

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

September 27, 2026 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

“Questioning”



Centering Words (Philippians 2)

Be of one mind, the mind of Christ. Be of one Spirit, the Spirit of God's love. Be of one purpose as beloved people of God



**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 – September 27, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Call to Worship

L: Come, let us worship God who provides for us.

P: Even though we whine and complain, God hears our cries.

L: Lift your voices in praise, for God has come to comfort you.

P: Thanks be to God who forgives and heals our wounded souls.

L: Come, celebrate God's steadfast love.

P: Open our hearts, O Lord, and let us truly listen to your words.

AMEN.

Unison Opening Prayer (*Exodus 17, Psalm 78*)

Guiding God, you led our ancestors in faith
through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day
and a fiery pillar by night.

You quenched their thirst and shared manna
to satisfy their hunger.

We often wish we could see you now
in such celestial wonders.

Yet we know you are near.

We feel your Spirit presence, sustaining us
along life's journey.

Amen.

1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

3 When I reach the River Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2**William Williams, 1745**St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.**St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.*

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

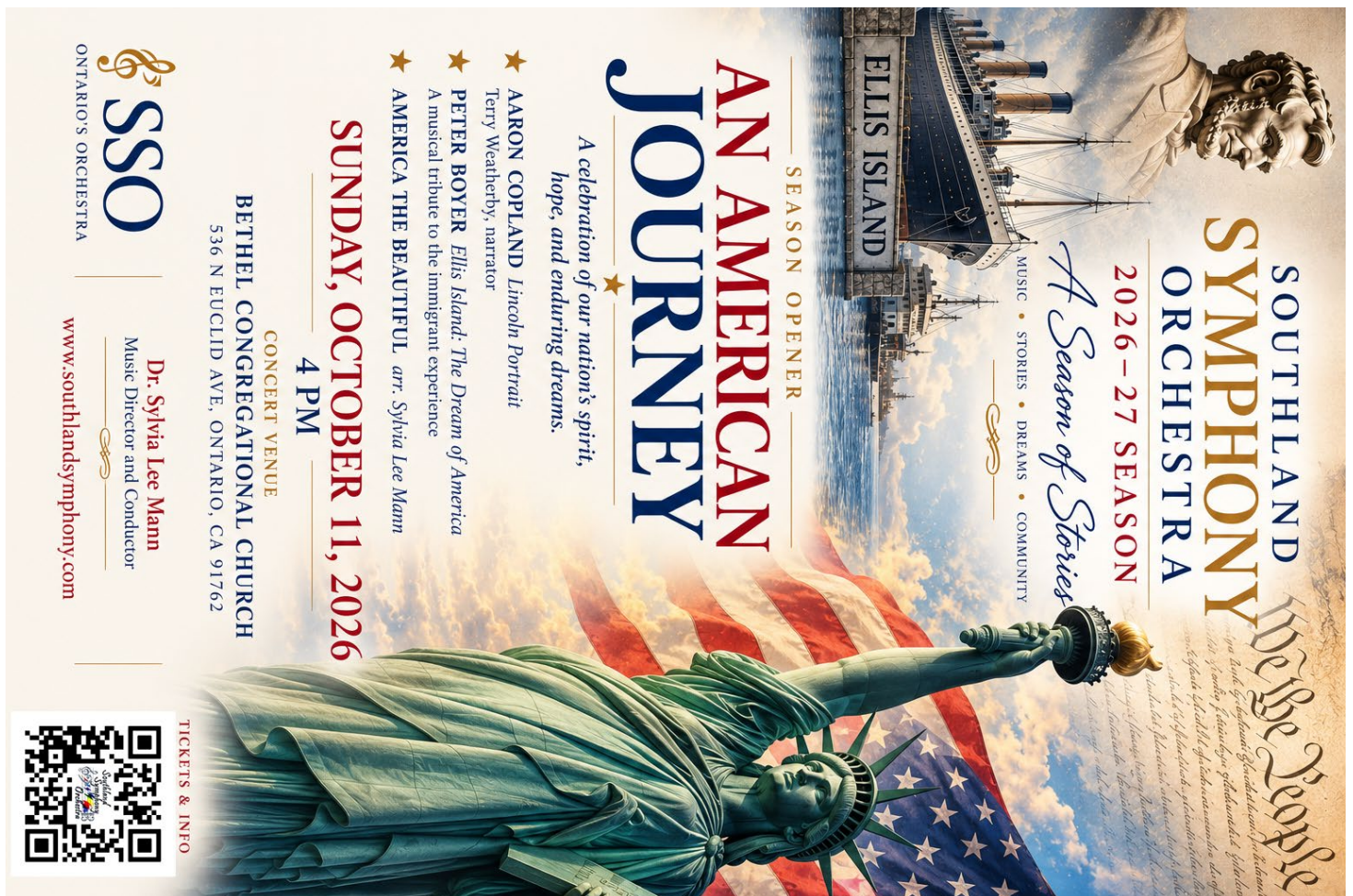
bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays – Worship!** (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Sunday October 18 – Blessing of the Animals – Special Joint service with FCCO**
- **Sundays 9:15am – Pop-Up Choir practice!**
- **Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi**
- **Sign up to join Bethel's Relay Team!**
- <https://secure.acsevents.org/goto/BethelOntario>
- **Sunday October 11 at 4pm – SOUTHLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
SEASON OPENER: “An American Journey”. *Music includes Copland's “Lincoln Portrait” (Terry Weatherby, narrating); Boyer's “ELLIS ISLAND: The Dream of America” – a multimedia presentation, including our own Virginia Shannon as one of the characters portrayed in the work.; and a World Premiere new arrangement of “America the Beautiful” by Pastor Sylvia.*



SOUTHLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
A Season of Stories
2026 – 27 SEASON
MUSIC • STORIES • DREAMS • COMMUNITY

SEASON OPENER
AN AMERICAN JOURNEY
A celebration of our nation's spirit,
hope, and enduring dreams.

★ **AARON COPLAND** *Lincoln Portrait*
Terry Weatherby, narrator

★ **PETER BOYER** *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*
A musical tribute to the immigrant experience

★ **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL** arr. Sylvia Lee Mann

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
4 PM

CONCERT VENUE
BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
536 N EUCLID AVE, ONTARIO, CA 91762

SSO
ONTARIO'S ORCHESTRA

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Music Director and Conductor

www.southlandsymphony.com

TICKETS & INFO



*** 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.

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.

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

Pastor Sylvia

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin', we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Sermon

"Questioning"

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*Unison*)

Holy Presence, you demonstrate the way of love and community, yet so often we turn immediately to quarrels and complaints against one another and against you rather than helpful ways of communicating and confronting conflict. Teach us to be loving even as we struggle. Stir up compassion and accountability in our interactions. Remind us that you are with us even through tests, trials, and disappointments. Transform us with trust and care to be faithful and to seek you in prayer when we feel driven to quarrel and complaint. Amen.

Words Assurance and Grace (*Pastor*)

The Holy One meets us with compassion and care even when we do not embody our best or strive for the goodness of God. Let us follow in the path of trust and faithful remembering of what God has done for us and how God has empowered us for transformation and new life.

Prayers of the People (Joys and Concerns to share)

Silent Prayers

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

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.



Scan. Pay. Go.

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

Blessing of the Gifts (*Unison*)

God who Provides,
as we present our offerings before you,
sanctify them for your glory
and magnify them for your people.
Amen.

Verse 1

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

Verse 2

Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger,
blessed body, precious blood.

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn-ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Unison Benediction

Go from this time of worship like streams of water,
Flowing from the abundance of the Living Water.
Saturate every encounter with the goodness and abundance of God
As a living witness that the people may drink.

Postlude

Carillon



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Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@bethelucanario.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.*

www.bethelucanario.org