

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

August 30, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Holy Ground – Call to Action”



CENTERING WORDS (Exodus 3)

God speaks from burning bushes and souls on fire.

May God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear, as we worship this day.

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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 23, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Psalm 124*)

ONE: Followers of Christ, God calls us just as we are to live as truth-tellers and gospel-bringers in the world.

MANY: God, we know you call us, and still, we ask, “Who am I that you would call me?”

ONE: Like Moses standing before the burning bush convinced of his unworthiness to lead your people out of bondage, we ask,

MANY: “Who am I that you would call me?”

ONE: Like Peter who thought he got it right only to realize that who Jesus is doesn't meet his expectations of who a Savior should be, we ask,

MANY: “Who am I that you would call me?”

ONE: As we raise this question to God today, we open our hearts to receive God's answer:

MANY: You are my beloved children. You are my disciples. You are my people called to share the love of God for the transformation of the world. Amen.

Unison Opening Prayer (*Exodus 3*)

Creator God, who shall we say that you are?

By what name can we call you—

that would be enough to speak of all that you are
and all that you shall be?

We can only call you ‘I Am,’ for you Were—and Are—
and always Will Be—the Holy One.

You call us by name and invite us to come to you.

We answer, “Here I am,” and come to stand on holy ground.

May we remember that all ground is holy ground,
for you are in all times and places—
calling us to our lives each moment. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

The Gift of Love

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to 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.

The Gift Of Love

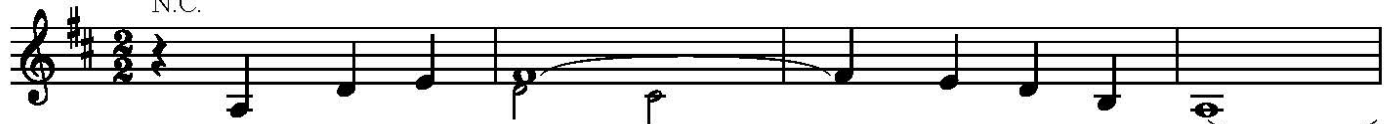
Words and Music by
Hal H. Hopson

♩=53

VERSE

D Dmaj⁷ Gmaj⁷/D Em/D D/F[♯] G D

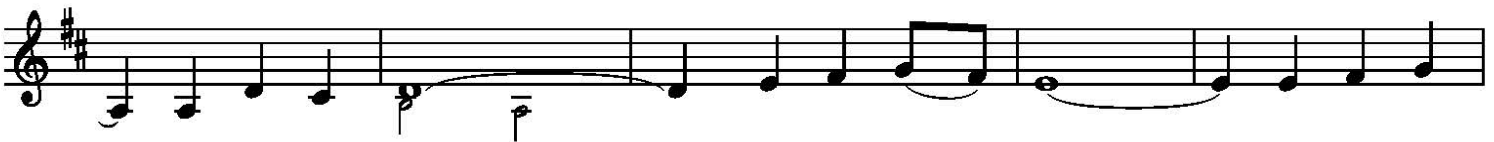
N.C.



1. Though I may speak _____ with brav - est fire, _____
2. Though I may give _____ all I pos - sess, _____
3. Come, Spir - it, come, _____ our hearts con - trol, _____

5

F[♯]m Bm Bm/A Em⁷/G Em/G D A A/G F[♯]m Em⁷



— and have the gift _____ to all in - spire, _____ and have not
— and striv - ing so _____ my love pro - fess, _____ but not be
— our spir - its long _____ to be made _____ whole. _____ Let in - ward

10

D D^{sus}/E D/F[♯] Em⁷ D/F[♯] G D



love, _____ my words are _____ vain, _____
giv'n _____ by love with - in, _____
love _____ guide ev - 'ry _____ deed; _____

13

Em D/F[♯] G A^{sus} A G² G D



— as sound - ing brass, _____ and hope - less _____ gain.
— the prof - it soon _____ turns strange - ly _____ thin.
— By this we wor - ship, and are _____ freed.

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 Concert** – September 12 6:30pm *Thalia Moore, soprano*

Special Music

Pop-Up Choir

Children’s Time

Moses and the Burning Bush

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.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble and a bass staff. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1: Chords: C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, Am/C. Lyrics: Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ the Ho-ly Spi-rit

System 2: Chords: G/D, D⁷, G, C, G⁷, G⁷. Lyrics: three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

System 3: Chords: C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G⁷, C. Lyrics: shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up."

When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

A Reading from the Epistles

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Sermon

"Holy Ground - Call to Action"

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer of Yearning (*Unison*) (*Exodus 1–2*)

God of our ancestors, God of us,
we long to live as you call us to do,
letting love be true, hating what is evil,
and holding fast to what is good.
But we do not always manage to tell what is evil
and what is good.
We do not always manage to choose
that which gives life rather than steals it.
And so we become a stumbling block,
when we mean to be a stepping stone.
God of our hearts, we yearn for your strength
to let go the evil and choose the good.
We seek your presence to stay with us in our own suffering
and to keep us present to the suffering of others.
We long for you to take our struggles and turn them into strengths.
We ache to take our stumbling
and turn it to steps on the journey,
growing nearer to you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

*The great I Am invites us to turn aside
and boldly embrace paths that lead to life.
Turn and receive blessing upon blessing.*

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

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*)

Holy One, we present these offerings to you in hope and love.
May they be a gift in our community and the world.
May they spread hope and love.
And, may they witness to your
abundant and generous creation.
Amen.

Will you come and follow Me If I but call your name
Will you go where you don't know And never be the same
Will you let My love be shown Will you let My name be known
Will you let My life be grown In you and you in Me

Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name
Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same
Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare
Will you let Me answer prayer In you and you in Me

Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name
Will you set the prisoners free And never be the same
Will you kiss the leper clean And do such as this unseen
And admit to what I mean In you and you in Me

Will you love the “you” you hide If I but call your name
Will you quell the fear inside And never be the same
Will you use the faith you've found To reshape the world around
Through My sight and touch and sound In you and you in Me

Lord Your summons echoes true When You but call my name
Let me turn and follow You And never be the same
In Your company I'll go Where Your love and footsteps show
Thus I'll move and live and grow In You and You in me

CCLI Song # 4668756

Graham Maule | John L. Bell

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The Summons

♩ = 140

VERSE

F

C⁷

Dm

Gm⁷



1. Will you come and fol - low Me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, Your sum - mons ech - oes true when You but call

6

C^{sus}

C

F

C⁷

Dm



your name? _____ Will you go where you don't know and nev - er
your name? _____ Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er
your name? _____ Will you set the pris - 'ners free and nev - er
your name? _____ Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er
my name? _____ Let me turn and fol - low You and nev - er

13

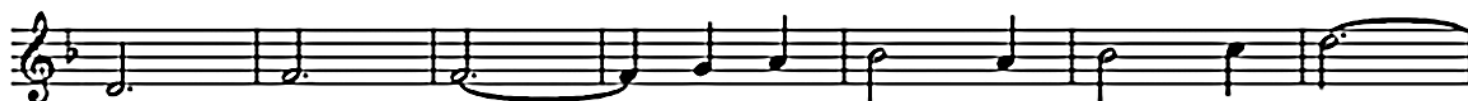
Gm⁷

B^b/C

F

Gm⁷

B^b



be the same? _____ Will you let My love be shown, _____
be the same? _____ Will you risk the hos - tile stare _____
be the same? _____ Will you kiss the lep - er clean, _____
be the same? _____ Will you use the faith you've found _____
be the same? _____ In Your com - pa - ny I'll go _____

20

Am⁷

B^b/6

C^{sus}

C

F



— will you let My name be known? _____ Will you let My
— should your life at - tract or scare? _____ Will you let Me
— and do such as this un - seen, _____ and ad - mit to

26

C⁷

Dm

Gm⁷

B^b/C

F



life be grown in you and you in Me? _____
an - swer prayer in you and you in Me? _____
what I mean in you and you in Me? _____
touch and sound in you and you in Me? _____
live and grow in You and You in me. _____

Unison Benediction

Trust in God in the wilderness.
Hope in God through the wilderness.
Follow God beyond the wilderness.
With the assurance that God makes the ground holy,
Hears the cries of the people,
And comes near to the suffering,
Join the work of deliverance,
Believe in the possibility of a just world
And work toward its realization.
Go, in peace and determination,
To serve and love God and all creation.

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