

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

May 3, 2026 – 5th Sunday of Easter

“The Way”



Centering Words (John 14)

*Trusting God sounds so simple, but trust is a journey.
Join the journey toward trust, for Christ will 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 – May 3, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*inspired by Psalm 31*)

One: In You, Holy One, we seek sanctuary.

In you, Sovereign God, we seek refuge.

Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress.

Our times are in your hands. Strengthen us in your righteousness.

Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

One: Shine upon us this day as we worship you. Saturate us in your steadfast love.

Many: Holy One, for your name's sake lead us and guide us.

Unison Opening Prayer

Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house,
a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world
to declare your goodness, to follow in your way,
to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart
Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence.
Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your
people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

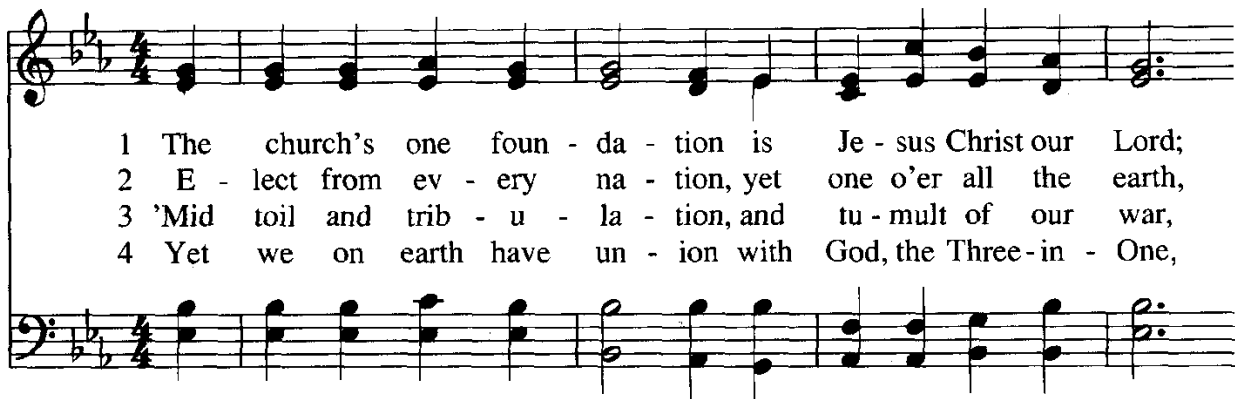
1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.

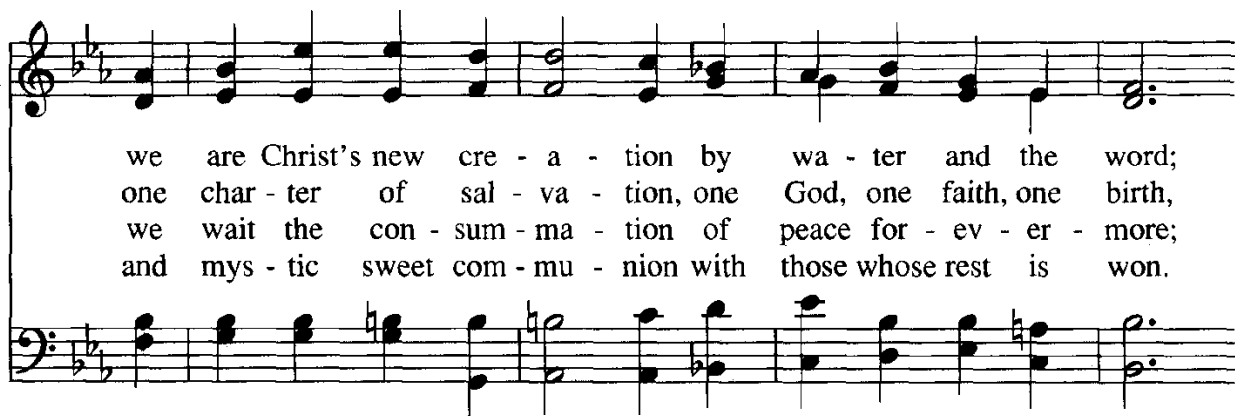
3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore,
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

4 Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

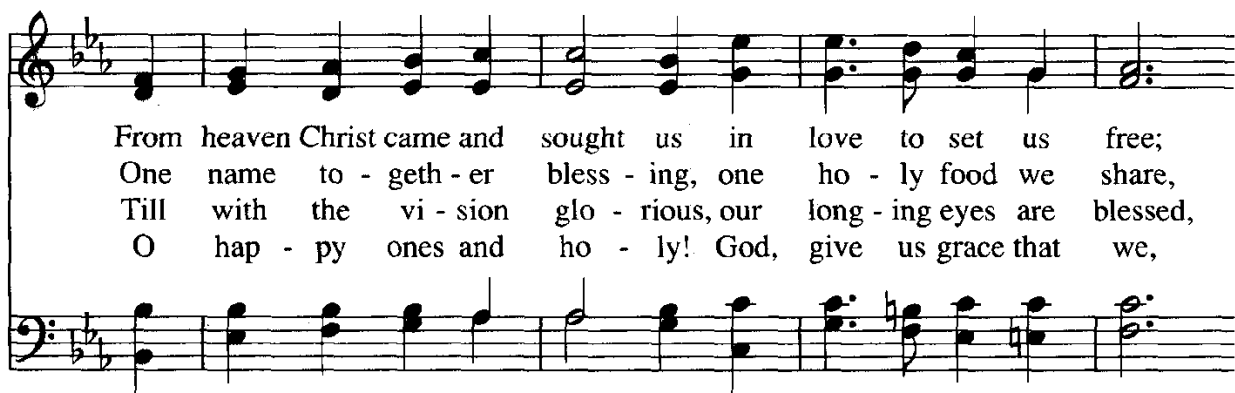
The Church's One Foundation

*Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*


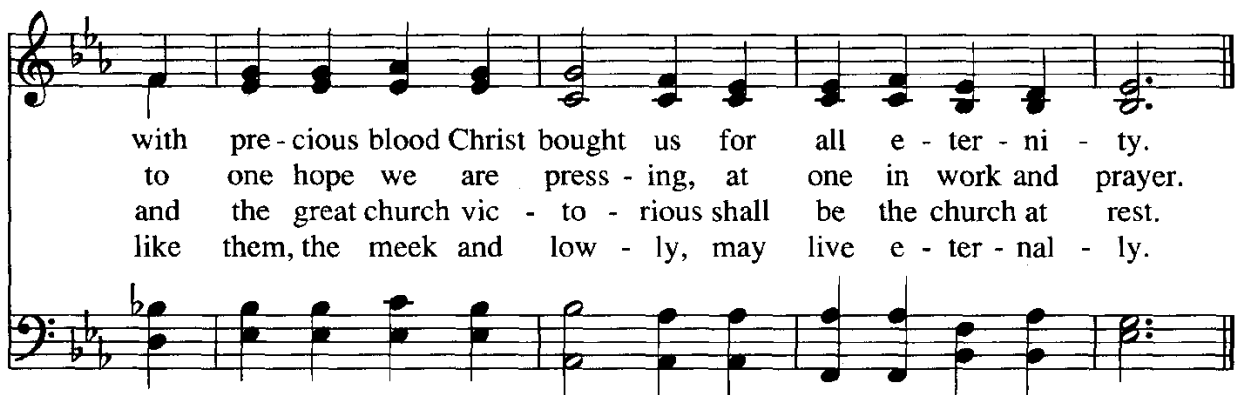
1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,



we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,



with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays – 2nd Tuesdays:** Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (“The Tears of Things” by Richard Rohr. Next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday of May (May 12)
- **Wednesdays – 4:30pm** – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement).
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – evenings** SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –SSO Rehearsals
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - Southland Wind Ensemble – Saturday May 9 at 4pm;
 - Southland Symphony – Saturday May 16 at 4pm

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

Children’s Time

* Gloria

Kids’ Video

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 includes a treble clef staff with a vocal line and a bass clef staff with a guitar accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

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.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Unison

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me;
Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me,
O LORD, faithful God.
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Gospel Reading**John 14:1-14****Dr. Mann**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Sermon**"The Way"****Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

Prayer of Yearning (*Acts 7, Psalm 31, 1 Peter 2*)

Mighty God, we want to be brave,
but it's tempting to be small and afraid.
Lift us up when we fall down.
Protect us from our own doubts and fears.
Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace,
that we might find the courage and strength
to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous.
Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household,
your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy.
In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Acts 7, Psalm 31, John 14*)

God's faithful love is true, and God's strength is enough.
Rest in God's love and trust in God's strength,
for these gifts are all we need.

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

Bethel serves an open communion table – all are welcome!

Invitation (Pastor)

Prayer of Blessing and Consecration

Words of Remembrance

Sharing of the Elements - All are invited to partake at God's table

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.
Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.
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.**

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.



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

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, may the gifts that we bring reflect the image we bear.

Be glorified through our generosity and the meeting of needs among and beyond us. Amen.

Lord prepare me, to be a Sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
 With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.

154

Sanctuary

Words and Music by
 JOHN THOMPSON and RANDY SCRUGGS

♩ = 46

D/A Em/A D A

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, — pure and

G Em7 D A *optional* F#m/A Em/A D *Last time Repeat*

ho - ly, tried and true; — With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a

A G Em7 *optional* F#m/A A7 D

liv - ing — sanc - tu - ar - y for — You.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics. The second system covers the second line of lyrics and includes handwritten annotations: 'optional' above the F#m/A chord and 'Last time Repeat' above the final D chord. The third system covers the third line of lyrics and includes another 'optional' annotation above the F#m/A chord. The guitar accompaniment uses a variety of chords including D/A, Em/A, D, G, Em7, F#m/A, and A7. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 46.

Unison Benediction

Let not your hearts be troubled.
Believe in the power of God in you and through you.
Do the work of loving God, neighbor, and self.
Do the work of holding the complexity of life in tension
with compassion and care.
Do the work of believing a future with hope is possible.
Do the work of nurturing that hope into a vision and vision into reality.
Do the work of glorifying God by following the way of Christ
and praying with our lives.
Do the works. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon



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

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann
Pastor & Minister of Music
drmann@bethelucontario.org
(626) 393-5507

Live Stream Worship Sundays at 10 am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#)

**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.*