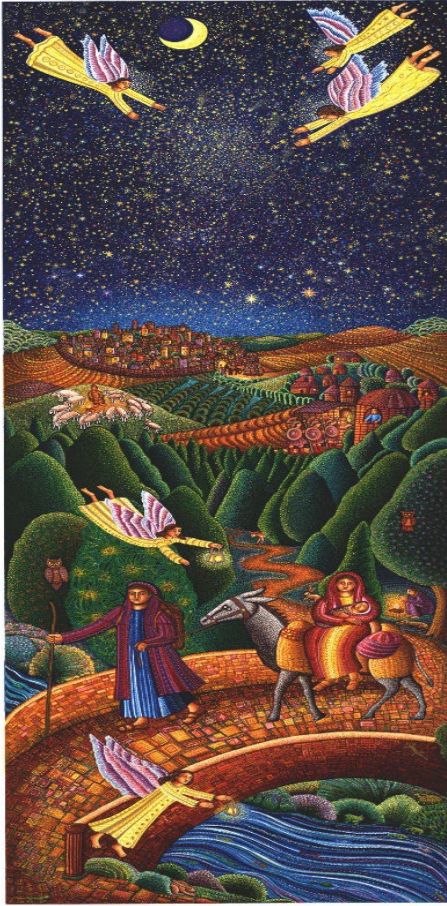


Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

December 28, 2025 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

“After the Miracle: When the Word Dwells Among Us”



Centering Words

(Isaiah 63, Hebrews 2, Matthew 2)

*How can we sing Christ's praise
in an imperfect world?*

*By remembering that we are lifted, carried, and
redeemed by God's perfect love.*



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

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Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and Amazon
Fire TV

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
Sunday – December 28, 2025

Prelude Music for Gathering Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Inspired by Psalm 148*)

One: Praise the Holy One! Praise God from the sanctuary and across the screen.

Praise God in the morning and the evening...in the afternoon and at night!

**Many: Praise God all people, all nations, all generations! Praise the Holy One
who forms and shapes us!**

One: Let our adoration join with the angels! May our songs join with the saints!

**Many: Let us worship the Holy One with gladness! Let us worship our God in
truth!**

One: Praise the Holy One for their abiding presence! Praise God for their wondrous
works!

**Many: Let the name of the Holy One be exalted forever and ever! Praise the Holy
One!**

Unison Opening Prayer

Holy Love, we delight in your presence among us.

We anticipate your wisdom, assurance, and challenge.

Soften our hearts, enliven our spirits,

and expand our minds so that

we may reflect your heart, spirit, and mind.

Through our remembering,

give us courage to face these times

and hope to seek your beloved community.

In the name of the One who came to us

and lives and reigns with you, we pray. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

What Child is This

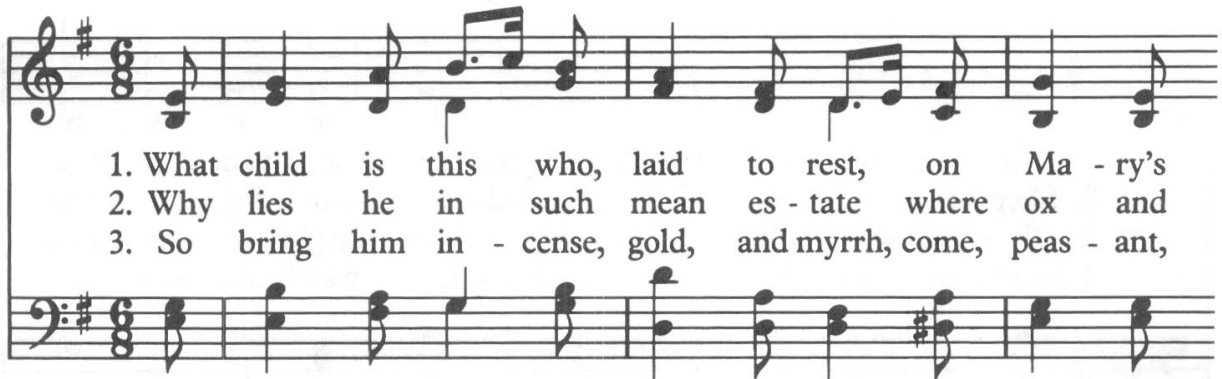
1. What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

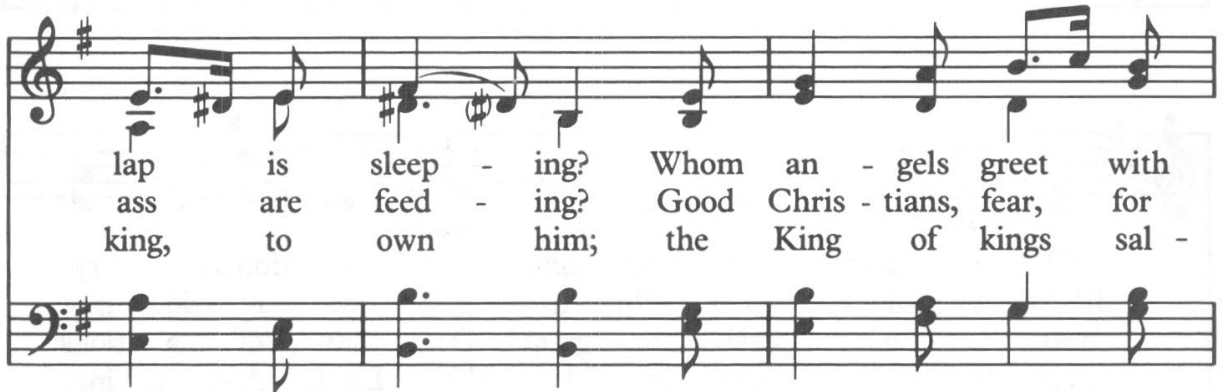
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

What Child Is This

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1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

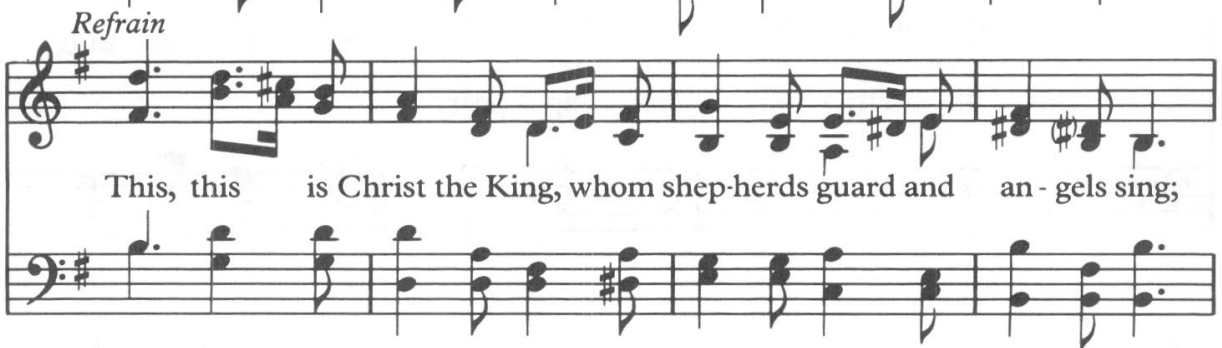


lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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

- **Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)**
- **Tuesdays – 7pm SSO Chorus**
- **Wednesdays - 6pm Scouts(basement).**
- **Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong ;**
- **Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)**
- **Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings); FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2**
- **This week – Magic Flute rehearsals every day except Dec 31.**
- **January 4th – SSO OPERA – The Magic Flute – 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.

71 Glory to the Creator

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Glory to the Creator

Chords: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C, G/D, D⁷, G, C, G⁷, G⁷, C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G⁷, C

Lyrics: Glo-ry to the Cre-a -tor, the Christ the Ho- ly Spi- rit three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

8

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

Pastor Sylvia

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Sermon *"After the Miracle: When the Word Dwells Among Us"* Dr. Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*Isaiah 63, Hebrews 2, Matthew 2*)

Merciful God, we yearn to be merciful and gracious,
as you have been merciful and gracious to us.

Grant us the mercy to redeem our lives,
and give us the strength to live
as those who are redeemed.

Help us resist the forces of evil and cruelty
that kill our hope and destroy our souls.

Fill us with your light and love,
that we may overflow with mercy, compassion,
help, and hope for our world.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Isaiah 63*)

In love and mercy, God redeems us.

In grace and joy, God lifts us.

In strength and security,

God carries us all the days of our lives.

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.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** 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.

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



Blessing and Dedication of the Gifts

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives and in our world.

Thank you for the gifts we return to you now.

Bless these gifts,
that they may support Christ’s loving presence
in our ministry,
in our community,
and in our world. Amen.

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today;
ox and ass before Him bow,
and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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WORDS: Latin hymn, 14th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1855

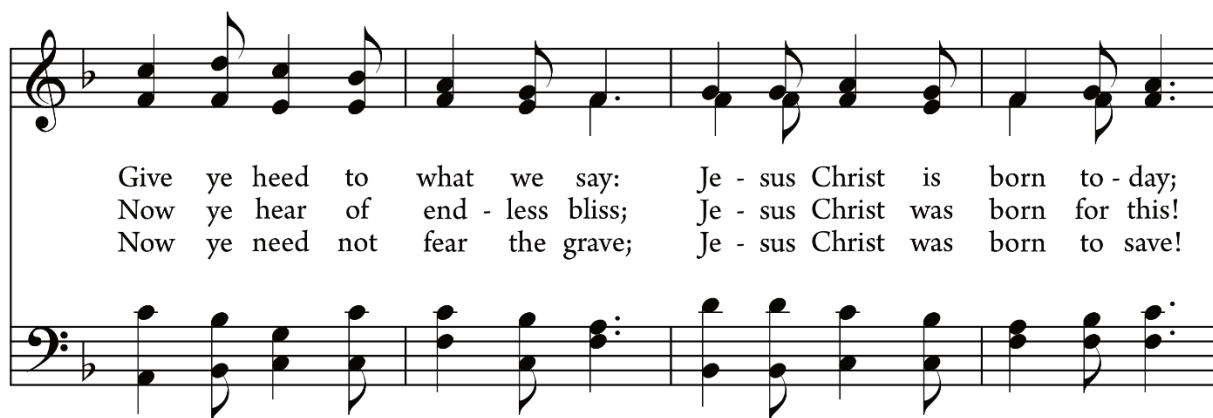
IN DULCI JUBILO

MUSIC: German melody

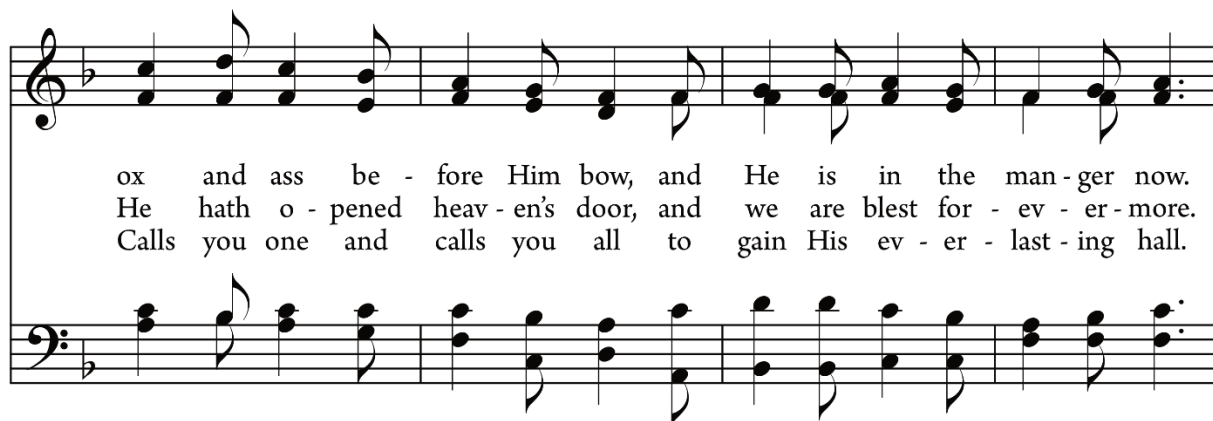
Irregular



1. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!
2. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!
3. Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice!



Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore Him bow, and He is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Unison Benediction

When we leave this place, we keep our connection to one another.
When we leave this time, we keep our focus on the God we trust.
When we leave this service, we keep our worship going
in service in the world.

May our commitments bloom, our hope flourish,
and our ministry prosper as we go forth in God's love.

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.*