

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

November 24, 2024 – 27th Sunday after Pentecost

Reign of Christ Sunday – Thanksgiving Sunday



“Who is in charge here?”

Centering Words (John 18, Rev 1)

Come, rest from your struggles, your worries, and your work.

May the Lord of Love reign above every earthly power, and in our hearts as well.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch;

Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and Amazon Fire TV

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
Sunday – November 24, 2024

Prelude

Musicians

Responsive Call to Worship

Children of God, whom do you follow?

We follow Christ, Ruler of us all.

Children of God, what kind of Ruler is Christ?

Christ reigns with love and truth, justice and mercy, compassion and peace.

Children of God, how will you live in the reign of Christ?

We will join Christ in choosing love, truth, justice, mercy, compassion, and peace even when our world tells us not to.

Children of God, come, let us worship God whose Love reigns over us, exemplified in Jesus Christ!

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Unison Opening Prayer

Sovereign God, the wind blows, the water flows, and the sun shines. All creation declares your majesty. In you, we move, live, and have our being. Be glorified in our worship. Be known by our testimony. We proclaim your goodness from the east and the west, from the north and the south. On countrysides and city blocks, you reign. In deep valleys and skyscrapers, we declare that your realm extends from everlasting to everlasting. We worship you, Holy One, in spirit and in truth. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** *We Gather Together*

1. We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens
his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name;
he forgets not his own.

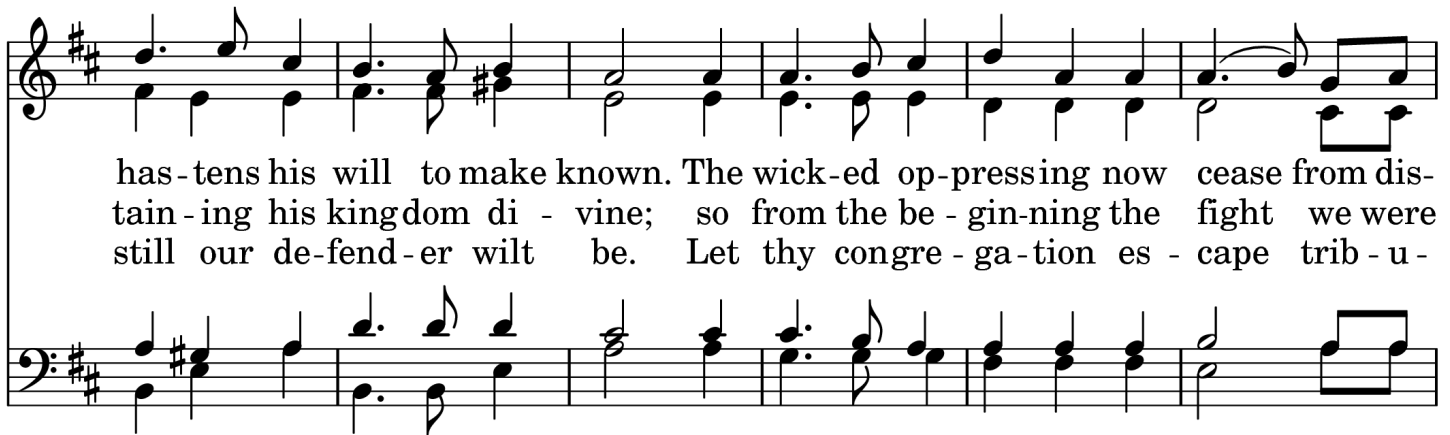
2. Beside us to guide us,
our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining
his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning
the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side,
all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee,
thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still
our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation
escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised!
O Lord, make us free!

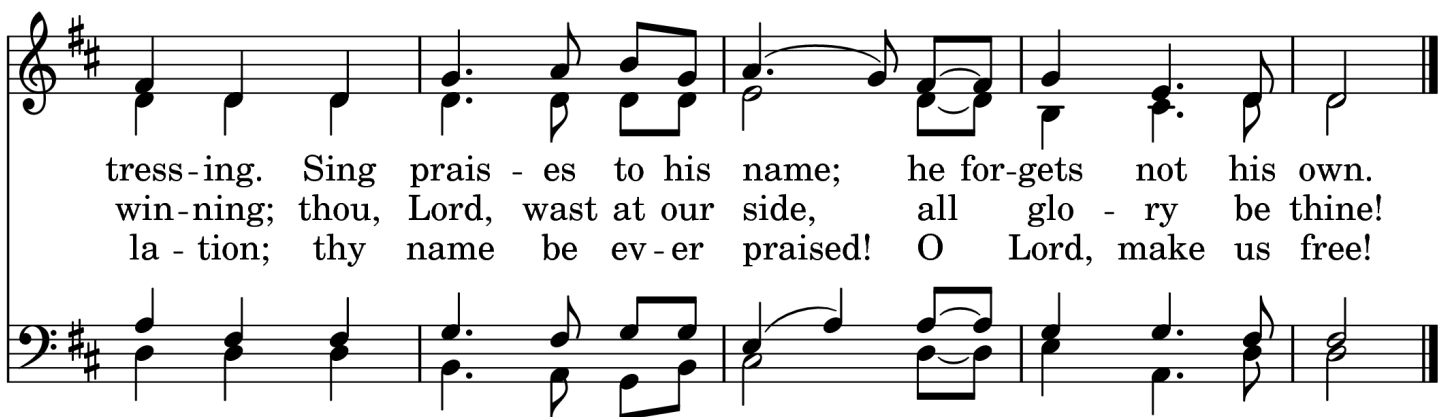
We Gather Together



1. We gath-er to-geth-er to ask the Lord's bless-ing; he chas-tens and
2. Be-side us to guide us, our God with us join-ing, or-dain-ing, main-
3. We all do ex-tol thee, thou lead-er tri-umphant, and pray that thou



has-tens his will to make known. The wick-ed op-pressing now cease from dis-
tain-ing his kingdom di-vine; so from the be-gin-ning the fight we were
still our de-fend-er wilt be. Let thy congre-gation es-cape trib-u-



ress-ing. Sing prais-es to his name; he for-gets not his own.
win-ning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo-ry be thine!
la-tion; thy name be ev-er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Passing the Peace

Announcements/Regular and Special Events:

- **Sundays** – *Worship!* (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am upstairs)
- **Tuesdays** – *SSO Chorus Rehearsals* 7:30 – 9pm
- **Wednesdays** – *OYS* 4-7pm; *NA meeting* 7:30-9 pm (parlor). *Cub Scouts* 6pm (basement)
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – *evenings SWE Rehearsals* (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** – *Mornings SSO Rehearsals / FCCO Korean Fellowship* 10-2 (upstairs).
- **CONCERTS:** November 24th @ 4pm – *LVSO at Univ of La Verne Morgan Auditorium*E;
December 8@ 4pm – “*MESSIAH*” (SSO); Dec 11 @ 6pm *OYS concert*; Dec 14@ 4pm *SJO concert*; Dec 24 – *Christmas Eve*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Children’s Time

*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 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.

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the LORD speaks through me; his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: "One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land."

Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.

”SERMON

“Who is in charge here?”

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Magnificent God, your greatness humbles us.

Your love can be overwhelming and incomprehensible.

Your attentive care takes our breath.

We recognize that we sometimes suppress the holiness you have embedded in us.

We keep silent when our witness could make a difference.

We turn away when the pain we observe in others becomes more than we can bear. Renew our spirits, strengthen our resolve, and fortify our compassion to put testimony on our lips, in our posts, and through our lives for your kingdom. Amen.

Words of Grace (Pastor)

Dear one, God is sovereign and has chosen you to be a vessel of love, hope, and healing in the world. Creator has prepared you, and Spirit journeys beside you. And, as a community, we engage this work collectively. You are not alone. Heaven and earth join you with strength and grace. Rest in the peace and joy the reigns in Christ and through Christ as the kingdom comes.

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 (Pastor)

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.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)



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@bethelucontario.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

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, we give you thanks for the opportunity to give our offering, to participate in ministry through our material resources, and to show our trust in your provision. Help us be good stewards and generous givers in your name and for your glory. Amen.

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.

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.

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;

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.

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.
 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.

Benediction - Responsive

ONE: Go, Hold fast to the reign of Christ

MANY: Proclaim the good news through word and deed

ONE: Make your life the demonstration

MANY: Keep love as your hope and guide

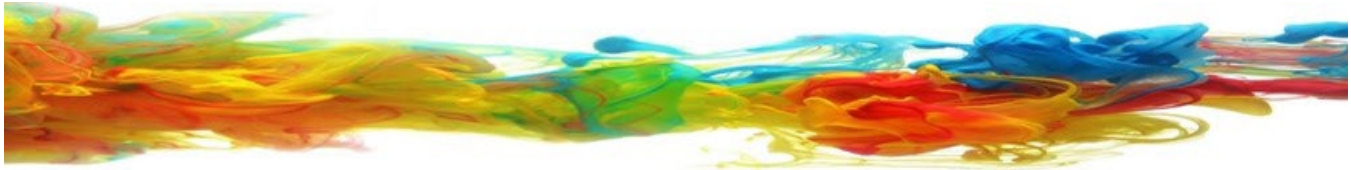
ONE: Testify to the truth

MANY: And the Sovereign God will be with you

Now and forever.

Postlude

Carillon



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Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@betheluccontario.org
(626) 393-5507 (mobile)

Live Stream Sundays at 10am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)**All music licensed and used by permission (CCLI, One License, Artist Permission, PD)*

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.