

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

February 2, 2025 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany
“Passing Through the Midst”



Centering Words

(Jeremiah 1, Psalm 71, 1 Corinthians 13)

God has known us, loved us, and been with us since before we were knit together in our mothers' wombs. Sink into the arms of Love this day, and trust the hand that holds you, for we have abided in this love long before we first drew breath.



www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch;

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

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
Sunday – February 2, 2025

Prelude

Responsive Call to Worship

One: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.

One: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.

One: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.

Unison Opening Prayer

God of love and life, speak to our hearts this day.

Speak words of wisdom and faith.

Open our hearts and minds

to perceive your message of love,

even when it's hard to hear.

Strengthen our faith to answer your call,

even when we don't feel confident or capable.

Be our wisdom, our strength, and our love,

that we may bring your wisdom, strength, and love
to the world. Amen.

Gathering Hymn The Gift of Love

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift of all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

693 Though I May Speak

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-5, the second staff contains measures 6-10, and the third staff contains measures 11-15. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: G (measures 1, 5, 9), Am⁷ (measures 2, 3, 7, 11), D (measures 4, 8, 12), Em (measure 6), C² (measure 14), and C (measure 15). The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody.

1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire, and have the
2 Though I may give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts con - trol; our spir - its
gift to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are
so my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -
long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery
vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
in, the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
deed; by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events:

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am upstairs)
- **Mondays** – Southland Jazz Orchestra Rehearsals 7-9:30 (per calendar) resumes in Feb.
- **Tuesdays** – SSO Chorus Rehearsals 7:30 – 9pm resume Feb 11
- **Wednesdays** – Cub Scouts 6pm (basement).
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** – Mornings SSO Rehearsals / FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2 (upstairs).
- **CONCERTS:** Sat Feb 8 4pm – SWE; Sat Feb 15 4pm – SJO.; Sun Feb 23 4pm – SSO

Children's Time

*Gloria

71

Glory to the Creator

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.

8

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Psalms 71:1-6

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of you.

Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.

They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.

But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON

"Passing Through the Midst"

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning

In a cynical and despairing world, O God,
give us a prophetic voice to proclaim your hope.

In a violent and angry world, O God,
give us a prophetic voice to proclaim your peace.

In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God,
give us a prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion.

In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God,
give us a prophetic voice to proclaim your love.

In a grieving and weeping world, O God,
give us a prophetic voice to proclaim your joy.

May we be so captivated by your hope, O God,
that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact,
the message of your reign which is always coming into our world;
And may our prophetic lives be channels of your restoring grace
wherever we may go. Amen.

Words of Assurance

This is the time of God's favor,
God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives,
Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.
We live as loved, forgiven, and free people through the grace of God!
Hallelujah! Amen.

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 (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 Church
536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.



Scan. Pay. Go.

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

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Giver of Good Gifts, may the gifts we give reflect your abundance and generosity. Use our time, talent, and treasure to serve our faith community and the world. May each offering be a seed that will grow, spread, and perfume the atmosphere with faith, hope, and love. Amen

It only takes a spark
To get a fire going
And soon all those around
Can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread His love to ev'ryone
You want to pass it on

What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing
The flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on

I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him
It matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want my world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on

Pass It On

Words and Music by
Kurt Kaiser

♩ = 100

VERSE

D

F#m

G



1. It _____ on - ly takes a spark to get a fi - re
2. What a won - drous time is spring when all the trees are
3. I _____ wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that

4

A

D

F#m



go - ing, _____ and soon all those a - round can
bud - ding, _____ The birds be - gin to sing, the
I've _____ found, _____ You can de - pend on Him, it

8

G

A

D

G



warm up to its glow - ing; _____ That's how it is with
flow - ers start their bloom - ing, _____ That's how it is with
mat - ters not where you're - bound; _____ I'll shout it from the

12

D/F#

Em⁷

A⁷

F#m

Bm



God's _____ love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it: _____ You
God's _____ love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it: _____ You
moun - tain - top, I want my world _ to know: _ The

15

Em⁷

D/F#

G

A⁷

D



spread His love to ev - 'ry - one, you want to pass it on.
want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

Benediction - Unison

Beloved, be amazed and amazing in the world.
Be amazed that God goes with you.
Be amazed that the Holy One is Rock, Safety, and Trust.
Be amazed that you reflect the image of God.
Be amazing in your love of neighbor,
Be amazing in your hope for the world,
and be amazing in your faith in the presence of the Holy One at work
in you, through you, and with you. AMEN

Postlude

Carillon



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Live Stream Sundays at 10am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)*All music licensed and used by permission (CCLI, One License, Artist Permission, PD)

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.