

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

May 17, 2026 – 7th Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday

“To Be One”



Centering Words

(Luke 24)

*The ascension of Christ forces us to contemplate
powers of the Spirit*

that our minds cannot comprehend.

But what the mind struggles to understand, the soul receives with joy.

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 – May 10, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

L: Jesus prayed for his disciples, giving them into God's eternal care.

P: Jesus prays for us, giving us into God's care.

L: Know that you have been blessed with the love of the Savior.

P: We live in that love and seek to serve God.

L: Open your hearts and spirits now to hear God's word.

P: May our lives be open to God's Spirit and reflect God's love. AMEN.

Unison Opening Prayer (*Acts 1, Luke 24*)

God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens,
may our hearts ascend to you.

Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit,
and open our lives to the fullness of your power,
that we may be clothed with power on high.

Help us wait patiently for the baptism of your Spirit,
that we may be found worthy of your great gifts.

Amen.

1 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!
Yours the scepter, yours the throne!
Alleluia! Yours the triumph,
yours the victory alone!
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus out of every nation
you've redeemed us by your blood.

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! You are near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received you,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget your promise,
"I am with you evermore."

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
you on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heaven
will repeat your gracious plea.

4 Alleluia! Christ eternal,
nothing can disrupt your reign;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
heaven and earth are your domain.
Human life you fully entered,
tending those we count the least,
serving both as Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

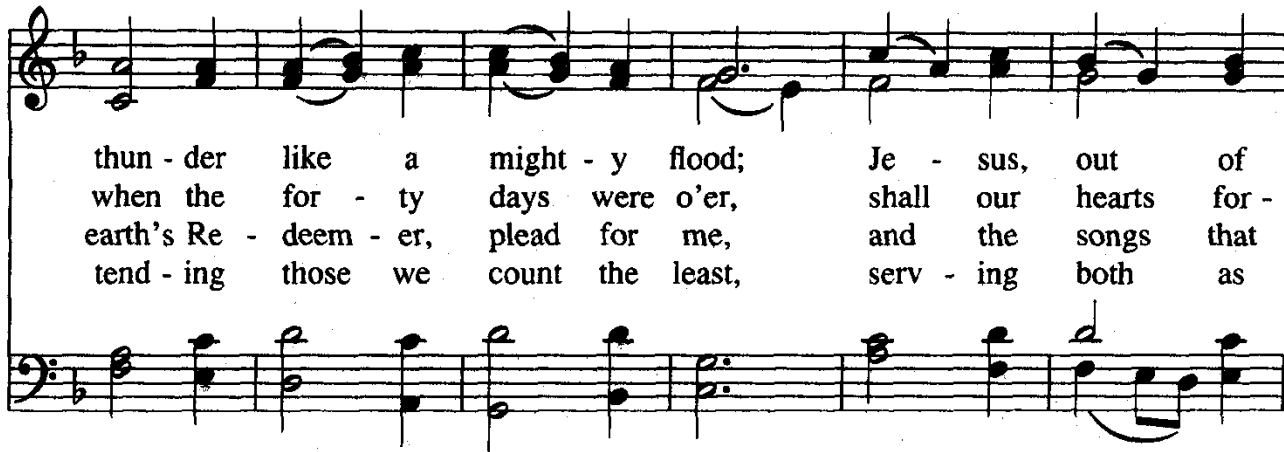
*Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 9:11-14**William C. Dix, 1867; alt.*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Gra - cious Je - sus! Yours the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing

scep - ter, yours the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the
 left in sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! You are
 earth our food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 can dis - rupt your reign; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!
 near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful flee to you from day to day.
 Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered,



thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus, out of
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
 earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, and the songs that
 tend - ing those we count the least, serv - ing both as



ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.
 get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
 sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.
 Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

William C. Dix, manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted writer who made a significant contribution to hymnody. This hymn was written to fill a need for communion hymns in Church of England hymnals.

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Wednesdays** – 4:30pm – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays** – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - OYS – Wednesday June 3rd
 - Southland Jazz Orchestra – Saturday June 6th

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

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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a guitar accompaniment. It is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system (measures 1-4) has chords C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, and Am/C. The lyrics are 'Glo-ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ the Ho- ly Spi- rit'. The second system (measures 5-8) has chords G/D, D⁷, G, C, G⁷, and G⁷. The lyrics are 'three in one; as it was in the be- gin- ning, is now, and ev- er'. The third system (measures 9-12) has chords C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G⁷, and C. The lyrics are 'shall be, world with- out end. A - men. A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign in the bass staff.

Gospel Reading**John 17:1-11****Dr. Mann**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Sermon**"To Be One"****Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

Prayer of Yearning (*Acts 1, Ephesians 1, Luke 24*)

Merciful God, we yearn for the promise
of your glorious inheritance,
but settle for less.

We long to see with the eyes of our hearts enlightened,
that we might aspire to the glories of Christ above.

Teach us anew to wait for your Holy Spirit,
that we may be clothed with power on high.

In the name of the one who ascended to heaven
to show us the way to live here on earth, we pray.

Amen.

Words of Grace

New Creation in Christ, the resurrected life is yours. We place our hope in the assurance that, in Christ, all things are made new. Change is possible. The world we seek is ours to build, nurture, and sustain. God has given us grace and authority as well as a Companion to make a difference in the world. Receive these gifts freely as they are given.

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

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*Psalm 47*)

O God, for your power and might, we praise you.

For your love and mercy, we thank you.

For giving us your Spirit and your every blessing,
we honor you with our lives and gifts.

Received from our hand the fruit of our industry,
in ministry to a world in need of your glory.

In the name of the one who ascended to heaven,
that we might have fullness of life here on earth,
we pray. Amen.

***Singing into Mission**

In the Midst of New Dimensions NCH #391

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more.*

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? *Refrain*

As we stand a world divided
by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
might envision wider dreams *Refrain*

We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung. *Refrain*

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
resurrect the church again. *Refrain*

In the Midst of New Dimensions

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - á - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Unison Benediction

Beloved, go now in the blessing of the God
to live as diverse members of the one body of Christ,
choosing unity over division, cooperation over conformity,
and collaboration over exclusion
as we work together for the flourishing of all creation. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon



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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.*