

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

April 26, 2026 – 4th Sunday of Easter

“The Gate”



Centering Words (Psalm 23, John 10)
Listen, our shepherd is calling us by name.



www.betheluccontario.org
536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am
Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter
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 – April 26, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*inspired by Psalm 23*)

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

Many: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

Many: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!

Unison Opening Prayer

God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way,
we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection.
Shield us from apathy and isolation.
Fortify us against resignation and despair.
Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name.
As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love,
strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith
for your glory and your blessed community come. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us, yours we are.

2 We are yours, in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear your children when we pray.

3 Let us always seek your favor;
let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)

John 10:1-29

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807-1886)

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;
1 Ie - su no ke Ka - hu - hi - pa, Ka - hu - hi - pa ma'i-ka'i e,
2 We are yours, in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;

in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
Ei - a ma - kou ka 'o - ha - na ke ho'o-lo - he a ha - hai:
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai,
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray;
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
E a - lo - ha, e a - lo - ha, a - la - ka'i a ha - nai mai.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

Bienvenida – Saludo de la Paz – Anuncios

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays – 2nd Tuesdays:** Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (*“The Tears of Things”* by Richard Rohr. Next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday of May (May 12)
- **Wednesdays – 4:30pm** – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement).
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – evenings** SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –SSO Rehearsals
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - Southland Wind Ensemble – Saturday May 9 at 4pm

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

Children’s Time

The Lost Sheep

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.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a vocal line and a bass clef staff with a guitar accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

System 1: Chords: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C. Lyrics: Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ the Ho-ly Spi-rit

System 2: Chords: G/D, D⁷, G, C, G⁷, G⁷. Lyrics: three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

System 3: Chords: C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G⁷, C. Lyrics: shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

Dr. Mann

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Sermon

"The Gate"

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*Psalm 23, John 10*)

Loving Shepherd, even when we stray,
we long to be gathered to your side.
Even when we strive to find our own way,
we yearn to return to your fold
and rest secure in your gentle arms.
Even when we bleat our resistance,
we seek your guidance and direction in our lives.
Be our gate, our way to safe havens,
where we can always find our way home
and dwell secure in your love. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Psalm 23*)

The Good Shepherd anoints our heads with oil,
nourishes us with living waters,
delivers us from evil,
and watches over us day and night.
Because of our Shepherd, we shall dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

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.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

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (*Psalm 23, John 10*)

Shepherd of our souls,
we thank you for the love that flows through our lives.
May this love flow through these gifts,
that no one may be in need.
Work through this offering and through our very lives,
that your community of love
may be established here on earth
for all the sheep of your fold.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Singing into Mission

The Summons (Kelvingrove)

Will you come and follow Me If I but call your name
Will you go where you don't know And never be the same
Will you let My love be shown Will you let My name be known
Will you let My life be grown In you and you in Me

Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name
Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same
Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare
Will you let Me answer prayer In you and you in Me

Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name
Will you set the prisoners free And never be the same
Will you kiss the leper clean And do such as this unseen
And admit to what I mean In you and you in Me

Will you love the “you” you hide If I but call your name
Will you quell the fear inside And never be the same
Will you use the faith you've found To reshape the world around
Through My sight and touch and sound In you and you in Me

Lord Your summons echoes true When You but call my name
Let me turn and follow You And never be the same
In Your company I'll go Where Your love and footsteps show
Thus I'll move and live and grow In You and You in me

CCLI Song # 4668756

Graham Maule | John L. Bell

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The Summons

♩ = 140

VERSE

F C⁷ Dm Gm⁷



1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
 5. Lord, Your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call

6 Csus C F C⁷ Dm



your name? _____ Will you go where you don't know and nev - er
 your name? _____ Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er
 your name? _____ Will you set the pris - ers free and nev - er
 your name? _____ Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er
 my name? _____ Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er

13 Gm⁷ B \flat /C F Gm⁷ B \flat



be the same? _____ Will you let My love be shown, _____
 be the same? _____ Will you risk the hos - tile stare _____
 be the same? _____ Will you kiss the lep - er clean, _____
 be the same? _____ Will you use the faith you've found _____
 be the same? _____ In Your com - pa - ny I'll go _____

20 Am⁷ B \flat ⁶ Csus C F



— will you let My name be known? _____ Will you let My
 — should your life at - tract or scare? _____ Will you let Me
 — and do such as this un - seen, _____ and ad - mit to

26 C⁷ Dm Gm⁷ B \flat /C F



life be grown in you and you in Me? _____
 an - swer prayer in you and you in Me? _____
 what I mean in you and you in Me? _____
 touch and sound in you and you in Me? _____
 live and grow in You and You in me. _____

Unison Benediction

Beloved, as you go, note the encouragement of the Shepherd:
The Gate is open and with you.
In your coming and going,
May God bless you with open hearts and minds
so that together we may pay attention, discern,
and follow the Shepherd's voice,
The Shepherd leads you.
Go, have life and have it abundantly.

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.*