Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

November 15th , 2026 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost



Centering Words

(1 Thessalonians 5)

Live with Christ. Look for Christ. Listen for Christ, and expect Christ's arrival to come in unexpected ways.



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 – November 15, 2026

Prelude Music for Gathering

Responsive Call to Worship *(Psalm 123, Matthew 25)*

ONE: Raise your eyes to the God of heaven and earth.
MANY: We raise our hearts and voices with songs of praise.
ONE: Awaken your mind to the mysteries of God.
MANY: We open ourselves to listen and learn in new ways.
ONE: Notice your blessings and gifts, miraculously given by God.
MANY: We offer our lives and gifts to bless and grow God's love in the world.

Unison Opening Prayer *(Judges 4, Matthew 25)*

God of mystery and miracles,

bless our worship with your presence.

Bless our lives with your guidance.

Bless our world with your wisdom.

May we perceive your mysterious ways

as miracles and paths to draw us closer to you

and to your realm here on earth.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Hymn ***Lord, Be Glorified***

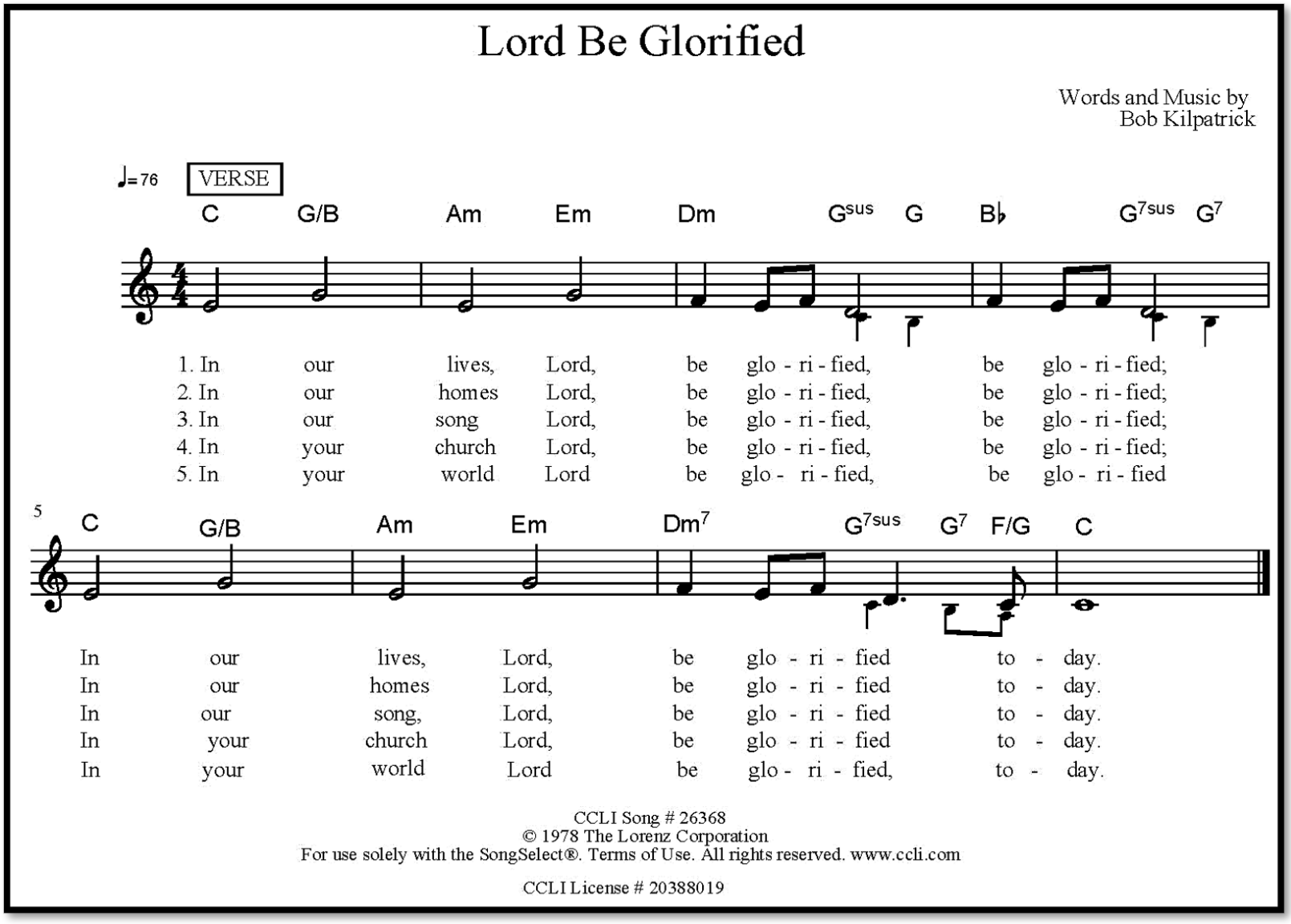
In our lives Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In our lives Lord, Be glorified today

In our homes Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In our homes Lord, Be glorified today

In our song Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In our song Lord, Be glorified today

In Your church Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In Your church Lord, Be glorified today

In your world Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In your world Lord, Be glorified today
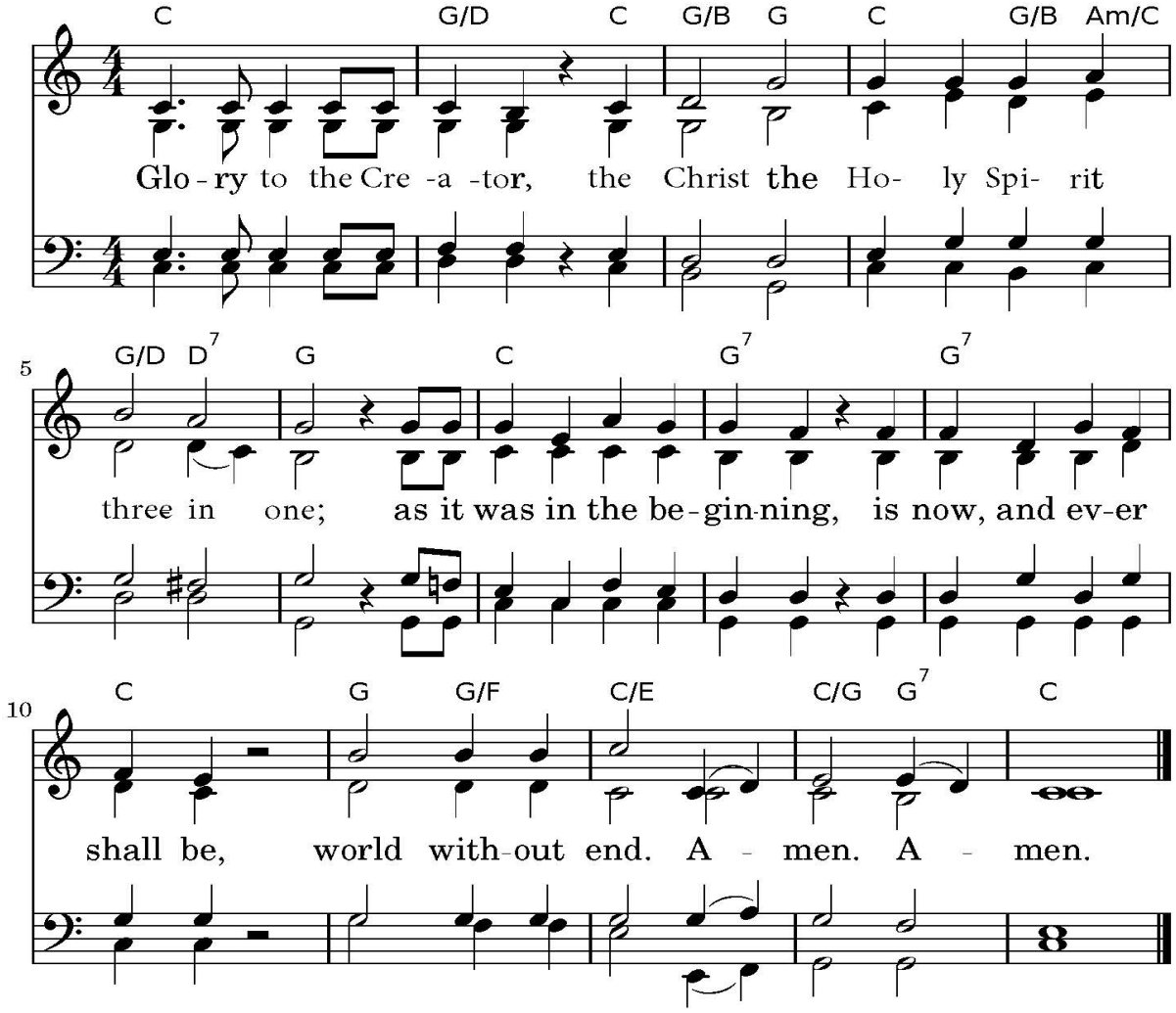


Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays –** Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Sundays 9:15am – Pop-Up Choir practice!**
- **Thursdays 10am -** Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – Southland Wind Ensemble Rehearsal – eve**
- **Concerts coming up:**
  - **Sat Nov 21 – Southland Wind Ensemble Chamber Concert 4pm at Bethel; ALSO – La Verne Symphony 4pm at Morgan Auditorium, University of La Verne**
  - **MESSIAH – Sunday Dec 6 at 4pm at Bethel;**
  - **Sunday Jan 3rd – Opera – The Mikado 4pm.**

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.



Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.

So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim.

Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel.
She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.

She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.'"

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30 **Pastor Sylvia**

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them, and made five more talents.

In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.
As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Sermon ***Our Lives and Gifts Are Blessings to Share*** Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (Unison) *(Judges 4, Matthew 25)*

Wise One, we want to be wise like Deborah
and the wise leaders of old.
We want to be wise like Jesus
and the disciples who built your church.
We want to be wise like you,
but your ways are so mysterious,
they confuse sometimes.
Guide us out of confusion.
Help us see clearly and brightly,
led by the light of your Son, Christ Jesus.
Strengthen us to live the wisdom you offer,
that our gifts and talents may grow and expand
your kingdom of love each day.
In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

Words Assurance *(1 Thessalonians 5)*

Jesus has raised us for new life.
Jesus shines for us as a light in the dark
to help us find our way to God.

Prayers of the People (Joys and Concerns to share)

Silent Prayers

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) *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 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)(1 Thessalonians 5, Matthew 25)*

God of mystery and miracles,
bless the gifts and lives we offer to you today
with your miraculous abundance
and your mysterious guidance.
Transform these gifts and lives
to be instruments of your love, justice and mercy,
that they might bring your realm to earth. Amen.

*Singing into Mission *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

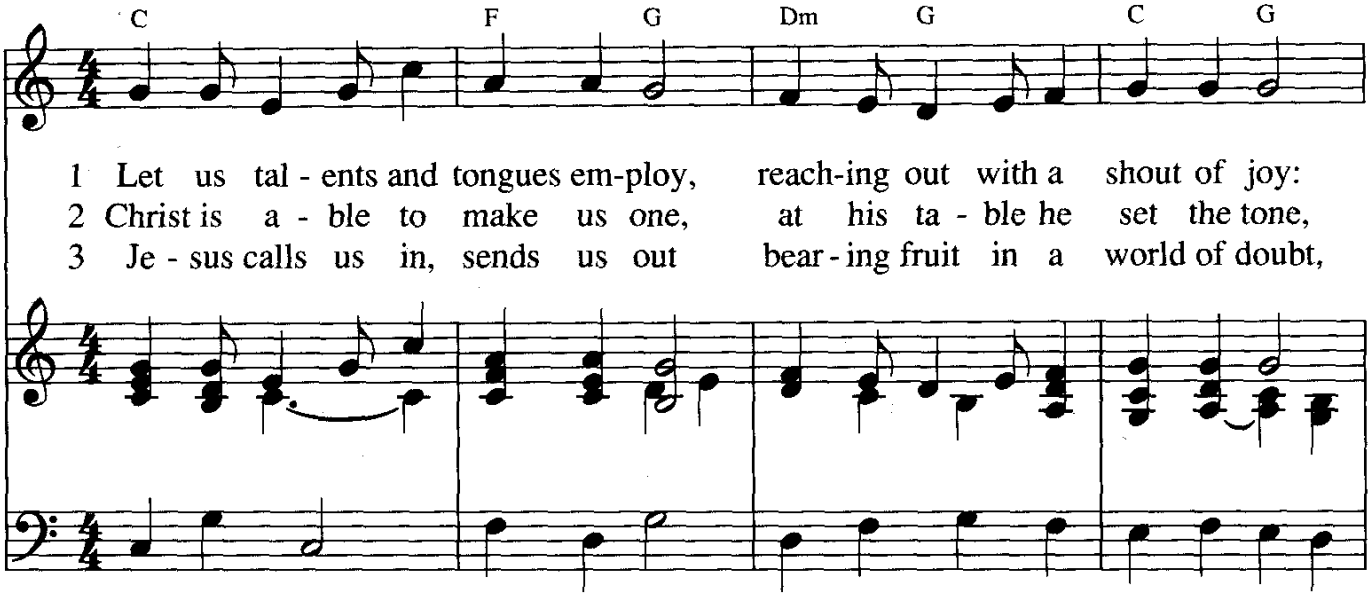
1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

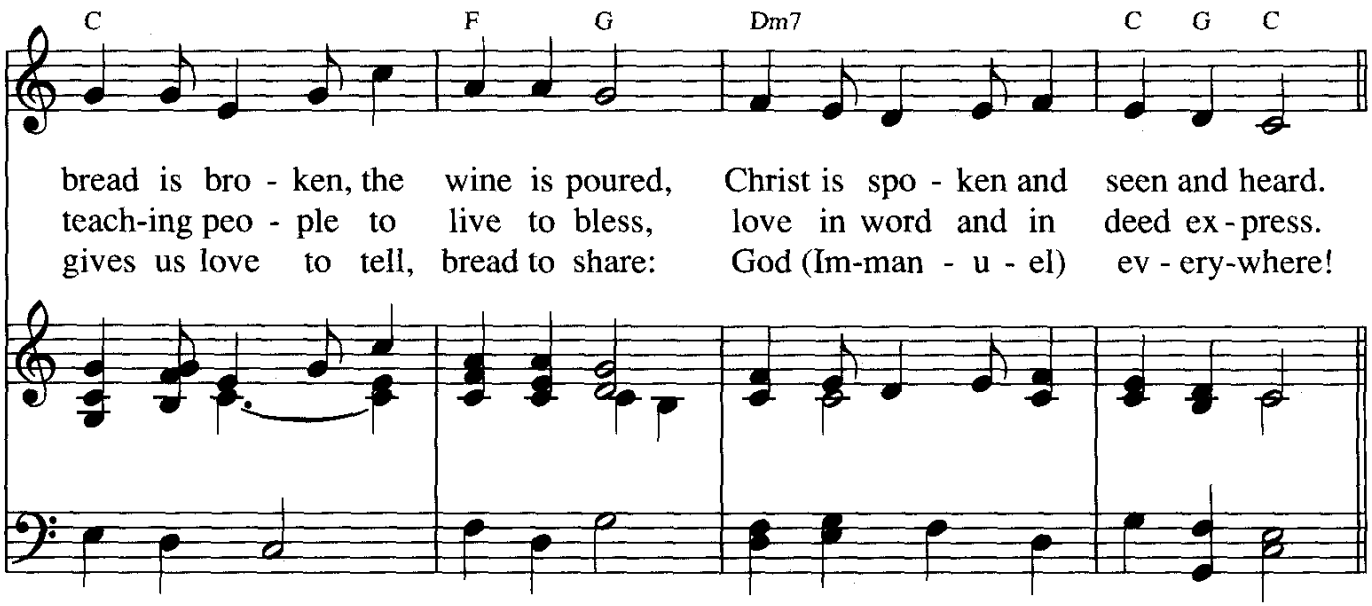
2 Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.
Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

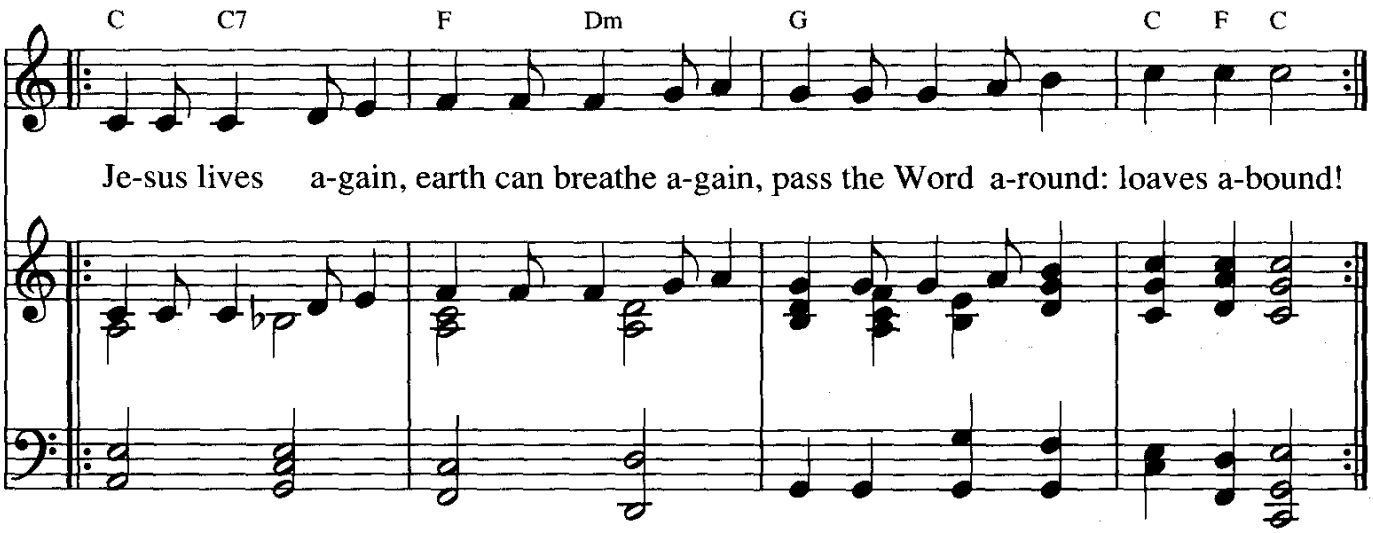
347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1–9 *Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.*





*Refrain (first time **p**, second time **f**)*



Benediction Responsive

ONE: You know what time it is.
MANY: It's time to get to work.
ONE: It's time to follow Christ.
MANY: It's time to go where God leads.
ONE: It's time to offer ourselves.
MANY: And time to bring love to the world.
Go in peace! AMEN.

Postlude Carillon



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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

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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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