

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

October 26, 2025 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

“Restoration”



Centering Words

(Joel 2, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4)

God dreams us into being. In turn, we dream God's dreams.



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 – October 20, 2025

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Joel 2, Psalm 65*):

Responsive

ONE: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad.

MANY: God is our hope and our salvation.

ONE: The Lord blesses the earth with rain.

MANY: God crowns the year with bounty.

ONE: The Lord makes old men dream dreams.

MANY: God makes young girls see visions.

ONE: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad.

MANY: God is our hope and our salvation.

Unison Opening Prayer (*Joel 2, Psalm 65, 2 Timothy 4*)

Giver of dreams and visions,
pour out your Spirit on our fellowship,
for we need your presence in our lives.
Show your portents in the heavens
and set your signs on the earth and seas.
Touch our spirits with the awe of your majesty,
that we may humbly dwell within your courts
in peace and harmony. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *A Pharisee Was Praying* Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D
("The Church's One Foundation")

A Pharisee was praying; he proudly stood alone:
"God, thank you that I'm better than others I have known."
He saw the faults of others, yet in that holy place,
He missed the joy and wonder of God's amazing grace.

Far off in that same Temple, a tax collector stood.
He knew he was a sinner; he knew that God is good.
"Have mercy, God, upon me!" the tax collector cried.
He left that place of worship forgiven, justified.

O God of love, forgive us when we look all around
And think that, by our actions, we stand on solid ground:
We pray, "See how we serve you! We work and volunteer!
Aren't we the ones whose giving builds up your kingdom here?"

May we, your church, be humble in serving you each day,
For pride will never help us to walk your kingdom-way.
May we know your forgiveness — our need for mercy, too —
That, loved and loving others, our life may be in you.

Biblical Reference: Luke 18:9-14

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: carolynshymns.com

A Pharisee Was Praying

D A⁷ D G A⁷ D

1. A Phar - i - see was pray - ing; he proud - ly stood a - lone:
 2. Far off in that same tem - ple, a tax col - lec - tor stood.
 3. O God of love, for - give us when we look all a - round
 4. May we, your church, be hum - ble in serv - ing you each day,

F^{#7} G A D E⁷ A

"God, thank you that I'm bet - ter than oth - ers I have known."
 He knew he was a sin - ner; he knew that God is good.
 and think that, by our ac - tions, we stand on sol - id ground:
 for pride will nev - er help us to walk your king - dom - way.

D G D Bm B Em

He saw the faults of oth - ers, yet in that ho - ly place,
 "Have mer - cy, God, up - on me!" the tax col - lec - tor cried.
 we pray, "See how we serve you! We work and vol - un - teen!
 May we know your for - give - ness, our need for mer - cy, too,

A D G Em⁷ A⁷ D

he missed the joy and won - der of God's a - maz - ing grace.
 He left that place of wor - ship for - giv - en, jus - ti - fied.
 Aren't we the ones whose giv - ing builds up your king - dom here?"
 that, loved and lov - ing oth - ers, our life may be in you.

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

- *Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)*
- *Wednesdays - 5 – 6:30pm OYS. 6pm Scouts(basement).*
- *Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong ; Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)*
- *Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings); FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2*
- *TODAY – Trunk and Treat (FCC) Parking Lot. 4:30pm*
- *Sat Nov 1 – Southland Wind Ensemble Concert – 4pm*

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.

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Glory to the Creator

Glory to the Creator

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 for a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-4) has a treble and bass staff. The second system (measures 5-8) also has a treble and bass staff. The third system (measures 9-12) has a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C in the first system; G/D, D7, G, C, G7, G7 in the second system; C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G7, C in the third system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Joel 2:23-32

O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain[a] for your vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name
of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

God's Spirit Poured Out

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves, in those days I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns
of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before
the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the
name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall
be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be
those whom the Lord calls.

Psalm 84:1-7

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my
God.

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to
Zion.

As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Luke 18:9-14

Pastor Sylvia

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Sermon

Restoration

Dr. Mann

Prayer of Yearning

Gracious and restoring God,

We thank You that You are the One who sees our tears, hears our cries, and walks with us through every valley. You are the God who sends rain after drought, hope after despair, and mercy after we fall short.

Pour out Your Spirit on us again.

Renew our strength.

Restore what has been broken.

Lift up the humble, heal the wounded, and fill our hearts with Your joy.

For our sisters and brothers here, for this church in Pakistan, for every home and every heart — bring Your protection, Your peace, and Your promises to life.

We place our trust in You, O Lord — knowing You will never abandon us.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer.

Amen.

Words of Grace (Pastor)

God fully shares mercy and grace no matter where we sit in our churches or what our power is in this world. May we know your radical love when we rarely experience it. May your light and kindness seep from our souls so that our neighbors will understand your grace even when the harsh winds surround them. No matter how chaotic or serene our lives may be, may we all know your steadfast love. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer – *bring your personal prayers to God*

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,



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



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 (Unison)

Holy God, Source of Goodness and Grace,
We thank you today for all you have given to us.
When we bear more power and privilege,
we are called to share more of our talents, time, and treasures.
In our efforts to seek humility and balance,
may we soberly evaluate our gifts and understand
the healthiest ways to apportion them to
strengthen your Realm and love your children. Amen.

1 Guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

2 Hold my hand while I run this race,
hold my hand while I run this race,
hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

3 I'm your child while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

4 Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Guide My Feet

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*African-American traditional; alt.**Heb. 12:1-15*

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
 3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
 4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
 while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
 while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
 while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
 Wheel with me while I run this race . . .

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
African-American traditional
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

Unison Benediction

ONE: Beloved of God —

Go forth in confidence, for the God who restores is going with you.

MANY: May the Spirit be poured out upon you,

May Christ lift you up and give you peace,

And may the joy of the Lord be your strength —

Today, tomorrow, and forevermore.

ONE: In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit,

Amen.

MANY: Go in Peace, Go in Love, Go in Joy. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Worship Sundays at 9:55am
on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)

Also available on [Roku](#) and [Amazon Fire TV](#).

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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.*