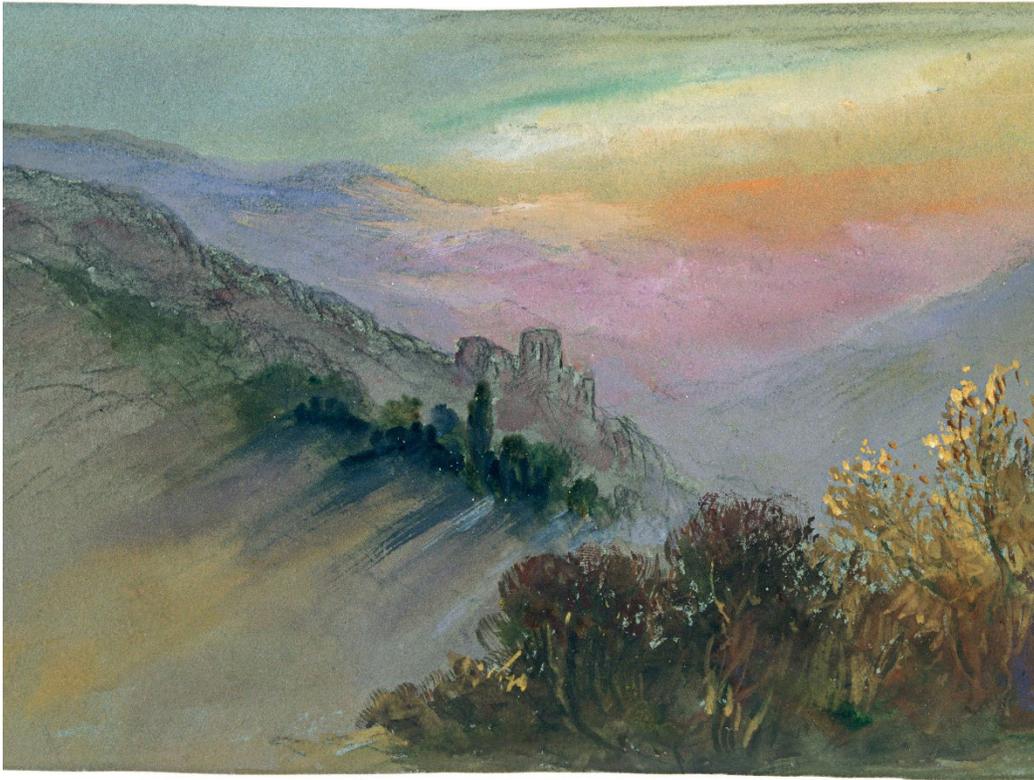


Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC  
March 1, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of Lent  
Communion Sunday



“GO, FOLLOW”

*Centering Words*  
(Genesis 12)

*God calls us and blesses us, that we might share our blessings with others.*



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# Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – March 1, 2026

**Prelude**

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

## **Call to Worship**

One: From the safety and comfort of home, God called Abram to go from all he knew to embrace a future yet to be revealed.

**All: “Go from,” God says, and our hesitant hearts place one foot in front of the other to trust God with the unknown.**

One: By night, Nicodemus came seeking greater insight into the teachings of God for the journey set before him. Jesus called him out of the shadows and towards a life born anew.

**All: “Go towards” God says, and a new life awaits us. We reach towards a God who has not come to condemn the world but to offer a salve that can heal all wounds.**

One: We fear the unknown and that which we lack in understanding. “How can this be?” we proclaim with Nicodemus. And yet, God’s call is one that urges us to go with our whole self into that unknowing, trusting that God will provide a way.

**All: Love calls us forth into lives of transformation, born anew into new paths of faith. Though we do not know where we are going, God has promised to never leave us alone. Let us worship the One who will show us the way.**

## **Unison Opening Prayer**

In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, lead us, Holy Spirit.

In the hungering and the holding and the humbling, accompany us, Holy Spirit.

In the tempting and the testing and the turning, move us, Holy Spirit.

In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, guide us, Holy Spirit.

Ground in us, as we ground in you.

Breathe with us, as we breathe with you.

Turn with us, as we turn toward you.

As the new way emerges, we pray. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:**

***Be Now My Vision***

Be now my Vision, O God of my heart;  
Nothing surpasses the love you impart;  
You are my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my Wisdom, and be my true Word;  
Ever within me my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me;  
Now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I heed not, nor life's empty praise,  
You my Inheritance, now and always:  
You and you only are first in my heart,  
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905**Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.**Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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

- *Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)*
- *Tuesdays – 7pm SSO Chorus – begins Feb 17<sup>th</sup> (this week)*
- *Wednesdays – 4:30pm – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement). 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7pm(Mar 18) – Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (“The Tears of Things” by Richard Rohr. )*
- *Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi*
- *Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)*
- *Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings, resume March 21)*

Children’s Time

Kids Video

\*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 D<sup>7</sup> G C G<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

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 G<sup>7</sup> C

shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a song titled "71 Glory to the Creator". It is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a vocal line and a bass clef staff with a guitar accompaniment line. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers measures 1-4, the second system covers measures 5-8, and the third system covers measures 9-12. The score ends with a double bar line and a final chord in the bass staff.

**Genesis 12:1-4a****Donna Saxton**

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

**Psalm 121****Virginia Shannon**

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

**Gospel Reading****John 3:1-17****Dr. Mann**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**Sermon****"Go, Follow"**

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

### **Prayer of Yearning** (*Genesis 12, Psalm 121, John 3*)

Maker of heaven and earth, when we face times of trial,  
lift our eyes to the hills to find our help.

For you meet us in our need,  
and you lift us from the cares and toils  
that weaken our spirits and sap our strength.

Call us this day as you called your followers of old,  
for we long experience your awesome power  
and respond with faithful hearts and willing spirits.

Bless us each day, that we might share the promise of your blessings  
with a world struggling to find its way. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance** (*John 3*)

Just as the wind blows where it will,  
God's Spirit moves in our world,  
calling us into ever deeper life with Christ.  
Hear and claim this good news.  
It is freely given.

### **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

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation (Pastor)

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Distribution of the Elements

Come, let's eat this bread and drink this cup together

**Prayer - Unison**

Together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You. Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and ever expanding. Amen.

### Offering

**Giving Options: In person** – *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](http://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)



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**MAIL** - 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 (*Psalm 32, Matthew 4*)

Gracious God, just as you blessed the saints of old  
when they ventured forth in faith,  
so now bless us in our living and in our giving.  
Transform our gifts and offerings  
into blessings for a weak and weary world,  
that all may touch your great love. Amen.

## **\*Singing into Mission**

## Singing For Our Lives

We are a gentle, angry people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, angry people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are a justice-seeking people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a justice-seeking people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are young and old together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are young and old together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are a land of many colors  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a land of many colors  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are gay and straight together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are gay and straight together  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

We are a gentle, loving people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, loving people  
and we are singing, singing for our lives

# 170 We Are a Gentle, Angry People

*♩ = 66*

1. We are a gen - tle, an - gry peo - ple, and we are  
 2. We are a jus - tice - seek - ing peo - ple, and we are  
 3. We are young and old to - geth - er, and we are  
 4. We are a land of man - y col - ors, and we are

sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.

We are a gen - tle, an - gry peo - ple, and we are  
 We are a jus - tice - seek - ing peo - ple, and we are  
 We are young and old to - geth - er, and we are  
 We are a land of man - y col - ors, and we are

sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.  
 sing - ing, sing - ing for our lives.

5. We are gay and straight together,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
 We are gay and straight together,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.

6. We are a gentle, loving people,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.  
 We are a gentle, loving people,  
 And we are singing, singing for our lives.

## Responsive Benediction

Feel the Spirit blow through your life,  
renewing your spirit and calling you  
to be born from above.

Go in the love of God, the peace of Christ,  
and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

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.*