

# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

February 22 2026 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

## “Which Road?”



### *Centering Words*

*(Psalm 32)*

*The Lord hears the prayers of a faithful heart.  
God has become our hiding place, our refuge from trouble.*

*No harm can touch us here.*

*The Lord wraps us in the arms of salvation.*

*Shouts of deliverance enfold us.*



[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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Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – February 22, 2026

**Prelude**

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

**Call to Worship**

ONE: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

**MANY: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.**

ONE: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

**MANY: We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.**

ONE: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

**MANY: We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.**

ONE: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

**MANY: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**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:            *We Are a Wilderness Wandering People***

We are a wilderness wandering people

on a journey of the soul.

May we find our destination

in our longing to be whole.

Our Holy God is calling to us.

With Jesus by our side,

may compassion be our compass;

may the Spirit be our guide

May we cherish all our children,

let us heal our family's pain.

Help us cure our city's madness,

let love and justice reign.

Reconciled with one another

in prayer and praise song,

We're the body of Christ together

and we know that we belong

We belong, we belong, we belong

# A Wilderness Wandering People 3113

*Flowing* (♩ = 80)

C F/G C F/G

1. We are a  
(2. — May we)

5 C G/B Am Dm Am

wil - der-ness wan - dering peo - ple on a jour - ney of the  
che - rish all our chil - dren, let us heal our fam - ily's

8 G Em7 Am Dm7 F

soul. May we find our des - ti - na - tion in our long - ing to be  
pain. Help us cure our cit - y's mad - ness, let love and jus - tice

12 Gsus G C G/B Am Dm7 C/E

whole. Our Ho - ly God is call - ing to us. With Je - sus by our  
reign. — Rec-on-ciled with one an - oth - er in prayer and praise and

16 Gsus G C G/B F/A

side may com - pas - sion be our com - pass; may the  
song, we're the bod - y of Christ to - geth - er and we

19 Dm7

Spir - it be our guide. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. May we long, we be -  
know that we be -

23 C F/G C F/G rit. C

long, \_\_\_\_\_ we be - long, \_\_\_\_\_ we be - long.

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

- **CONCERT – TODAY - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2026 at 4pm Southland Symphony**  
“Beethoven: Revolution and Triumph – Eroica”
- **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)**

## Children’s Time

## Kids Video

### \*Gloria

71

## Glory to the Creator

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry 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." The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

C G/D C G/B G C G/B Am/C

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

10 C G G/F C/E C/G G<sup>7</sup> C

## Psalm 32

## Responsive

ONE: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**MANY: Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

ONE: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**MANY: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

ONE: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

**MANY: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

ONE: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

**MANY: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

ONE: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I  
will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**MANY: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay  
near you.**

ONE: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds  
those who trust in God.

**MANY: Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy,  
all you upright in heart.**

**Gospel Reading****Matthew 4:1-11****Dr. Mann**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Sermon****"Which Road?"**

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Matthew 4)**

Just as Jesus faced temptations in the wilderness,  
we too struggle with desires for power, glory, or riches.  
Teach us to turn from these temptations  
and to turn toward the power of scripture and prayer.  
Center us in our faith.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## **Words of Assurance (Psalm 32)**

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love  
surrounds those who trust the Lord.  
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

## **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)



**zelle**

Use **ZELLE** to send your offering to us directly from your bank. When you use Zelle, we are "Bethel Congregational Church" Our verified Zelle email is [info@bethelucanario.org](mailto:info@bethelucanario.org)

**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*)

We offer ourselves to you, Lord Jesus,  
emptying ourselves to become your vessels  
of love and grace and hope to all we encounter.  
May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service  
create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

### **\*Singing into Mission**

### *Great is Your Faithfulness*

1 Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,  
with you no shadow of turning we see.  
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;  
all of your goodness forever will be.

*Refrain:*

*Great is your faithfulness!*

*Great is your faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed your hand has provided,*

*Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,  
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. [Refrain]

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*Refrain*

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your

hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

## Responsive Benediction

And so now go—  
knowing that God’s steadfast love surrounds you,  
knowing that Christ leads through your temptations,  
knowing that the Holy Spirit tends you with care.  
Go in peace.  
Stay in Courage. 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.*