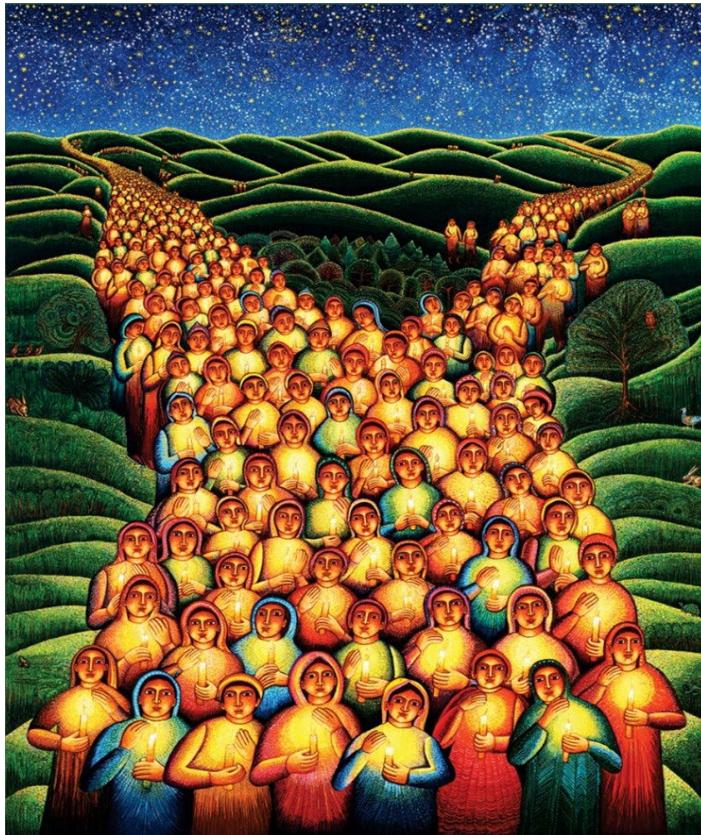


Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

January 18, 2026 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

“Light as Resistance”



Centering Words

(Isaiah 49, Psalm 40, 1 Corinthians 1, John 1)

Even the smallest person can change the world.

Even the least among us can be a light that banishes the darkness.



www.bethelucontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

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Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

L: Children of God, who has God called you to be?

P: A light to all the nations!

L: When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us, who are you called to be?

P: A light to all the nations!

L: When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?

P: A light to all the nations!

L: When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are you called to be?

P: A light to all the nations!

L: Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!

P: We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God's glory and abundant life into all the world. Amen.

Unison Opening Prayer

Guide our feet, Lord. Manifest your love. Show us the light of grace when we would judge others too harshly. Make your justice known in and among us. Warm our hearts with the glow of your love when we would spew icy words of spite. Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day. Shine brightly on us today, Lord. We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors, so that we reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav-en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
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 might, led us in-to the light, keep us for-ev-er in the

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plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



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path through the blood of the slaug - tered, Out from the
wine of the world, for - get you; Shad-owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - - - gun, let us march
gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
gleam of our bright star is cast.
God, true to our na - tive land.



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

- *Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am*
- *Tuesdays – 7pm SSO Chorus – begins Feb 17th*
- *Wednesdays - 6pm Scouts(basement). 3rd Wednesdays 7pm – Spiritual Studies with Rev. Heather Miner (“The Tears of Things” by Richard Rohr. Begins Jan 21st.)*
- *Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong ;*
- *Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)*
- *Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings begins Jan 31); FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2; SJO Concert Jan 24 4pm; SWE Concert Feb 7, 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.

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Glory to the Creator

Glory 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.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel,
in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength— he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."

And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Sermon*"Light as Resistance"***Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

Prayer of Yearning (Isaiah 49, Psalm 40, 1 Corinthians 1, John 1)

Merciful God, when we succumb to despair
and get lost in our fears of inadequacy,
remind us who we are and whose we are.

We long to feel worthy of your love and to rest secure in your call
to be a light to the nations. Remind us, Loving Presence, to speak words of
hope like Isaiah, and words of encouragement like Paul.

When others ask us if we have found the Lamb of God,
give us the courage and the faith to boldly proclaim:
"Come and see!" Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Pastor*)

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns; Silent Prayer

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

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



Blessing and Dedication of the Gifts (*Isaiah 49, John 1*)

God of Grace and God of Glory,
you bless us with water and the Spirit,
that we might know the fullness of life.
As we strive to be a light to the nations,
may others be brought to the dawn of your glory.
Bless the gifts we bring before you now,
that they might reach the very ends of the earth
and help those struggling to find the light. Amen.

1 We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

2 We'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.

3 We are not afraid,
we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we are not afraid today.

4 Our God will see us through,
our God will see us through,
our God will see us through some day,
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free,
the truth shall make us free some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
the truth shall make us free some day.

6 We shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall live in peace some day.

We Shall Overcome

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United States-traditional

John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
 2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in
 3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -
 4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;
 hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
 afraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;
 through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.
 we'll go hand in hand some day.
 we are not a - fraid to - day.
 our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

Responsive Benediction (*Isaiah 49*)

L: As we leave this place, remember:

**P: God, who chose you before your birth,
who calls you and knows you by name,
now sends you out into the world—
to bring light to those in darkness,
comfort to those who grieve,
hope to those who despair.**

**And may the blessing of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
be among you and within you
as you seek to do God's will. 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.*