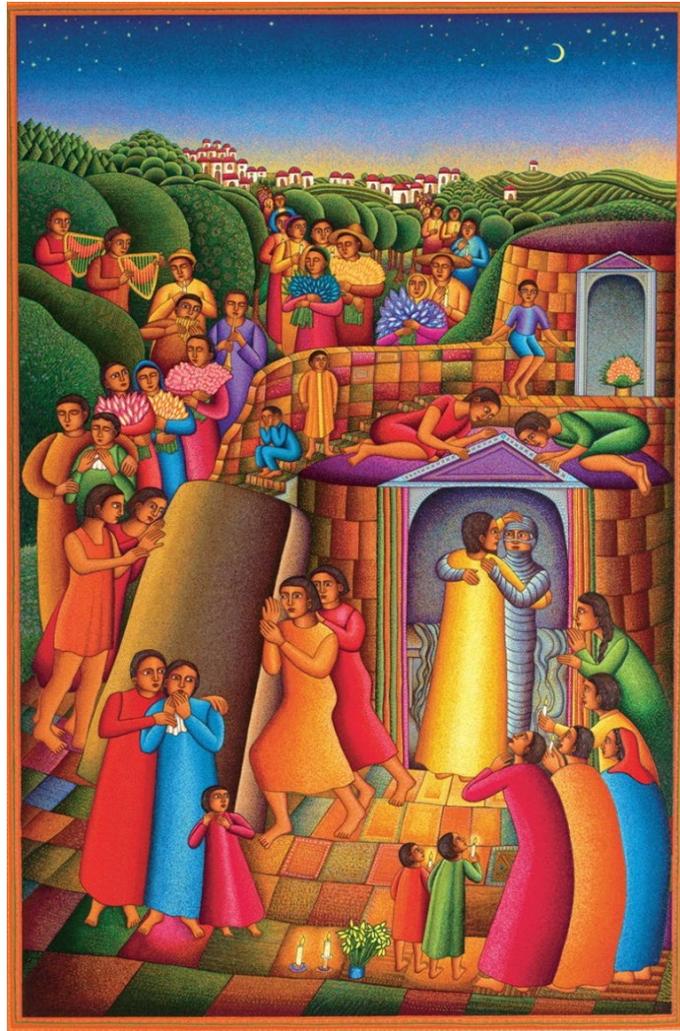


# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

March 22, 2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – BREATHE



## *Centering Words (Psalm 130)*

*In the quiet, we wait for you, O God. We hope for your transforming love.*

*In the darkness of despair, we trust that you are here.*

*Some portions of today's worship are offered in both English and Spanish.*

*A bilingual participation guide is available inside the bulletin.*

*Algunas partes del culto de hoy se ofrecerán en inglés y español.*

*Una guía bilingüe de participación se encuentra dentro del boletín.*



[www.betheluccontario.org](http://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

*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 – March 22, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

**Call to Worship** (*Ezekiel 37, Psalm 130*)

ONE: Everything seems dead.

**MANY: There is no life anywhere.**

ONE: Our hopes have perished.

**MANY: We see no future.**

ONE: Send the power of your spirit upon us.

**MANY: Breathe new life into us.**

ONE: Breath of Life, you animate us.

**MANY: We come before you seeking revival from within.**

ONE: We wait for your transforming love.

**MANY: We hope. We wait. We trust.**

ONE: Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

**MANY: Empower us to make great things happen.**

**Unison Opening Prayer** (*Ezekiel 37, Psalm 130, John 11*)

Come, Spirit of God. We wait for your presence.

Life Giver, come and revive us again. We trust in your abiding promises.

Breathe the breath of your power into us this day,

that we may experience the power of new life,

the promise of forgiveness, and blessing of community. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:**     *Let it Breathe on Me*

1 Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,  
let the breath of the Spirit breathe on me.

Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me,  
let the breath of God now breathe on me.

2 While I'm working, God, in your vineyard here,  
I cannot serve without you near;  
O come, blessed Spirit, so close to me  
That I may feel you breathe on me.

3 When the pathway, God, I cannot see,  
when the way is hard, O breathe on me;  
Give me grace to know when you are near,  
then, I pray, O Spirit, breathe on me.

# Let It Breathe on Me

288

Magnolia Lewis-Butts, 1941; alt.

Job 33:4; Ezek. 37:1-14; John 20:19-23

1 Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of the  
2 While I'm work - ing, God, in your vine - yard here, I can - not  
3 When the path - way, God, I can - not see, when the way is

Spir - it breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, let it  
serve with - out you near; O come, blessed Spir - it, so  
hard, O breathe on me; Give me grace to know when

breathe on me, let the breath of God now breathe on me.  
close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.  
you are near, then, I pray, O Spir - it, breathe on me.

Songwriter Magnolia Lewis-Butts helped form the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses in 1932, which was the model for all subsequent gospel music conventions.

Tune: LET IT BREATHE Irr.  
Magnolia Lewis-Butts, 1941

## Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

Bienvenida – Saludo de la Paz – Anuncios

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays** – 7pm SSO Chorus Rehearsals
- **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)
- **Upcoming Concerts**
  - Southland Wind Ensemble - 4pm SATURDAY March 21;

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

### Special Music

### Children’s Time

### Kids Video

### \*Gloria

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.

## **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'

Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

## **Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

### **Gospel Reading**

**John 11:1-45**

**Dr. Mann**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."  
Jesus began to weep.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**Sermon**

**"Breathe"**

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

### **Prayer of Yearning** (*Ezekiel 37, Psalm 130*)

We cry to you, O God.

It is so easy to be overwhelmed with all that is going on.

It is so hard to see any hope.

Everywhere we look, we see struggles and loss.

We feel we have failed.

But where we see death,

you breathe new life.

Where we see failure,

your forgiving love changes everything.

You alone, O God, have the power

to bring forth new life, new hope,

and new beginnings.

Be with us as we wait for you.

Teach us to place our trust in your faithful love. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance** (*John 11:25*)

Jesus promises, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever trusts in me will live."

Let us trust the promise of new life.

### **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

**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.bethelucanario.org](http://www.bethelucanario.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 send your offering to us directly from your bank.

When you use Zelle, we are "Bethel Congregational Church"

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**MAIL** - 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 (Ezekiel 37)

Spirit of God, you breathe new life  
into the dead and stuck places of our daily living.  
We are so grateful for the power  
of your transforming love.  
We bring these gifts,  
hoping that they will breathe new life  
into barren places of our world.  
We bring our lives, filled with new life,  
ready to serve all your creation.

**\* Singing into Mission**      *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on through the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home  
  
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone  
Hear me cry, hear me call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home  
  
When the darkness appears, and the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home

# Precious Lord, Take My Hand 500

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
 2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
 when my life is al - most gone;  
 and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
 take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
 take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

## Unison Benediction (Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4)

Where there seems to be no life,  
God breathes new life.  
Where there is no hope,  
God comes with new possibilities.  
Go forth into the world,  
knowing that God is at work in every place.  
Feel the breath of God blowing peace and new life  
As we go our separate ways,  
remember that God has placed the Holy Spirit within in you.  
Go forth centered in God and let God be centered in you.  
Go in Love, Go in Joy, Go in Peace  
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.*