

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

August 16, 2026 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

“Room for Everyone”



CENTERING WORDS (Psalm 133)

How good it is that sisters and brothers live together in human dignity. As we celebrate our common humanity this day, let us lift up a humane spirituality in song and silence, prayer and practice.



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 – August 16, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Matthew 14*)

ONE: When hatred and division separate us,

MANY: God's love binds us together.

ONE: When quarrels estrange us,

MANY: Christ's grace brings reconciliation.

ONE: When we feel excluded and left out,

MANY: The Spirit's peace eases our pain.

ONE: Come! Let us worship the One who makes us one.

Unison Opening Prayer (*Genesis 45, Psalm 133, Romans 11, Matthew 15*)

Eternal God, heal the wounds that block our unity

as your beloved children.

Ease the hurts and betrays the block us

from embracing the balm of your forgiveness.

Cast out the fears that prevent us from seeking

your peace and reconciliation.

Even when our hearts are pierced with anguish,

send us friends who will bring us solace,

through your loving Spirit. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Help Us Accept Each Other NCH 388 (tune 386 Aurelia)

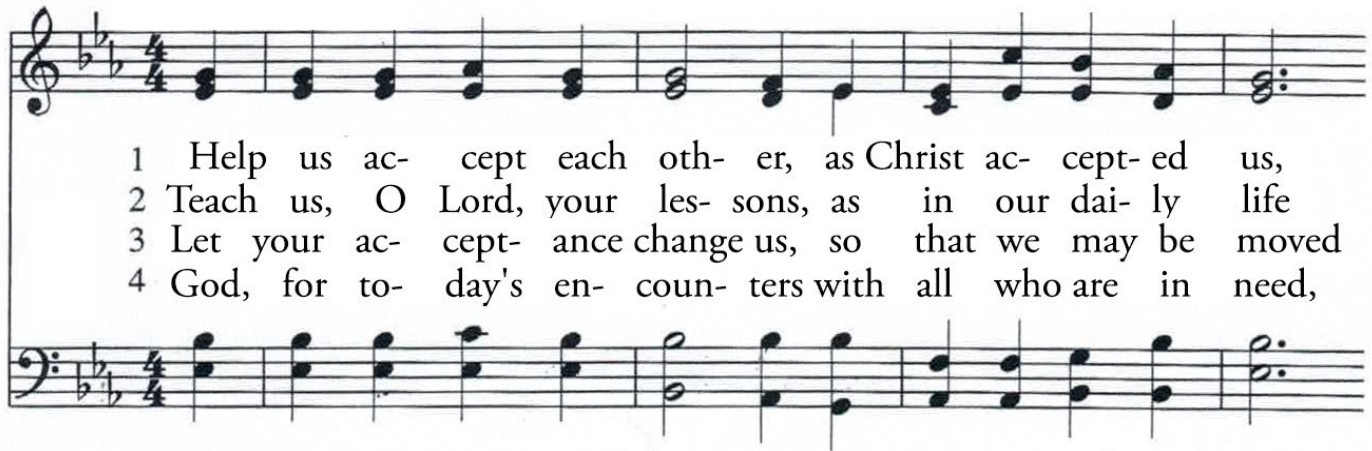
1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us,
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

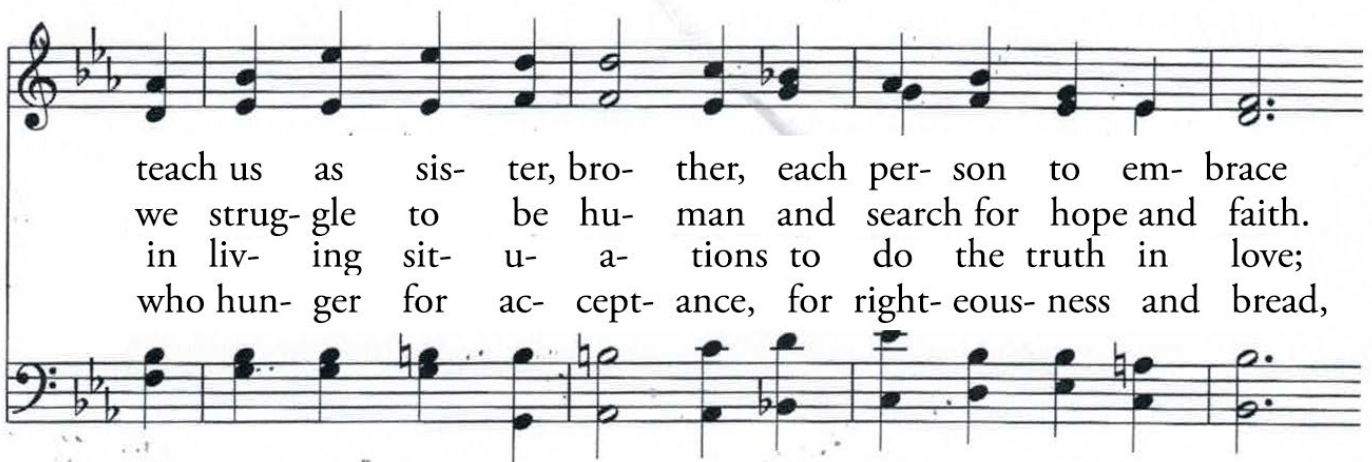
3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance,
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

4 God, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
God! Free us, make us one!

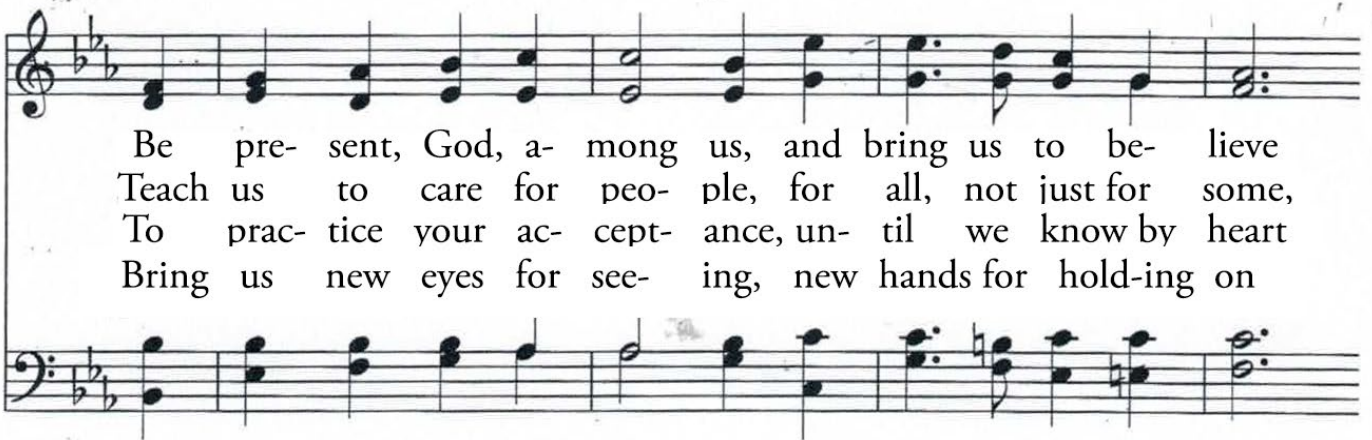
Help Us Accept Each Other



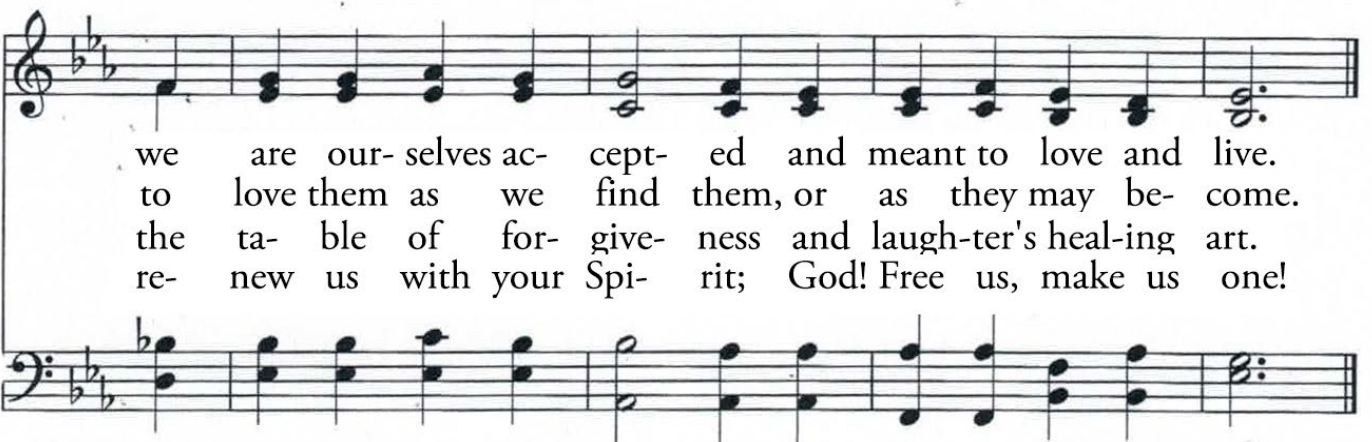
1 Help us ac- cept each oth- er, as Christ ac- cept- ed us,
2 Teach us, O Lord, your les- sons, as in our dai- ly life
3 Let your ac- cept- ance change us, so that we may be moved
4 God, for to- day's en- coun- ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis- ter, bro- ther, each per- son to em- brace
we strug- gle to be hu- man and search for hope and faith.
in liv- ing sit- u- a- tions to do the truth in love;
who hun- ger for ac- cept- ance, for right- eous- ness and bread,



Be pre- sent, God, a- mong us, and bring us to be- lieve
Teach us to care for peo- ple, for all, not just for some,
To prac- tice your ac- cept- ance, un- til we know by heart
Bring us new eyes for see- ing, new hands for hold- ing on



we are our- selves ac- cept- ed and meant to love and live.
to love them as we find them, or as they may be- come.
the ta- ble of for- give- ness and laugh- ter's heal- ing art.
re- new us with your Spi- rit; God! Free us, make us one!

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Sundays 9:15am** – Pop-Up Choir practice!
- **Wednesdays** – 4:30pm – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **August 30th** – 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 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.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’

And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Gospel

Matthew 15:10-28

Pastor Sylvia

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Sermon

"Room for Everyone"

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*Unison*) (*Genesis 45, Psalm 133, Matthew 15*)

Merciful God, free us from the desire for retribution
towards those who have wronged us.

And fill us mercy and compassion
for those who trigger deep-seated prejudices
against those who offend us.

Open our hearts, O God,
to those who seem different and strange.
For we long to know the joy of living in peace,
and the hope of living in harmony,
with those we would rather live without. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Romans 11*)

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
Rejoice in the knowledge of God's saving love.

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) 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.



Scan. Pay. Go.

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

Blessing of the Gifts (*Unison*) (*Genesis 22*)

Faithful One, when hunger threatens our world,
you bless us with dreams
that we can save the children of our day.
Bless this offering,
that your dreams for a world without want
may bless the lives of your children.
Transform these gifts into vessels of grace
that have the power to make all people one.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Singing into Mission

Draw the Circle Wide

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...
God the still-point of the circle
Round whom all creation turns
Nothing lost but held forever
in God's gracious arms*

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...
Let our hearts touch far horizons
So encompass great and small
Let our loving know no borders
Faithful to God's call*

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...
Let the dreams we dream be larger
Than we've ever dreamed before
Let the dream of Christ be in us
Open every door!*

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide...*

Draw the circle wide

Words and Music: Gordon Light Arr.: M. Koebsch

D Chorus

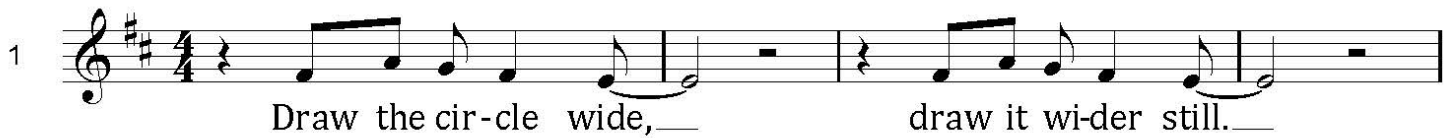
G

A

D

G

A

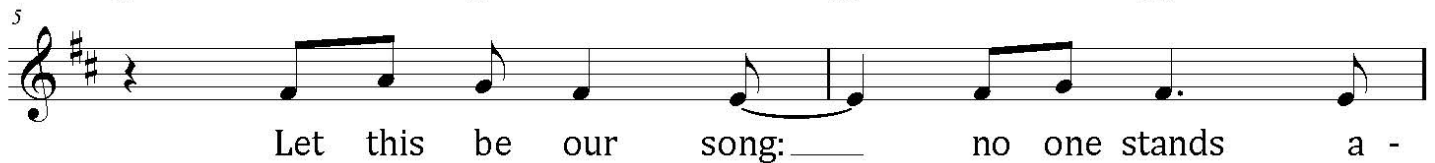


D

G

A

F#7



Bm

Em

Asus4

A

D

Fine



D Verse

G

D

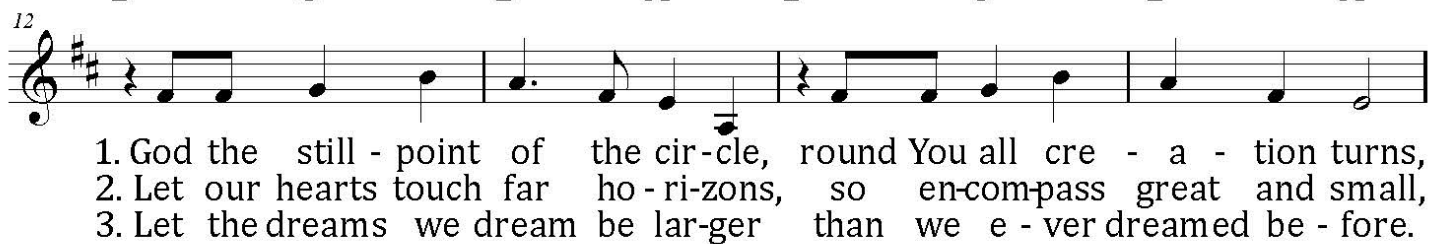
A

D

G

D

A



Bm

Em

A

D

Em

Em/G

A7

repeat chorus



Unison Benediction

The God of dreams has brought us together.

The God of dreams sends us forth as one.

The God of love has knit us together in unity.

The God of love heals our divisions.

The God of hope sends us forth together.

The God of peace brings peace to our world.

Postlude

Carillon



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(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.bethelucanario.org