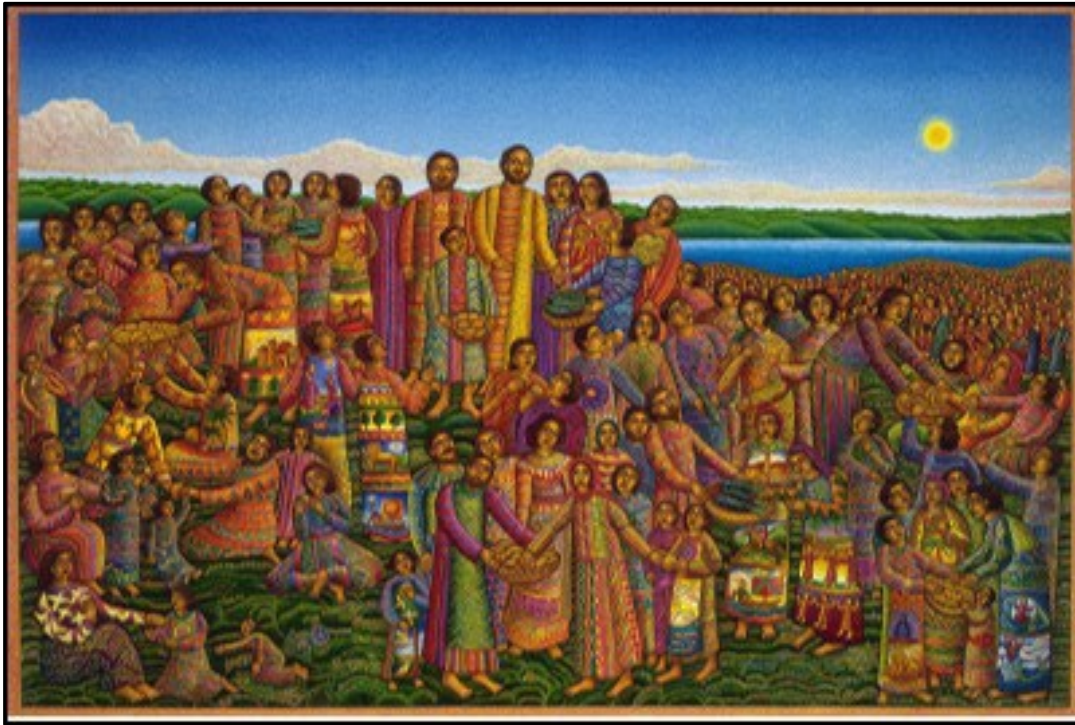


Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

August 2, 2026 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Wrestling with Our Hunger
The Path of the Disciple-Searching for the Face of God”



CENTERING WORDS (Genesis 32, Matthew 14)

*When our faith is at its weakest, God struggles with us—not to punish,
but to bless us, if we have the courage to ask .
God’s love and grace welcome us here. Christ’s bounty feeds us at his table.*



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 – August 2, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Matthew 14*)

L: Are you hungry for a word of hope?

P: We come to be fed and nourished.

L: Are you yearning to see the bounty of God?

P: We long to see and believe.

L: Are you ready to witness the power of our God?

P: We are ready. Come! Let us worship.

Responsive Opening Prayer (*Genesis 32*)

L: Even when our faith falters,

P: we will not let you go, O God.

L: Even though we are ashamed by our lack of faith,

P: we will not let you go.

L: Because you meet us in our utmost need,

P: we will not let you go.

L: Strive with us until dawn, O Lord,

P: we will not let you go.

L: We need your blessing now more than ever.

P: we will not let you go. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** *Let Us Break Bread Together*

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.*

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.*

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me*

.



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
* 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



My God, have mer - cy on me.



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!**
- <https://secure.acsevents.org/goto/BethelOntario>

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

71

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

5

10

8

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ the Ho - ly Spi - rit'. The second system (measures 5-8) has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'three in one; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er'. The third system (measures 9-12) has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.'.

Genesis 32:22-31 (NRSVUE)

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."

Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?"

And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."

The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Gospel Reading**Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSVUE)**

Pastor Sylvia

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon

*Wrestling with Our Hunger: The Path of the Disciple
Searching for the Face of God*

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*Genesis 32, Matthew 14*)

God of wonder and mystery,
you struggle with us when our faith is weakest,
yet you do not overcome us;
you meet us in our weakness,
yet you do not humble us with your strength.
In dark nights of the soul,
and when the needs of others seem too great,
you always stand us back on our feet.
When we face overwhelming odds
and yearn to find an easy way out,
you open new vistas of faithful living.
Stay with us when we have need of you, O God,
and bless us in our struggles,
that we might be a blessing for others in need.
Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Psalms 17, Matthew 14*)

Christ's grace is sufficient to meet every need.
Rejoice and meet your God face to face,
as you receive the bounty of God's hand.

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

Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Remembrance

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Unison*)

Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring love and justice to the world. May this bread and drink nourish us as they are the symbol of Christ's essence in all of us. In Jesus name we pray. 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.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.



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

Blessing of the Gifts (*Unison*) (*Matthew 14*)

Source of Compassion, you meet our needs.

May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger.

May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid.

Bless our lives and our ministries, that we may be a people who share our abundance with those who live in want.

In our living and in our giving, may the world be fed and made whole again. Amen.

***Singing into Mission**

Take Our Bread

Refrain: *Take our bread, we ask you;
take our hearts, we love you.
Take our lives, O Father;
we are yours, we are yours.*

1. Yours as we stand at the table you set;
Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget.
We are the sign of your life with us yet,
We are yours, we are yours.
*Take our bread, we ask you;
take our hearts, we love you.
Take our lives, O Father;
We are yours, we are yours.*
2. Your holy people standing washed in your blood,
Spirit filled yet hungry we await your food.
We are poor, but we've brought ourselves the best we could;
We are yours, we are yours.
*Take our bread, we ask you;
take our hearts, we love you.
Take our lives, O Father;
We are yours, we are yours*

Refrain (Unison)

C Am Dm7 G7

Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

C Dm G G7 C Fine

Take our lives, O Fa-ther, we are yours, we are yours.

C Am C Am

1. Yours as we stand at the ta - ble you set;
2. Your ho - ly peo - ple stand - ing washed in your blood,

C F Dm G7

yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't for-get.
Spir - it - filled yet hun - gry we a - wait your food. - We are

C Am C Am

We are the sign of your life with us yet,
poor, but we've brought our-selves the best we could;

Dm7 G D.C.

we are yours, we are yours.

Unison Benediction

Hold fast to the persistent, abiding, and enduring love of God
May it surround and fill you
With hope, courage, compassion, and strength
To bless the world with the blessings you receive
As a tangible testimony and demonstration
That Love prevails, AMEN

Postlude

Carillon



Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
526 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
www.betheluccontario.org
info@betheluccontario.org
(909) 984-9111

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@betheluccontario.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.betheluccontario.org