

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church, UCC
March 31st, 2024 – Resurrection Day - Easter Sunday
Easter Communion
“Empty Tomb”



Centering Words

(Psalm 118, Mark 16)

*Are you searching tombs and memories for Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified?
Open your eyes to wonder. Our God is full of surprises.*



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 and Amazon Fire
TV**

Bethel Congregational Church, UCC

Sunday – March 31st , 2024

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive) *(Acts 10, Psalm 118, 1 Corinthians 15, Mark 16)*

ONE: The tomb is dark, but empty

MANY: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness

ONE: The stone has been rolled away

MANY: The one you are looking for has overcome death

ONE: The burial clothes are put aside

MANY: The one you are looking for is alive!

ONE: Christ is Risen!

MANY: Christ is Risen Indeed!

Let us worship our Risen Savior!

Unison Invocation *(Acts 10, Psalm 118, 1 Corinthians 15)*

**God, just as you raised Jesus from the dead,
you offer us new and transformed lives in the risen Christ.**

**We rejoice and give thanks for this good news,
which has been handed down to us
from generation to generation.**

**May we, too, be witnesses of Jesus,
who you anointed with the Holy Spirit
to bring blessings of mercy and healing.**

**May we be witnesses of Jesus' suffering and death,
and how he meets us in the broken places of our lives.**

**Most of all, may we be witnesses of the resurrection,
sharing your promise of forgiveness and grace with all people.**

This is your doing, O God.

It is marvelous in our eyes. Amen.

1 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!
Yours the scepter, yours the throne!
Alleluia! Yours the triumph,
yours the victory alone!
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus out of every nation
you've redeemed us by your blood.

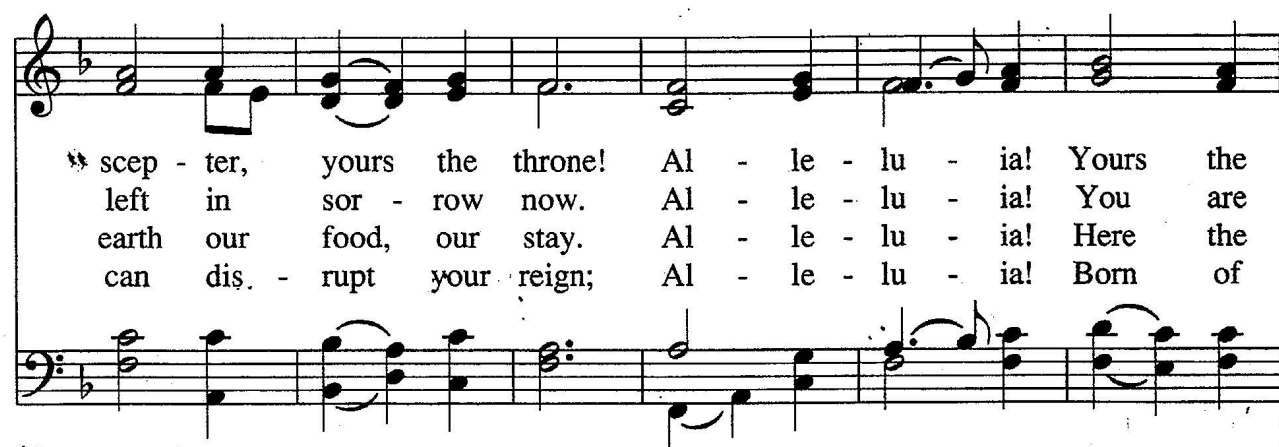
2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! You are near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received you,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget your promise, "I am with you evermore."

3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
you on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heaven
will repeat your gracious plea.

4 Alleluia! Christ eternal,
nothing can disrupt your reign;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
heaven and earth are your domain.
Human life you fully entered,
tending those we count the least,
serving both as Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

*Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 9:11-14**William C. Dix, 1867; alt.*


1 Al - le - lu - ia! Gra - cious Je - sus! Yours the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing



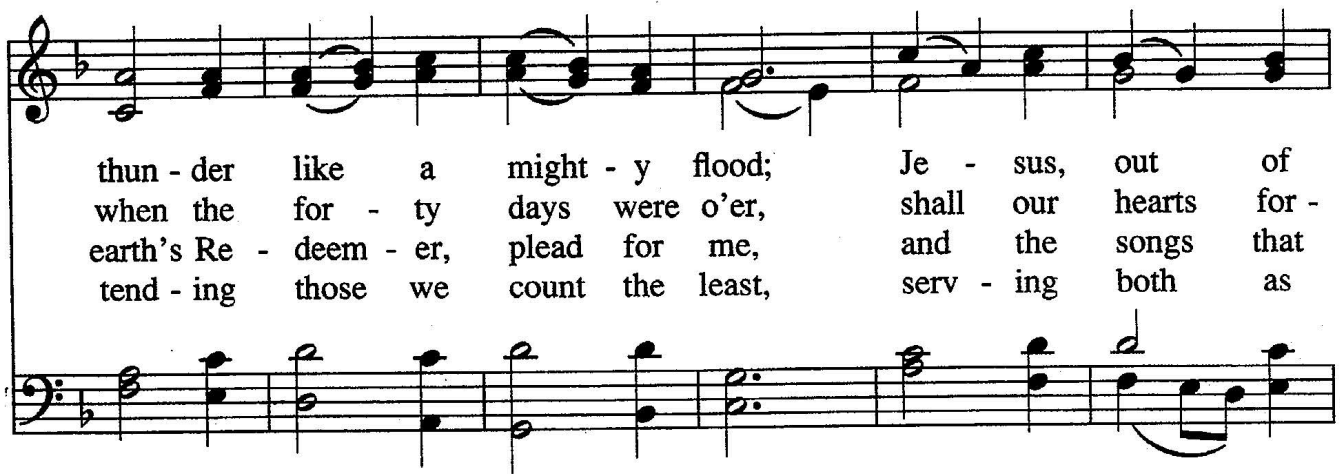
scep - ter, yours the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the
 left in sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! You are
 earth our food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 can dis - rupt your reign; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of



tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!
 near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful flee to you from day to day.
 Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.



Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered,



thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus, out of
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
 earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, and the songs that
 tend - ing those we count the least, serv - ing both as



ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.
 get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
 sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.
 Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

William C. Dix, manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted writer who made a significant contribution to hymnody. This hymn was written to fill a need for communion hymns in Church of England hymnals.

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Passing the Peace

Welcome/Announcements

- Spiritual Studies resumes April 3rd
- Candlelight Concerts April 5 and 6; 12 and 13 (Evenings)
- Southland Jazz Orchestra Concert – Saturday April 20 4pm
- Southland Wind Ensemble Concert – Saturday April 27 4pm
- Saturday May 4 - Music and Arts Student Recital 2pm (?) Cello Recital (Garibaldi Caputo) 5pm (?)
- Sunday May 5 - Southland Symphony Season Final with Ruslan Biryukv – 4pm

*Special Music

Up from the Grave He Arose
 by Robert Lowry

Dalton Thomas

Children's' Time

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

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.

Isaiah 25:6-9**George Osorio**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Mark 16:1-8**Pastor Sylvia**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

SERMON*Empty Tomb***Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

PRAYER OF YEARNING (Unison) *(Acts 10, 1 Corinthians 15, Mark 16)*

Risen Jesus, how we long to proclaim the good news
we have received—
you are risen,
the tomb is empty,
and you are present with your friends.
Remind us not to look for you
in the places where we lost you—
our grief,
our failure,
the death all around us.
For you have been raised.
You are not trapped in some tomb.
Help us proclaim your resurrection
with confidence this day.
Flawed as we are, help us perceive
how deeply we are loved,
for your grace and mercy never fail. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved of God, the grace of God is with you,
and God's grace has not been in vain.
Receive forgiveness and mercy
through the name of Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayers – *Call to mind the joys and concerns on your heart*

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 to Communion

Communion Prayer

Unison

Jesus our Host, we yearn for your Communion;
we yearn for the hope of new life;
we yearn to meet you here.
And yet, despite your invitation,
we find ourselves stumbling on our way.
Forgive us.
Hear now in silence
the confessions of your people.
(Silence)

Words of Assurance (Acts 10:43)

Responsive

Hear the good news!
“All the prophets testify about him
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name!”
In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven!
***In the name of the risen Christ,
you are forgiven! Glory to God!
Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving

Responsive

May the God of wondrous deeds be with you!
And also with you!
Let us give thanks to our God.
We lift our whole hearts to God, holding nothing back.
Join in praising God, who is merciful and gracious.
**In the company of our friends and fellow followers,
we rejoice in the one who is our God.**

Preface (Pastor)

Sanctus All: Santo, Santo, Santo NCH – 793

¡Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Dios.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God!

The musical score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) in 6/8 time. The first system contains the first two lines of the song, with lyrics in Spanish and English. The second system contains the next two lines. Chord symbols (C, G7, F, Am) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi / Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My / cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios. / heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor

Proclamation

Unison

Christ has died. Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

Preparing the Bread and Cup Responsive

The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the people of God - Come, the table is ready

Distribution

Post-Communion Prayer ***Unison.***

We give thanks, loving God,
that you have refreshed us at your table.

Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.

We give thanks, O God,

That you have poured out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on
these gifts of bread and cup.

Make us lovers and tellers of your word.

Make us healers and bestowers of your grace.

And make us one body in Jesus Christ.

As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became
bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice,
transformation, and hope. Amen.

Call to the Offering - Invitation

Dr. Mann

Friends, God has opened the gates of righteousness. Let us accept God's invitation and offer gifts of thanksgiving in Christ's name.

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 the 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

Scan. Pay. Go.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (Unison)

(Acts 10, Psalm 118, 1 Corinthians 15)

Holy God, thank you for your goodness and mercy,
especially for the good news
of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
May these offerings, and indeed our very lives,
become a witness to all people
of the salvation and grace,
you bring into the world. Amen.

***Singing into Mission** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* **NCH 233**

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia
Where, O death is now your sting? Alleluia
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia
God has opened paradise, Alleluia

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.



1 Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
 2 Let the Vic-tor's peo-ple sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
 3 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!

Mor-tal tongues and an-gels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!

Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Dy-ing once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re-ly: Al-le-lu-ia!
 Where your vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
 God has o-pened par-a-dise, Al-le-lu-ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Benediction (Responsive)

L: Do not look for the risen Jesus only here,
in the confines of a building.

**P: We will seek the risen Jesus on the roads and in the streets,
in all the pathways and byways of our lives.**

L: Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the unfamiliar

P: We know that Resurrection makes all things new!

L: Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit, but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:

P: Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!

L: Christ is Risen Indeed!

All: Alleluia and amen!

(Go in Peace and Joy)



Bethel Ontario Online
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 9:55am
on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)
Also available on [Roku](#) and [Amazon Fire TV](#).

**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.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

FORGIVE OFTEN.

REJECT RACISM.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

EMBRACE DIVERSITY.

LOVE GOD.

Enjoy this life.