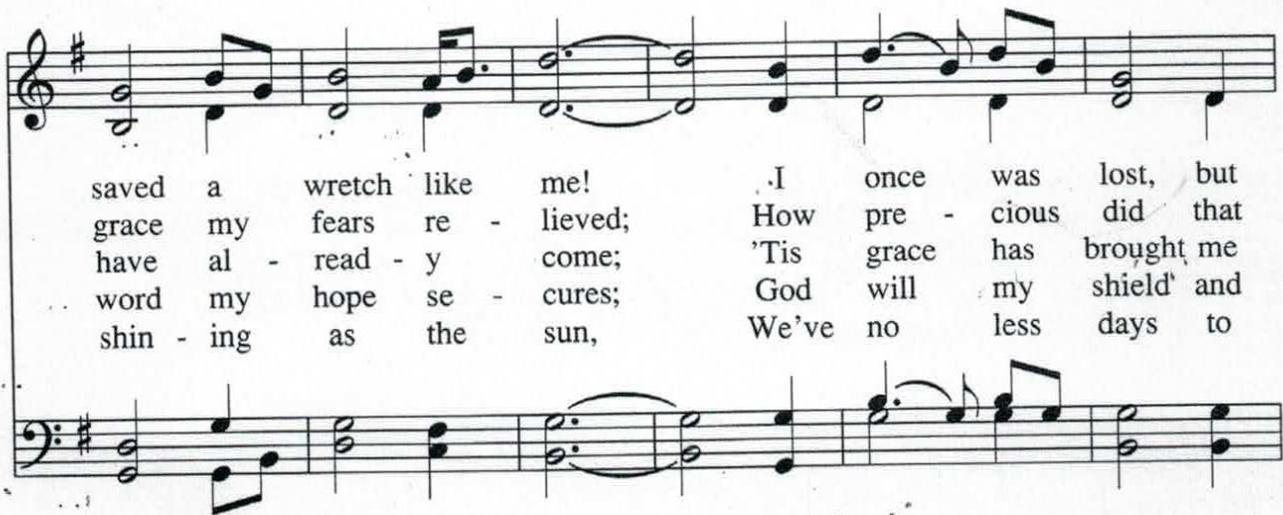
547

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

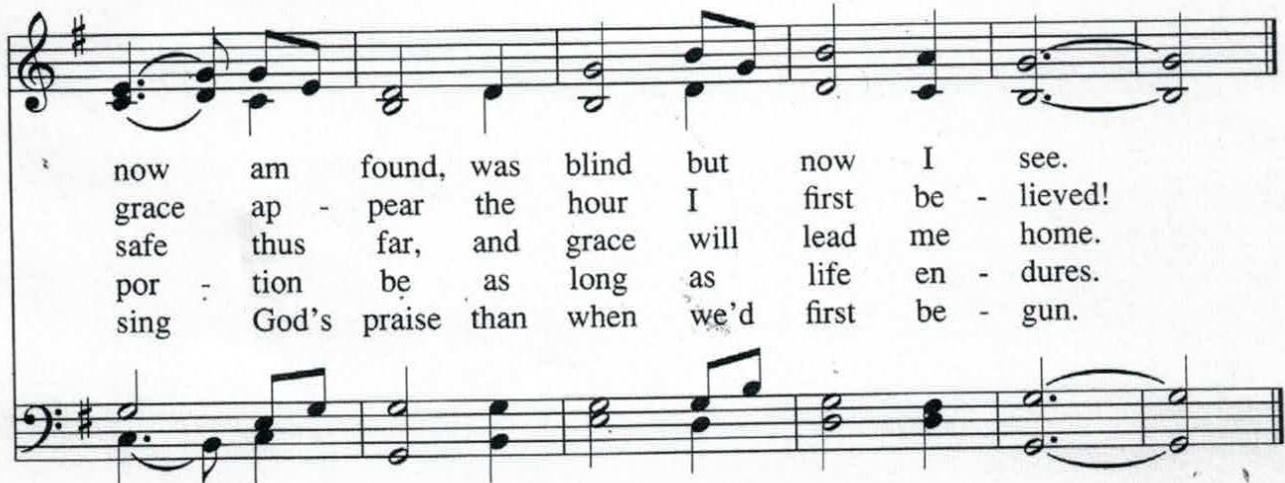
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



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 (*Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4*)

Bathe in the river of God's love.
Swim in the waters of Christ's baptism.
Ride the ocean currents of the Holy Spirit.
Be renewed in the warm springs of our God.
Go in Peace
AMEN

Postlude

Carillon



Bethel Ontario Online
Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
526 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
www.betheluccontario.org
info@betheluccontario.org
(909) 984-9111

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@betheluccontario.org
(626) 393-5507

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

**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.*