

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC
November 19th , 2023 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday – New Member Sunday
“Talents – and Something More”



Centering Words

(Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5)

God's judgment comes in unexpected times and ways. Christ's mercy shows up through surprising people. When you are fed up and cry out for grace, keep awake, lest you fail to recognize it when it comes.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

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Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and

Amazon Fire TV

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – November 19, 2023

Prelude

Ensemble

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Come! Share the joy of the Lord!

P: Delight in God's goodness!

L: Praise God who gives each person a special gift to be nurtured and shared.

P: Lord, we thank you for these gifts!

L: Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

P: Lord, make us worthy of your love and trust in us. Amen!

Unison Opening Prayer

Let us pray that we may respond
to God's trust in us. (pause)
God, our kind and loving Father,
you no longer call us servants but friends.
There is so much you have entrusted to us,
even the future of your kingdom of justice and love.
Give us the grace to work out with you
the growth of mercy and goodness in this world,
to be united with all Christians
and with all who seek you with a sincere heart
in bringing reconciliation and joy to everyone.
Let us go together the way to you,
our living and loving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering Hymn*Come, O Thankful People, Come*

NCH422

1 Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores.

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessing flow;
and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

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Come, O Thankful People, Come*Exod. 23:16**St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.**St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.**St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.**Descant*

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano, Alto, and Bass. It is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The Soprano part begins with a descant of the first line of the hymn. The Alto and Bass parts provide harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

THOMAS ST GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.

and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;
 all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,
 and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

Passing the Peace

Welcome/Announcements

Special Music

Children's' Time

Saddleback Kids

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 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.

5

10

8

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-4) has lyrics: 'Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ the Ho - ly Spi - rit'. The second system (measures 5-8) has lyrics: 'three in one; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er'. The third system (measures 9-12) has lyrics: 'shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.' Chord symbols are placed above the staves: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C in the first system; G/D, D7, G, C, G7, G7 in the second system; C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G7, C in the third system. The score ends with a double bar line and the number 8.

Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

Lauryn Morris

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

[Jesus said:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Responsive Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Lord of mercy and justice, you have given us so many talents and gifts to be used in your world.

**You have given us these gifts because you trust us to use them well
— and you will be with us in all our work.**

But we disappoint you when we denigrate the value of the talents or become so fearful of failure that we don't believe that we are capable of helping in this world.

**Lord, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and
to trust in your guidance in using them.**

Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, indifferent to the needs around us.

**Give us hearts for serving you all our days. In Jesus' name we pray.
AMEN.**

Words of Assurance (Pastor)

You are loved by God and given so many gifts to be used to help others. Do not fear to use these gifts, for God is with you, continually blessing you and the gifts in your service. AMEN.

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

(Let us Invite silence) 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

Liturgy for Baptism & Reception of New Members

Invitation *(Pastor leads)*

People *(when directed)* : **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

Sentences from Scripture *(Pastor)*

Explanation of the Sacrament of Baptism *(Pastor)*

People: *(when directed, as water is poured from pitcher to bowl)*

This is the water of baptism.

Out of this water we rise with new life,

Forgiven of sin and one in Christ, Members of Christ's body

Pastor – Introduction of Candidates & Questions of the Candidates

(congregation also responds as directed)

Affirmation of Faith

(congregation responds as directed)

Act Of Baptism

PASTOR: Christ be with you

PEOPLE: **And also with you**

PASTOR: Let us pray together.

ALL: Almighty God, who in baptism receives these your servants into the church, forgives their sins, and promises them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PASTOR: Blessing of the water and Baptism of Candidates.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED *(PASTOR)*... “May we be united in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit”

PEOPLE: Amen

ADDRESS: *(Pastor)*

Question about Participation *(Pastor to Membership Candidates)*

Welcome and Reception *(Congregation may stand as able)*

Pastor: Let us, the members of Bethel Congregational Church UCC, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

PEOPLE: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. *(congregation may be seated)*

Greeting of Christian Love *(Pastor and Church Leaders)*

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Bethel United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

Prayer

PASTOR: Let Us Pray

ALL: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen

Sing –

**1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.**

Invitation

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 the green Tithe.ly button (Processed by Tithe.ly)



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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.

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Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance.

Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us.

Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.



In our lives Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In our lives Lord, Be glorified today

In our homes Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In our homes Lord, Be glorified today

In our song Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In our song Lord, Be glorified today

In Your church Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In Your church Lord, Be glorified today

In your world Lord, Be glorified be glorified
In your world Lord, Be glorified today

Lord Be Glorified

Words and Music by
Bob Kilpatrick

♩ = 76

VERSE

C G/B Am Em Dm G^{sus} G B \flat G^{7sus} G⁷



1. In	our	lives,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
2. In	our	homes	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
3. In	our	song	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
4. In	your	church	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied;
5. In	your	world	Lord	be	glo - ri - fied,	be	glo - ri - fied

5



In	our	lives,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
In	our	homes	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
In	our	song,	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
In	your	church	Lord,	be	glo - ri - fied	to - day.
In	your	world	Lord	be	glo - ri - fied,	to - day.

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Benediction -Unison

People of God—

put on hope, put on faith, and put on love.

Go forth with hope to encourage one another.

Go forth in faith to build each other up.

Live in mercy . . . and abide in peace. Amen.



Bethel Ontario Online
Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
526 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
www.betheluccontario.org
info@betheluccontario.org
(909) 984-9111

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@betheluccontario.org
(626) 393-5507

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.*