

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

March 29, 2026 – Palm/Passion Sunday



Centering Words (Psalm 118, Matthew 21)
On the back of a donkey, Jesus came to save us.
On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus came to heal us.
In the joy of laughing children and the shouts of loud hosannas,
Jesus came to show us the way.



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 – March 22, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

Leader: Into the belly of the beast, on the back of a beast of burden...
This is no parade of the powerful,
no extravaganza for empire.

**People: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
Resistance. Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Leader: Into occupied streets, on stolen land...
This is no marvel of military might,
no crusade of cruelty.

**People: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
Refuge. Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Leader: Into histories of harm, surrounded by lineages of liberation...
This is no acquiescence in advance,
no complicity through conformity.

**People: Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
Solidarity. Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

Leader: May our worship this day prepare the way for the Prince of Peace,
cut branches for the King of Compassion,
line the path for the Lord of Liberation,
soften the road for the Sovereign of Solidarity.

**People: May our worship this day prepare us
for where this way will lead.**

Unison Opening Prayer

Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world.
You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage.
As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble
donkey, and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing!
We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age,
“Hosanna in the highest!”
Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

1. Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang:
To Jesus, who had blessed them
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

2. From Olivet they followed,
Amid a cheering crowd,
The victor palm branch waving,
And chanting clear and loud;
The one whom angels worship
Rode on in lowly state,
And glad to see the children,
Slowed down the donkey's gait

3. "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song is ours,
We hail our great Redeemer,
And sing with all our powers;
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you
With heart and soul and voice,
Hosanna! In your presence
Forever we'll rejoice!"

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

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Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15

1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple; the love - ly an - them rang;
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
"Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

Bienvenida – Saludo de la Paz – Anuncios

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays** – 7pm SSO Chorus Rehearsals
- **Wednesdays** – **4:30pm** – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement). 3rd Wednesdays 7pm(Mar 18) – Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (*“The Tears of Things”* by Richard Rohr.)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays** – **evenings** SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –SSO Rehearsals (mornings, resume March 21)
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - Southland Wind Ensemble - 4pm SATURDAY March 21;

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

Children’s Time

The Triumphal Entry

Kids Video

*Gloria

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.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Responsive

One: O give thanks to God, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever!

Many: Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

Many: This is the gate of God; the righteous shall enter through it.

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my
salvation.

**Many: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief
cornerstone.**

One: This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Many: This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Save us, we beseech you, O God!
O God, we beseech you, give us success!

**Many: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.
We bless you from the house of God.**

One: The Sovereign is God, and God has given us light.

**Many: Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.**

One: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

**Many: O give thanks to God, for God is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately. "

This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Seeking Transformation and New Life

Call to Transformation

Leader: When Jesus set the stage for his entrance into Jerusalem, he knew he would be competing with outward and visible displays of the dominating power of the Roman Empire. But he also knew that Empire didn't just live in parades of the powerful and shows of force. Empire also lives in our bodies, minds, spirits, relationships, and communities. So he set out with a donkey and a colt and a band of outcasts and freedom-fighters to help them and us imagine a different kind of power – the power of love and justice.

So on this day palms and hosannas, let us open ourselves to the transformation that comes from naming the ways Empire lives within us, and shapes the world around us with a story of dominance, division, and violence.

Prayer for New Life

Leader: For the ways Empire has taught us to fear difference and believe that strength and safety require dominance and violence,

People: God, have mercy.

Leader: For the ways Empire makes hierarchy the air we breathe and shapes who and what has worth and dignity,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For the ways Empire separates us and convinces us that we don't belong to the land or each other.

People: God have mercy.

Leader: Open us to notice the tension, longing, and dissonance in our bodies revealing where Empire has tangled itself around us.

People: Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.

Words of Grace

Leader: Let your soul receive this rest:

You and we are not what Empire imagines.

There is resistance, liberation, and wisdom beyond Empire.

***People: Praise God who forgives us and frees us,
inviting us to a belonging
where dignity isn't earned, bought,
or proven, but received as grace.***

Prayers of the People (Joys and Concerns)

Time of Silent Reflection

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
536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.

Church

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



Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

With our offerings we say, “thank you” and practice a new economy.

With our practices we say, “yes, God,” and resist Empire's hold.

***With our resistance we say, “Hosanna,” and bless all the ones,
who journey in the ways of courage and grace. Amen.***

*Singing into Mission

Hosanna

Jim Strathdee

This was originally written as a “call and response” song –
the CAPS are the congregation’s response – but feel free to sing it all!

Hosanna HOSANNA
Hosanna HOSANNA
Hosanna HOSANNA
HOSANNA TO THE KING

We welcome him WE WELCOME HIM
We welcome him WE WELCOME HIM
Hosanna HOSANNA
HOSANNA TO THE KING

We’ll follow him WE’LL FOLLOW HIM
We’ll follow him WE’LL FOLLOW HIM
Hosanna HOSANNA
HOSANNA TO THE KING

We’ll walk with him WE’LL WALK WITH HIM
To Calvary TO CALVARY
Hosanna HOSANNA
HOSANNA TO THE KING

On Easter morn ON EASTER MORN
We’ll share the news WE’LL SHARE THE NEWS
Hosanna HOSANNA
HOSANNA TO THE KING

Hosanna HOSANNA
Hosanna HOSANNA
Hosanna HOSANNA
HOSANNA TO THE KING

Hosanna

Steady ♩. = 50

words and music by
Jim Strathdee

Solo C G C All G C

1&6 Ho - san - na, (ho - san - na) ho - san -
2. We wel - come him, (we wel - come him) we wel - come
3. We'll fol - low him, (we'll fol - low him) we'll fol - low
4. We'll walk with him, (we'll walk with him) to Cal - va -
5. On Eas - ter morn, (on Eas - ter morn) we'll share the

Em Am Em F G

na, (ho - san - na) Ho - san - na, (ho -
him, (we wel - come him) Ho - san - na, (ho -
him, (we'll fol - low him) Ho - san - na, (ho -
ry, (to Cal - va - ry) Ho - san - na, (ho -
news, (we'll share the news) Ho - san - na, (ho -

Am Em All F G C

san - na) HO - SAN - NA TO THE KING.

Unison Benediction

L: We go now in joy, love, and peace!

P: Remember the day of celebration when Jesus boldly and humbly rode into the city of fear and anger.

L: May we have courage as we move into the unknown that awaits us. We do not go alone. Do not fear.

P: Love will carry us. We go, ready to proclaim with our lives that we are disciples, that Jesus is Lord and Savior.

L: As followers of Jesus, truly you are God's children. Go into this week with the knowledge that resurrection will come, even when it seems there is no tomorrow.

P: Be blessed and be a blessing, with the courage to stand with those in need.

L: We go now together into the unknown. Do not be afraid.

P: Love will carry us. We go to offer and to live God's love and peace to all. Go in peace. In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

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.*