

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

April 4, 2026 –Resurrection

Easter Sunday



Centering Words (John 20)

Turn your eyes to the heavens. Turn your gaze to hope and life. For in hope and life, we find Jesus, the Risen Christ who shines in our midst with the light of heaven above.



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 – April 4, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Musicians

Call to Worship

LEADER: Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

PEOPLE: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

LEADER: Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

PEOPLE: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

LEADER: God has transformed a dead end into a new start!

PEOPLE: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

LEADER: Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

PEOPLE: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Unison Opening Prayer (*John 20, Acts 10*)

God of mystery and might,
on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain,
you surprise us with the light
of your wondrous love.
We come to the tomb expecting death,
but find life instead.
Take us back to that moment,
when fear was healed by hope
and death was banished by life.
In the holy awe of Easter morning,
may our sing out our joy,
for Christ, our Lord, has risen today! 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.

Welcome, Passing the Peace – Announcements

Bienvenida – Saludo de la Paz – Anuncios

- **Sundays** – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am)
- **Tuesdays** – 7pm SSO Chorus Rehearsals
- **Wednesdays** – 4:30pm – OYS; 6pm Scouts(basement). 3rd Wednesdays 7pm(April 15) – Spiritual Studies w/ Rev. Heather Miner (*"The Tears of Things"* by Richard Rohr.)
- **Thursdays 10am** - Qi-Gong/Tai Chi
- **Fridays – evenings** SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** –SSO Rehearsals
- **Upcoming Concerts**
 - Southland Symphony Orchestra and Chorus – Sunday April 12 4pm

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

Special Music

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.

Acts 10:34-43 (The Message)

Peter fairly exploded with his good news: “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he’s doing it everywhere, among everyone.

“You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

“And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn’t put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets.”

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

Dr. Mann

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.

Sermon

Leaving the Tomb

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy Love, in every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end. May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you, and to end the ways in which we are complacent and complicit in the world. Empower us to leave those things in the tomb and follow your trail. Jesus, you have demonstrated the path of your blessed community, keep us on the road of abundant and transformed life as revived and encouraged participants in your resurrected and glorified body. Grant us grace when the realities of life overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire us in the past. For the newness of life, we pray.

Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.

Words of Grace

Prayers of the People (Joys and Concerns)

Time

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 (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 (*Matthew 28:1-10*)

God of New Beginnings, you roll away more than stones.

You roll away despair and doubt, fear and failure.

On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ.

Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently – eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve.

May what we give today help announce to the world that hope is alive, love has triumphed, and joy cannot be contained.

Use us and what we offer to keep telling the story:

Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation

One: On the night of betrayal, denial, and desertion, Jesus prepared his disciples for life beyond the tomb. He demonstrated with wine and bread what he would later perform in his flesh and blood.

Many: Jesus wanted them to remember and to understand his solidarity and his sacrifice.

One; Jesus still prepares a place for each and all of us at this table. Will you come?

Many: In awe and wonder, humility and thanksgiving, we come to the table to feast with the Risen One.

Words of Institution

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Distribution of the Elements

(you may come forward as you wish to receive communion) *(all eat and drink)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Unison

Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. As we receive bread and cup, may we encounter your grace and be filled with your love. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world. By your spirit, we pray. Amen

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 - ply: 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

Responsive Benediction

LEADER: From darkness and death,
we find light and life.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

LEADER: From doubt and despair,
we find faith and hope.

PEOPLE: Christ is with us now! Shout for joy!

LEADER: From dead ends and overgrown paths,
we find new beginnings and clear vistas.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Postlude

Carillon



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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.*