

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC  
January 25, 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

“Gloom or Light?”



*Centering Words*

*(Isaiah 9, Psalm 27)*

*Where there is darkness, there is also light.*

*Look for the light—places of love, joy, grace, and hope.*



[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 – January 18, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking!  
A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

**People: The dawn is breaking— and we rise with it.**

Leader: Where burdens have bent us low,  
the Holy One draws near, steadying our steps.

**People: The Holy One draws near— and we gather our courage.**

Leader: Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits,  
God is loosening what has held us down.

**People: What held us down is lifting— and we move toward freedom.**

Leader: Come, all who yearn for justice;  
all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.

**People: We come to the dawning way,  
we come to the hopeful way,  
we come to the way God makes glorious.**

**Unison Opening Prayer**

Holy One, Your light dawns where our shadows are deepest.  
You are never far, your presence remains with us.  
Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our world's weariness.

Shine upon the paths we walk— paths obstructed by fear,  
uncertainty, and the heavy burdens our communities carry.

Yet, your compassion rises like morning light!  
Reveal in us the places where liberation is already taking root.

As you drew near to Galilee's borderlands, Draw near to us today.  
Let us behold your radiance in overlooked places and in one another.

Make us ready, alert, and courageous—  
a people who move with your Spirit, who join your work of release,  
and who make glorious the way where your justice and joy can flourish.

Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God. Remain with us. Awaken us.  
And guide our worship into the brightness of your new day. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:      *Here in this Place (Gather Us In)*    Marty Haugen**

Here in this place new light is streaming,  
Now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in' the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in' the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young' our lives are a myst'ry,  
We are the old' who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in' the rich and the haughty,  
Gather us in' the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven, light years away,  
But here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us for ever,  
Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in' all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone

## Here in This Place

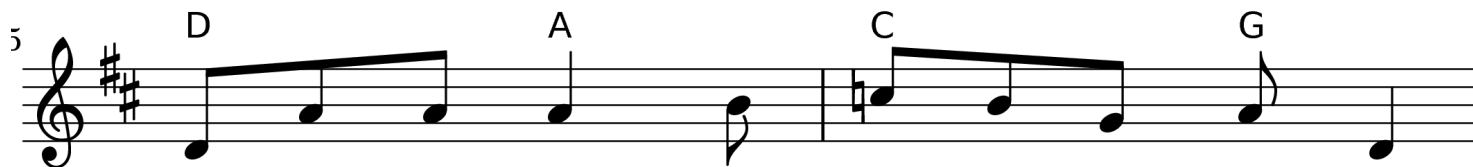
Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing;  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery.  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter;  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing,



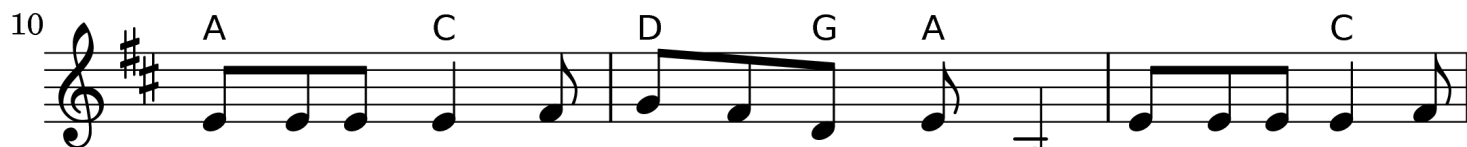
now is the dark-ness van-ished a-way;  
 We are the old who yearn for your face.  
 here we will take the bread of new birth.  
 not in some heav-en, light years a-way:



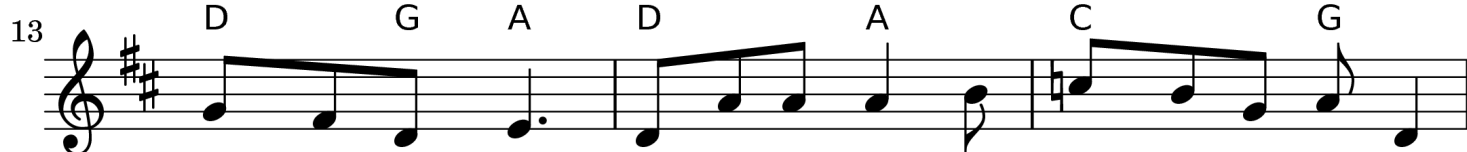
see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole human race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-waken;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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

- **ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2026 following worship.**
- **COUNCIL MEETING – SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026 following worship**
- **Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am**
- **Tuesdays – 7pm SSO Chorus – begins Feb 17th**
- **Wednesdays - 6pm Scouts(basement). 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7pm – Spiritual Studies with Rev. Heather Miner (“The Tears of Things” by Richard Rohr. Next session Feb 17.)**
- **Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong ;**
- **Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)**
- **Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings begins Jan 31); FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2; SJO Concert Jan 24 4pm; SWE Concert Feb 7, 4pm.**

### Children's Time

#### \*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.

### Kids Video

## 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.

**Hebrew Scripture Reading      Isaiah 9:1-4**

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**Epistle Reading****1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**Gospel Reading****Matthew 4:12-23****Dr. Mann**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Sermon***"Gloom or Light?"***Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Holy Companion of our difficult days,  
you call us toward what is new  
even when we feel worn or uncertain.

We confess the weight we carry—  
worries we rehearse, the fears we nurture,  
the habits that hold us tight, patterns we cling to,  
the moments we turn from compassion, the truths we avoid.

Unbind what tightens around our hearts.

Lift what has grown too heavy.

Make room in us for generosity,  
justice, and the courage to begin again.

Shape us for your healing work as this new day unfolds.

Amen.

## **Words of Assurance** (*Psalms 27, Matthew 4*)

People of God, Jesus is with us today,

offering us God's blessed community and healing.

God is our light and our salvation, everything we need to be fully alive.

We have nothing to fear..

## **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

### Invitation to Generosity (*Pastor*)

**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.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 transfer 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** - 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 and Dedication of the Gifts** (*Isaiah 9, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 4*)

Generous God, you have blessed us with your call to follow Jesus. In return, we rejoice as we give our offerings and gifts. Bless the giving and the givers, that generosity may widen your way and strengthen the communities we touch.

With gratitude for all you are doing in us and through us, we dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to our care. Amen.

1 We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, marching, We are marching, Oh—  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching, marching, We are marching Oh –  
We are marching in the light of God

2 We are living in the love of God,  
We are living in the love of God  
We are living in the love of God,  
We are living in the love of God  
We are living, living, We are living Oh ---  
We are living in the love of God  
We are living, living, We are living Oh ---  
We are living in the love of God

3 We are moving in the power of God,  
We are moving in the power of God  
We are moving in the power of God,  
We are moving in the power of God  
We are moving, moving, We are moving Oh ---  
We are moving in the power of God  
We are moving moving, We are moving Oh ---  
We are moving in the power of God

*T.N.V.*

# Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Ps. 89:15

G D7 G 3 C

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

1 D 3 G 2 D

hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

3 G G7 C

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
kha - nyen' kwen-khos', We are march-ing, march-ing, we are  
light of God. the light of God. march-ing, we are

Last time, end

G C D 3 G

Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'.  
ham - ba, ham - ba,  
Oo, we are march-ing in the light of God.  
march-ing, march-ing,

## Responsive Benediction

Go now in the presence of the One  
who lifts what is heavy,  
breaks what binds,  
and opens the way before you.

As a new day unfolds,  
may courage rise in you,  
may compassion guide you,  
and joy find room to grow.

The Spirit who descends and remains  
goes with you, goes before you,  
and goes within you—  
making glorious the way you walk.

Go in peace, to begin again.

Amen.

## Postlude

Carillon



Bethel Ontario Online  
Bethel Congregational Church, UCC  
526 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762  
[www.betheluccontario.org](http://www.betheluccontario.org)  
[info@betheluccontario.org](mailto:info@betheluccontario.org)  
(909) 984-9111

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann  
Pastor & Minister of Music  
[drmann@betheluccontario.org](mailto:drmann@betheluccontario.org)  
(626) 393-5507

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.*