

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

August 23, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Field Trip – Who Do You Say That I Am?”



CENTERING WORDS (Exodus 1–2, Psalm 124, Matthew 16)

It takes a village to build the realm of God.

It takes each of us to answer our calling and work together to build the kingdom.



536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am

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 – August 23, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

Amid the forces of death and destruction,
it takes a village to save us.

Amid the rivers that would carry us out to sea,
it takes willing souls to pull us from the water.

Amid the fear and hatred in our world,
it takes ordinary people to reveal God's mercy.

Come, let us worship.
Let us worship together!

Unison Opening Prayer

Living God, you draw us from the waters that offer both life and death,
nourishment and destruction, peace and power.

We gather as your people to remember your timely and tangible works.

We call upon your many names as we have known you to be Redeemer,
Counselor, Shepherd, and Friend.

We worship you for who you are, and we draw near to become who you
have crafted us to be.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing NCH 459

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

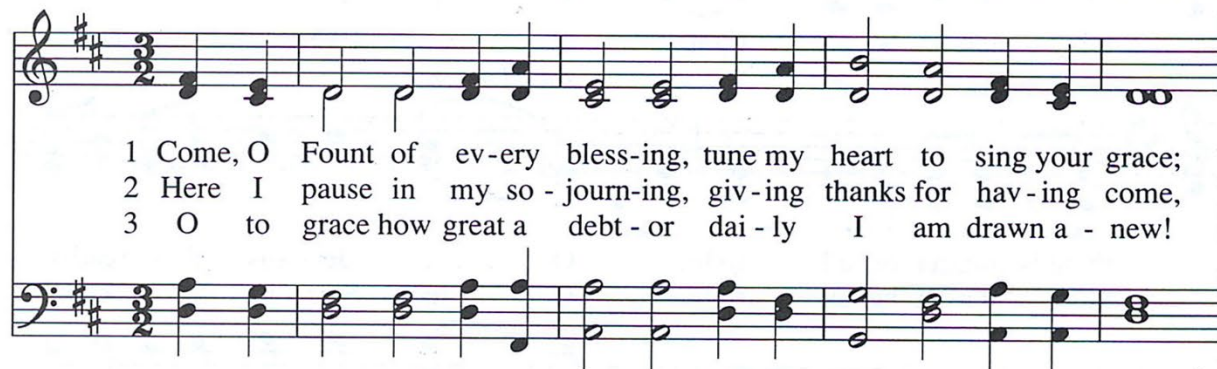
Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
Come to rescue me from danger,
blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

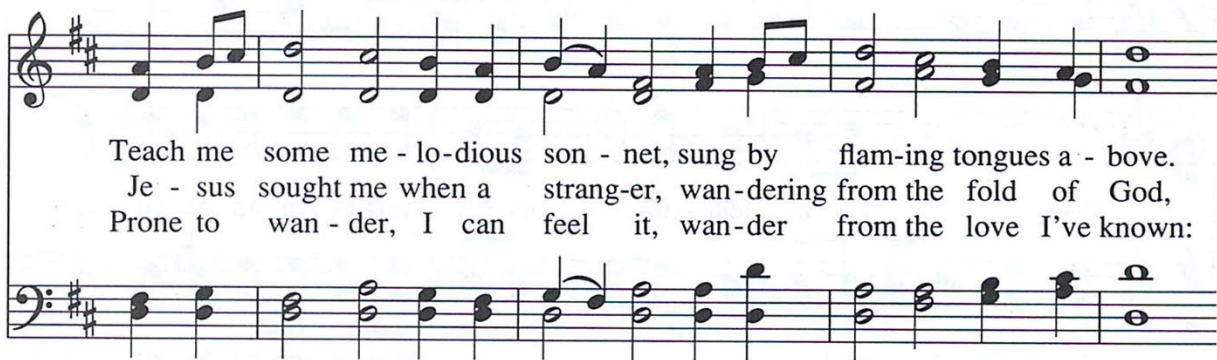
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



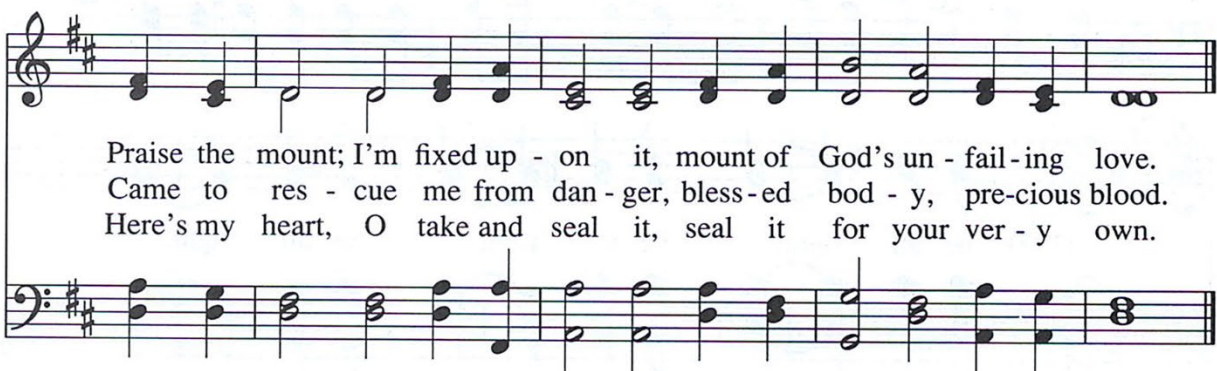
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Sundays 9:15am** – Pop-Up Choir practice!
- **Wednesdays** – 4:30pm – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **August 30th** – Special Offering “Save the Church”
- **Sign up to join Bethel’s Relay Team!**
- <https://secure.acsevents.org/goto/BethelOntario>

Special Music

Prayer and Alleluia

Pop-Up Choir

Children’s Time

Baby Moses

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.

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 D⁷ G C G⁷ G⁷

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 G⁷ C

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

Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.

But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20 (*The Message*)

Pastor Sylvia

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He pressed them, “And how about you? Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter said, “You’re the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus came back, “God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn’t get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I’m going to tell you who you are, really are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

“And that’s not all. You will have complete and free access to God’s kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven.”

He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

Sermon “Field Trip – Who Do You Say That I Am?” Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*Unison*) (*Exodus 1–2*)

Merciful God, wash away the injuries
we have inflicted upon one another.
We long to replace our bitterness in word and deed
with acts of grace and mercy.
We yearn to replace our willful neglect of others
with acts of support and grace.
We desire to walk in your path of joy and compassion,
that we may bathe in the waters
of your healing love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Through the abundance of God's mercy and forgiving love, you are
empowered to be disciples, to reach out to others, to offer the words and
deeds of hope in a struggling world. God's blessings are poured over you for
this service. Amen

Prayers of the People (**Joys and Concerns**)

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

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



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.



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

Blessing of the Gifts (*Unison*) (*Exodus 1–2, Romans 12*)

Loving God, accept our gifts
as signs of our commitment
to build your realm in our midst.
Accept our very lives
as pledges of our commitment
to pursue what is good, acceptable, and perfect
in your sight.
May these gifts become resources
to draw the endangered from the waters of death,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Singing into Mission

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

The main lyrics are printed here. There are additional responsive lyrics in the sheet music, below. (Sing them if you want to have extra fun!)

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 574

1 I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me (God can

use me) an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y -

where.) I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me

an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y - where.)

Unison Benediction

Beloved, God calls us to use our power wisely
and in the service of those the world has disempowered.
May God bless you with the courage to notice injustices in the world
and the perseverance to keep showing up with God and one another
as we empower one another to set the world aright. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon



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Pastor & Minister of Music
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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.*

www.bethelucanario.org