

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

February 16, 2025 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany
“Blessings or Curses?”



Centering Words

(Luke 6, Psalm 1)

*How fickle is the journey of life! Blessings walk alongside curses.
Hope intertwines with despair. Goodness is shadowed by wickedness*



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 – February 16, 2025

Prelude

Responsive Call to Worship

ONE: Jesus declared, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

MANY: May we learn to depend on God’s abundant provision instead of the world’s grasping for wealth as we worship today.

ONE: Jesus declared, “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.”

MANY: May we learn to follow Christ’s call to provide for the hungry as co-creators of God’s kingdom as we worship today.

ONE: Jesus declared, “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

MANY: May we learn to pay attention to those who suffer and mourn and to extend God’s comfort and hope to those who need it as we worship today.

ONE: Jesus declared, “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.”

MANY: May our worship teach us to rejoice in that day and every day as we live out the good news in our families, neighborhoods, community, and world!

Unison Opening Prayer

God of blessings and woes,
bless us this day with lives filled with love,
caring, generosity, and deep, abiding hope.

We pray that your kingdom will dwell among all people,
and that we may be instruments of your love and your grace.

Open our hearts with the joy
of healing a world filled with brokenness and pain.

In the name of the one who taught us the ways of light and love,
be in our worship and in our very lives. Amen.

Gathering Hymn God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on the people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

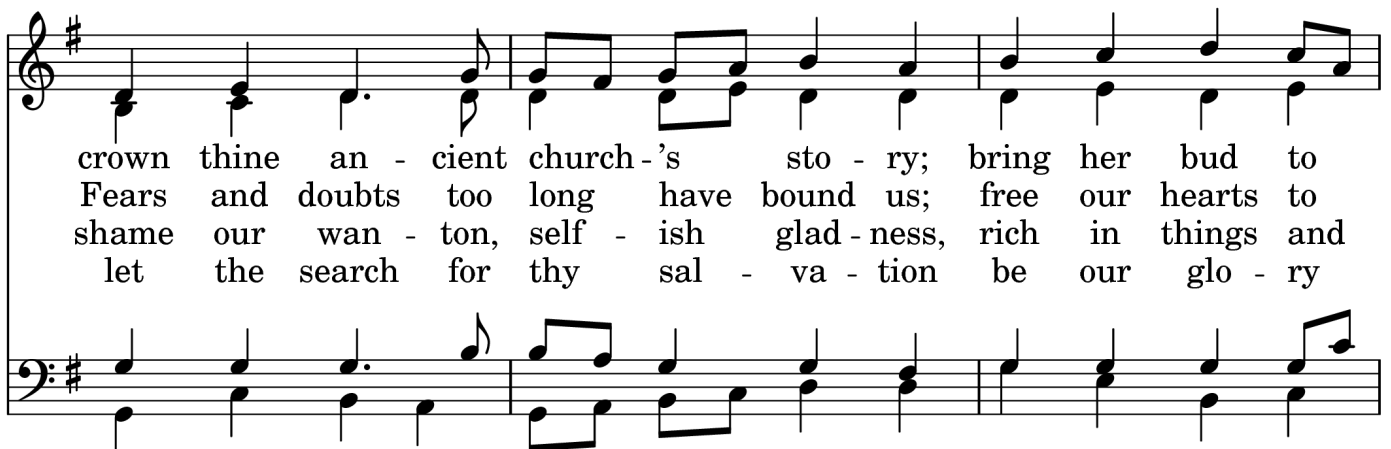
3 Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

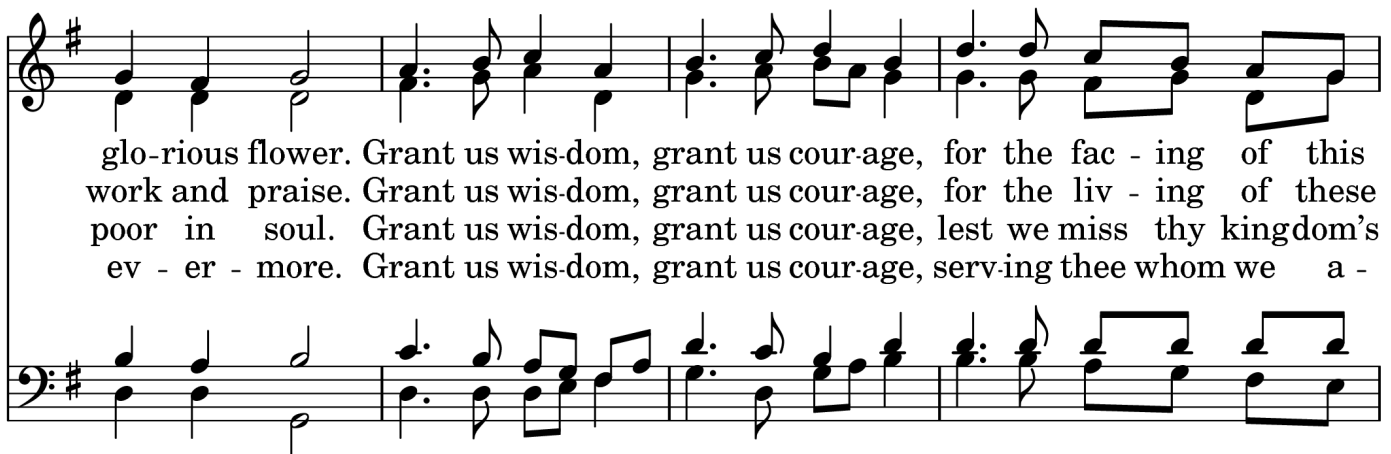
God of Grace and God of Glory



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;



crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry; bring her bud to
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and
let the search for thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry



glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -



hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events:

- **Sundays** – *Worship!* (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am upstairs)
- **Mondays** – *Southland Jazz Orchestra Rehearsals* 7-9:30 (per calendar)
- **Tuesdays** – *SSO Chorus Rehearsals* 7:30 – 9pm resume Feb 11
- **Wednesdays** – *Cub Scouts* 6pm (basement).
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – *evenings SWE Rehearsals* (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** – *Mornings SSO Rehearsals / FCCO Korean Fellowship* 10-2 (upstairs).
- **CONCERT: Sun Feb 23 4pm** – *SSO*

Children's Time

Jesus Calls Peter

***Gloria**

71 **Glory to the Creator**

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.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it?

I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Luke 6:17-26

Blessings on the poor, woes on the rich

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

SERMON

“Blessings or Curses?”

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Compassionate God,

we recognize that our world is a broken place,
hurt by poverty, famine, and disease.

We admit that sometimes we make the world a broken place,
tolerating prejudice, conflict, and self-interest.

We confess that our hearts also suffer with anger,
Resentment, and jealousy.

Renew us in Your love, O God,

and heal us with the comfort of Your abundant love.

Awaken us to the role we can play in healing Your creation.

Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit

to hear Your word and move forward in faith. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Good creation of God, the Holy One has begun a good work in you and will see it through to completion. You have power to transform and grace to enter the newness of life. God is near and comes down with us. Receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace as the gift that has been given. It is available, yours, and enough.

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 (Pastor)

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

Scan. Pay. Go.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Gracious God, who blesses us in our brokenness and rejoices with us in our joy, we bring these gifts as an offering of hope and love. May they be used to heal the hurting, feed the hungry, and welcome the weary. Help us to be a community that reflects your beloved community, where all find acceptance and grace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

*Singing into Mission *We Shall Not be Moved*

*We shall not, we shall not be moved,
We shall not, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved*

We're young and old together, we shall not be moved,
We're young and old together, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved

CHORUS

We're women and men together, we shall not be moved,
We're women and men together, we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved

CHORUS

We're black and white together we shall not be moved,
We're black and white together we shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

CHORUS

Yes, straight and gay together we shall not be moved,
Yes, straight and gay together we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved

CHORUS

We Shall Not Be Moved

Chorus

We shall not we shall not be moved We shall not

4

we shall not be moved Just like a

5 *Fine*

tree that's plant - ed by the wa - ter We shall not be moved.

Verses

1. We're young and old to - geth - er we shall not be moved, we're
 2. We're women and men to - geth - er we shall not be moved, we're
 3. We're black and white to - geth - er we shall not be moved, we're
 4. Yes - straight and gay to - geth - er we shall not be moved, yes

11

young and old to - geth - er
 women and men to - geth - er
 black and white to - geth - er
 straight and gay to - geth - er

12

we shall not be moved just like a tree that's plant - ed by the
 we shall not be moved just like a tree that's plant - ed by the
 we shall not be moved just like a tree that's stand - ing by the
 we shall not be moved just like a tree that's plant - ed by the

14 *D.C. al Fine*

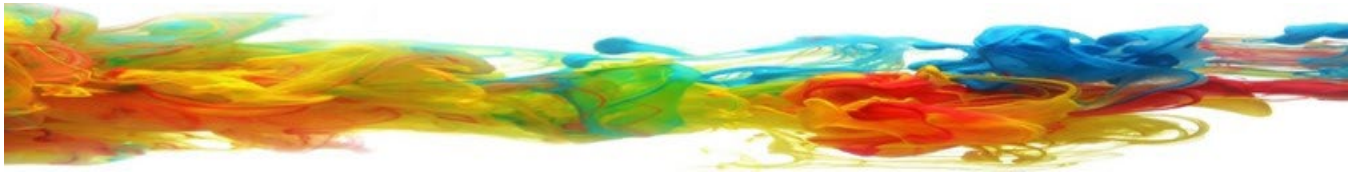
wa - ter We shall not be moved.
 wa - ter We shall not be moved.
 wa - ter We shall not be moved.
 wa - ter We shall not be moved.

Benediction - Unison

As you go into the world, remember that
Embodied Love has come down to join you.
God's grace has come down to redeem you.
Spirit has come down to empower and equip you
To also come down with the world
In need of hope and encouragement
In want of witness and public proclamation
That God is good and still down with us..

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Sundays at 10am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)*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.