

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

July 26, 2026 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

“Seeds and Treasures”



CENTERING WORDS (Romans 8)

The same Spirit that formed the church on Pentecost forms our lives each day. Strengthening us in our weakness, the Spirit reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus



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 – July 26, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

L: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

P: It is a small seed, but has some surprises in store for us.

L: When it is grown, it is a very large shrub.

P: Even the birds can find places in its branches for their nests.

L: God's transforming love begins in small ways to enter our hearts.

P: Lord, plant those amazing seeds of transforming love in us that they may grow into deeds of service to others in your name. AMEN.

Responsive Opening Prayer

L: Lord of mustard seeds and yeast, thank you for calling us to worship today.

P: Thank you for sending your Spirit to speak to and for our spirits, strengthening our weary souls and empowering us to live and serve.

L: We come to you this day, seeking your Word and will for us.

**P: Send your Spirit into our worship today,
that we may fully sense your presence
and embrace your mysterious wisdom.**

L: Make us people who care deeply about the well-being of others.

**P: Give us courage to be yeast for the rising
of hope and peace throughout the world.**

L: Open our hearts to your redeeming love

P: In your holy name, we pray. AMEN.

***Gathering Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

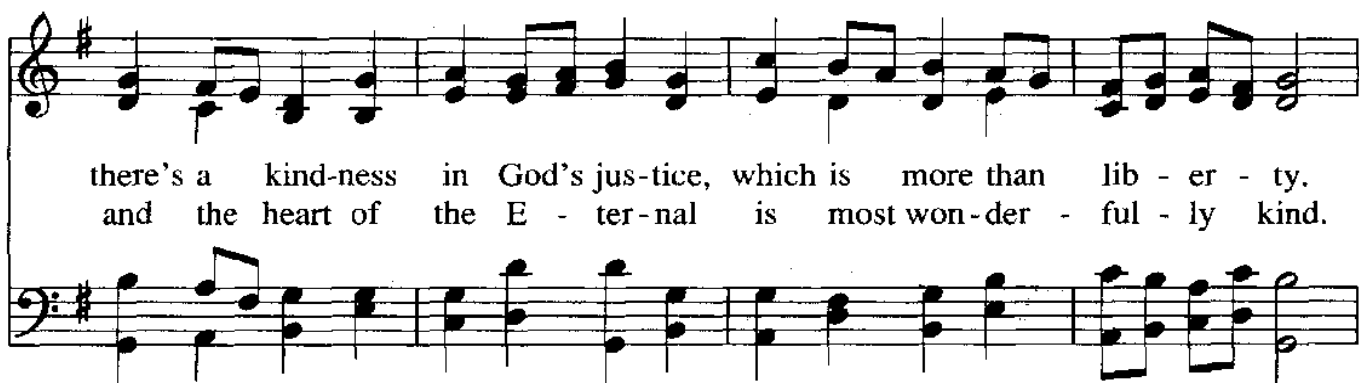
Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.



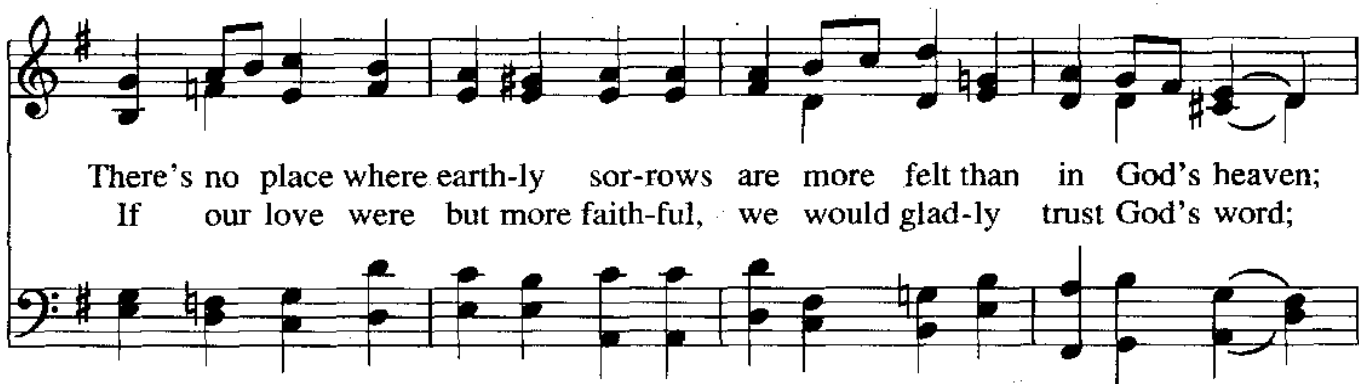
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



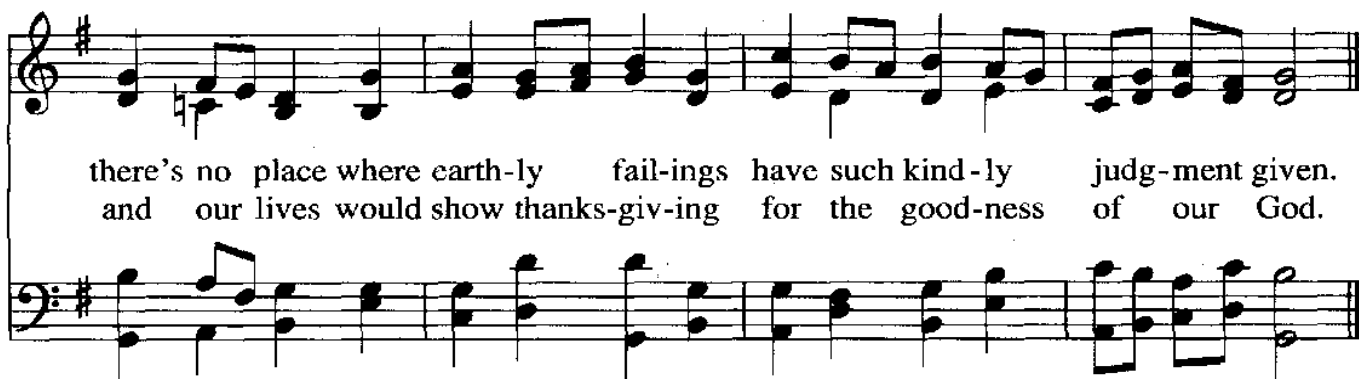
there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.



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!**

Special Music

Seek Ye First

Pop-Up Choir

Children’s Time

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.

71

Glory to the Creator

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-4) has lyrics: 'Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ the Ho-ly Spi-rit'. The second system (measures 5-8) has lyrics: 'three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er'. The third system (measures 9-12) has lyrics: 'shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.' The score includes various chords (C, G/D, G, C, G/B, Am/C, D7, G7, G/F, C/E, C/G) and musical notation such as whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, rests, and a final double bar line.

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.

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Sermon

"Seeds and Treasures"

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (*Genesis 29, Psalm 105, Romans 8*)

L: Remembering God's covenant, we are invited to trust God's love.

P: **God's love knows no bounds, and nothing can stop it.**

L: The Spirit is with us, intertwined with our souls and present in our world.

P: **The Spirit's power is mighty, and nothing can stop it.**

L: Christ's grace is real, amazing and abundant.

P: **In this grace, we are promised love everlasting, love that sticks with us for better or worse. Thanks be to God for these amazing gifts!**

Prayer of Yearning (*Genesis 29, Romans 8, Matthew 13*)

God of mystery and majesty, may your face shine upon us.
Teach us your ways so that we may live in peace, justice, and righteousness.
Help us accept the unfathomable truth of your love.
Keep our way steady and directed toward you.
And help us embrace the mystery of your wisdom
Remove the hold of oppression and evil from among your people.
Most of all, reveal your love to us, that we may truly trust this truth—
that **nothing** can separate us from your love,
Transform our hearts and minds so that we might reflect
your goodness and love in the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Romans 8*)

My friends, these words are faithful and true,
even when we aren't really sure: Nothing—
absolutely nothing in all of creation,
in all of our histories, in all of our actions,
and in all of our world—
can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus
our Lord.

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

We are privileged to participate in the construction of the blessed community of God. Through our gifts, we follow the model of God's generosity, we express our hope for a better future, and we tangibly love our neighbor. Let us give with joy and expectation that our gifts are met with God's magnifying power.

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.

 **PayPal**



Scan. Pay. Go.

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

Unison Prayer of Dedication &Thanksgiving

Steadfast God, In your mercy,
you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together
in love that cannot be broken.
As we bring these gifts today,
may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing—
not hardship, nor fear, nor even death itself—
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.
Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary,
peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people.
Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. Amen.

***Singing into Mission**

Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

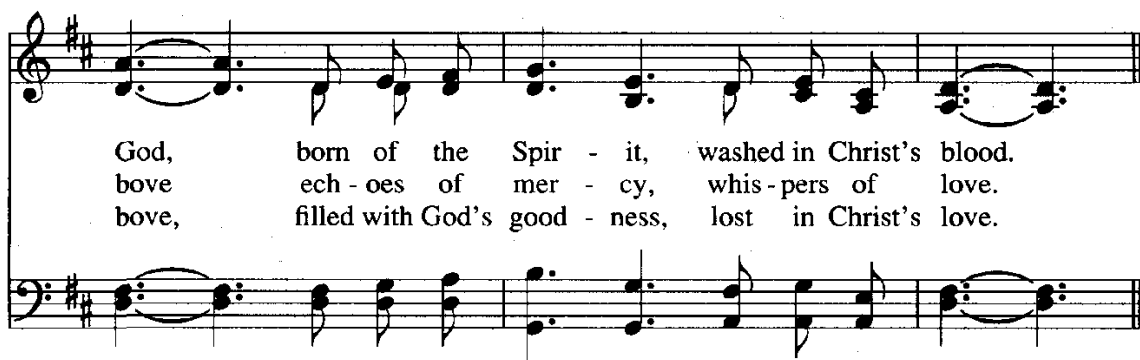
*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*



1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light! Vi-sions of
 3 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

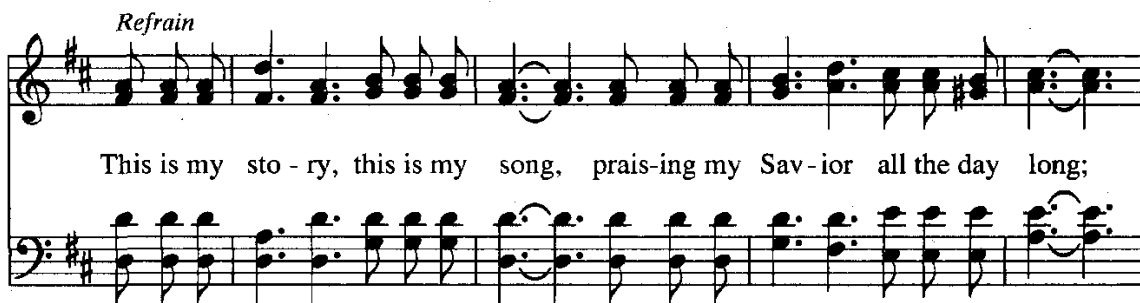


fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Unison Benediction

As you go, carry the realm of God with you
Like mustard seeds ready to be planted
Along your journey
Like the greatest treasure
That may be shared without limit
Like a net of love
Cast widely and deeply
Go, in peace and hope for the glory of God
Amen

Postlude

Carillon



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(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.*

www.bethelucanario.org