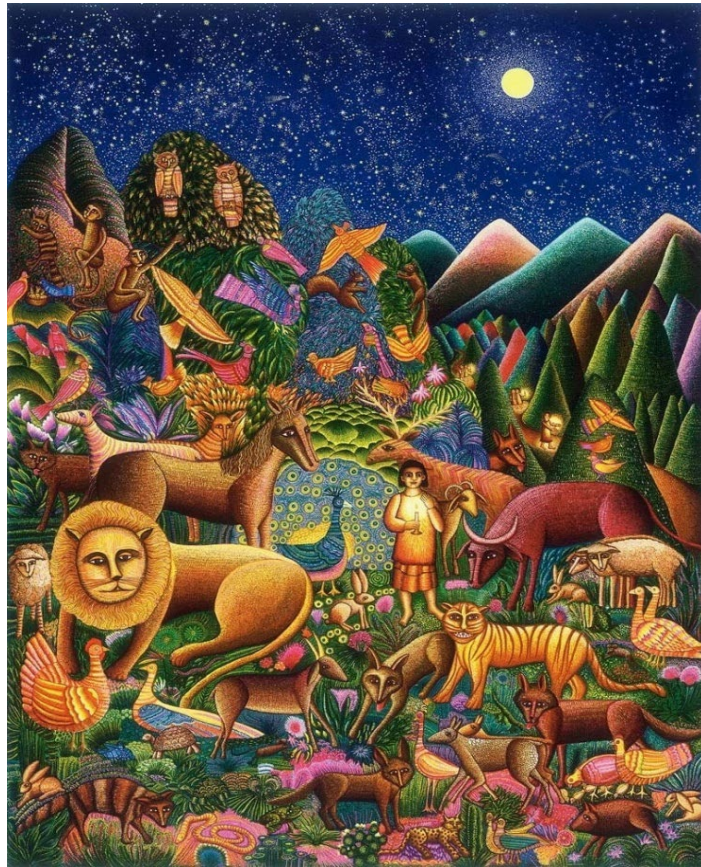


Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

November 16, 2025 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

“Vision”



Centering Words (Isaiah 65, Luke 21)

What suffering are we facing in our lives?

How do we respond to the turmoil and voice around us?

When we are most anxious, most afraid,

can we hold onto the promise of God's new heavens and new earth?

Can we let ourselves imagine the grace that may yet come?



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In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

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Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
Sunday – November 16, 2025

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 17*)

Responsive

ONE: I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.

MANY: Thus says our God, the Holy One.

ONE: Be glad and rejoice in this new creation.

MANY: Celebrate all that is coming to you.

ONE: For your weeping shall be met with rejoicing.

MANY: And your suffering will be overtaken by new life.

ONE: You shall build homes and live in them;

MANY: plant gardens and eat from them.

ONE: Whenever you call, I will answer.

MANY: When you cry out, I will come.

ONE: Heaven and earth will be filled with my peace.

MANY: Everything will become a new creation.

Unison Opening Prayer (*Isaiah 12, Luke 21*)

Loving and Merciful God, we give you thanks.

You bring us strength, when we feel weak;

courage, when we cannot stand.

You fill our hearts with your glory

and bless our being with your grace.

You protect our lives.

In your care, not one hair on our heads shall perish,

nor the smallest flutter of peace

perish in our souls. Amen.

1 On River Jordan's banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
Upon the fair and happy land
where my possessions lie.

Refrain:

*I am bound for the promised land, I am
bound for the promised land.
Oh, who will come and go with me? I am
bound for the promised land.*

2 There generous fruits that never fail
on trees immortal grow.
There rocks and hills and brooks and vales with
milk and honey flow. *[Refrain]*

3 All o'er those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day.
There God, the Sun, forever reigns,
and scatters night away. *[Refrain]*

4 When I shall reach that happy place,
and be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Maker's face,
when in God's bosom rest? *[Refrain]*

5 Filled with delight, my raptured soul
can here no longer stay.
Though Jordan's waves around me roll,
fearless I'll sail away. *[Refrain]*

On River Jordan's Banks I Stand

Samuel Stennett, 1787; alt.



1 On Riv - er Jor - dan's banks I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye
 2 There gen-erous fruits that nev - er fail on trees im - mor - tal grow.
 3 All o'er those wide ex - tend-ed plains shines one e - ter - nal day.
 4 When shall I reach that hap - py place, and be for - ev - er blessed?
 5 Filled with de - light, my rap-tured soul can here no long - er stay.



Up - on the fair and hap - py land where my pos - ses-sions lie.
 There rocks and hills and brooks and vales with milk and hon - ey flow.
 There God, the Sun, for - ev - er reigns, and scat - ters night a - way.
 When shall I see my Mak - er's face, when in God's bo - som rest?
 Though Jor - dan's waves a - round me roll, fear - less I'll sail a - way.

Refrain



I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land.



Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

Welcome, Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events

- *Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)*
- *Tuesdays – 7pm SSO Chorus*
- *Wednesdays - 5 – 6:30pm OYS. 6pm Scouts(basement).*
- *Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong ;*
- *Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)*
- *Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings); FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2*

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.

71

Glory to the Creator

71

Glory to the Creator

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

Lyrics: Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ the Ho - ly Spi - rit
three in one; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

5 10

8

Isaiah 65:17–25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; or I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Prayer of Yearning (*Luke 21, 2 Thessalonians 3*)

O God, we want to be strong, but are often not.
We wish we could be unaffected by the world
and give all our anxiety away.
And yet, we hold onto our worries and fears,
as if they could bring us comfort, the way you do.
We want to be brave and have the courage
to release the trappings of this world,
to reach for something that is really real.
When the world falls apart around us;
when we don't know where to start to heal it;
when we turn to things that never satisfy,
help us place our trust in you.
Keep our hearts from being idle
and our souls from giving in to despair,
for you are just waiting to bring new life. Amen.

Words of Grace (Pastor) (*Isaiah 12*)

*God is our strength and our salvation.
God's anger is turned away,
and in its place, we find comfort,
steadfast love, and forgiveness.
With this hope, we can draw water
from the wells of salvation
with joy and thanksgiving.*

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.**

Offering

Invitation to Generosity (*Pastor*)

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.bethelucontario.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 transfer your offering to



us directly from your bank. When you use Zelle, we are “Bethel Congregational Church” Our verified Zelle email is info@bethelucontario.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 and Dedication of the Gifts (*Isaiah 65*))

Gracious God, you have given us new heavens and a new earth.

You bless us with new life and presence, more than ever before.

So, let us build and share our homes.

Let us plant gardens and offer the fruit to those who hunger.

We offer our gifts to you and to all your people.

For then shall we too be fed—
in body and in spirit. Amen.

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's new creation shall come.

Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb,
The wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song,
the peoples be led forth in peace;
The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea, the sea,
As the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth,
the brier and the thorn tree grow wild, grow wild,
The brier and the thorn tree grow wild.

God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
that no one shall hurt or destroy,
that wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
and your people shall go forth in joy, in joy,
Your people shall go forth in joy.

Isa. 11:6-9; 55:10-13

Joy F. Patterson, 1981; rev. 1993

Am7 Bm7 Em sus4 Em Em

1 I - sa - iah the proph-et has
 2 The moun-tains and hills shall break
 3 Yet na - tions still prey on the
 4 God, bring to fru - i - tion your

writ-ten of old how God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the
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 will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or de - stroy, That wis - dom and

Bm7 C Em/G D

thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the
 filled with the knowl-edge of God as the wa - ters cov - er the
 spoil all the sweet-ness of earth; the brier and the thorn tree grow
 jus - tice shall reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in

C D Em Am7 Bm7 Em

lamb, the lamb, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
 sea, the sea, as the wa - ters cov - er the sea.
 wild, grow wild, the brier and the thorn tree grow wild.
 joy, in joy, your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

Benediction – Unison (Isaiah 65, Luke 21)

Go forth into a world that needs new visions.

Bring the message of hope and love,
of justice and peace, to all you meet.

Live the dream. Make it reality.

Celebrate endings and new beginnings,
challenges and promises.

Live the new creation.

Go in Peace, Go in Joy, Go in Love

Amen

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Worship Sundays at 9:55am
on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)

Also available on [Roku](#) and [Amazon Fire TV](#).

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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.*