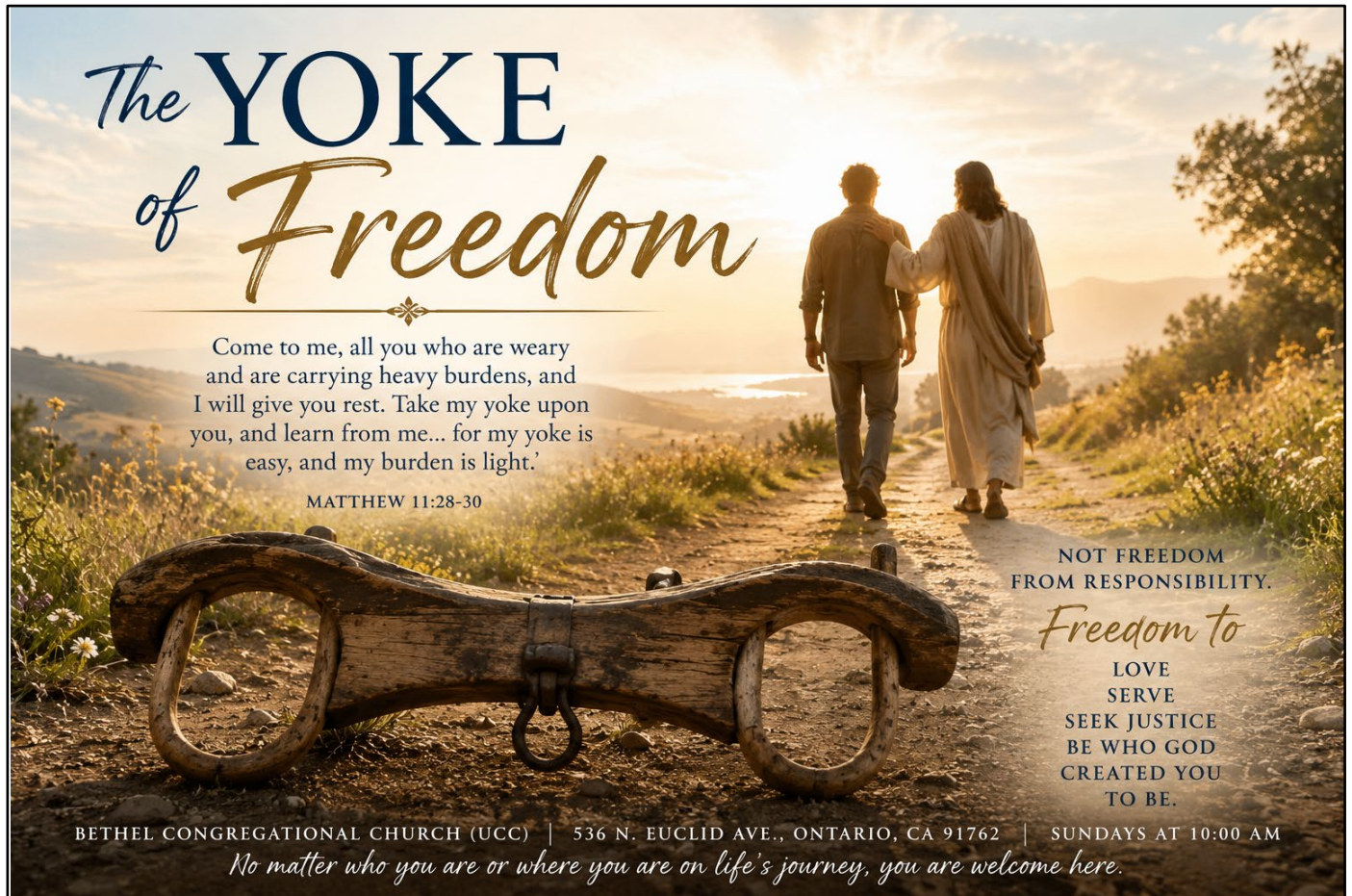


Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

July 5, 2026 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

“The Yoke of Freedom”



The **YOKE**
of Freedom

Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and
I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon
you, and learn from me... for my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light.'

MATTHEW 11:28-30

NOT FREEDOM
FROM RESPONSIBILITY.
Freedom to
LOVE
SERVE
SEEK JUSTICE
BE WHO GOD
CREATED YOU
TO BE.

BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (UCC) | 536 N. EUCLID AVE., ONTARIO, CA 91762 | SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

www.betheluccontario.org

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am : Facebook, YouTube, Twitch, Twitter

Also available 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 – July 5, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship

One: In joy and gladness, enter the presence of the Sovereign One who rules and reigns over all creation. Worship the Holy One!

Many: The voice of the Holy One is powerful and gracious, loving and challenging, compassionate and convicting.

One: In joy and gladness, receive the fresh wind of the Spirit who ignites our hearts and connects us to one another. Worship the Holy Spirit!

Many: The voice of the Holy Spirit gives wisdom, discernment, comfort, and confirmation.

One: In joy and gladness, follow the path of the Embodied One. Worship God With Us!

Many: The voice of God With Us models for us what to say and how to live. Praise God!

Unison Opening Prayer

God of all nations and all peoples,
bless us as we gather in your name.

Open us to vessels in building your blessed community
and spreading the good news of life and liberty.

May we drink from the well of your abundance.

May our cups overflow with your love.

May our hearts burn in your presence.

Be with us in this time and place. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

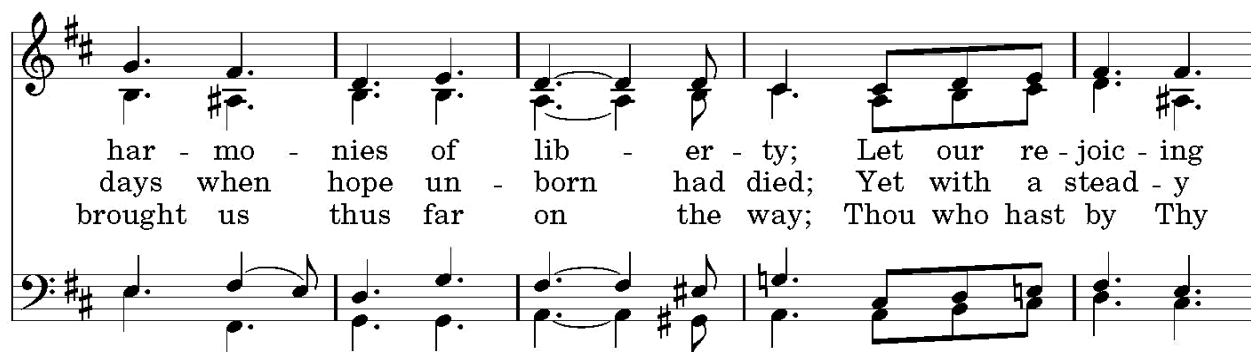
3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1. Lift ev-'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the
2. Ston-y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas-t'ning rod, Felt in the
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast



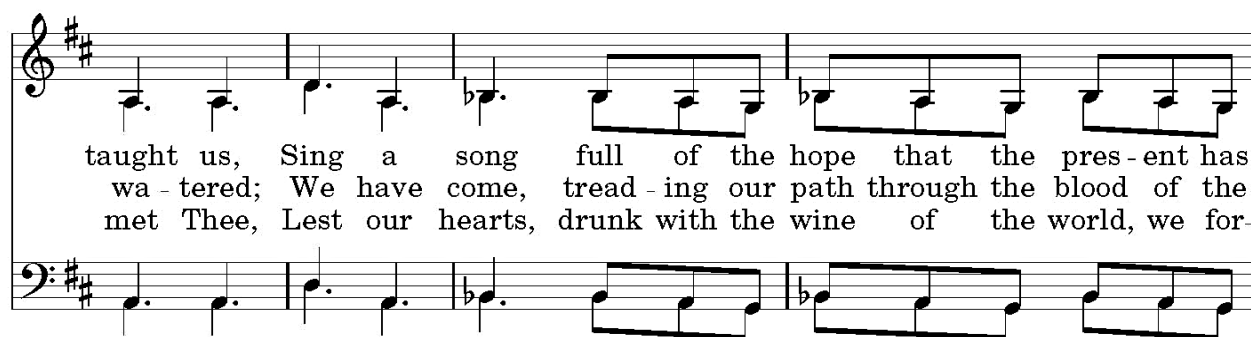
har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy



rise High as the lis - t'ning skies, Let it re-sound loud as the
beat, Have not our wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our
might, Led us in - to the light, Keep us for ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we



taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for-

Lift Every Voice and Sing

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lift Every Voice and Sing'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new day be -
slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we stand at
get Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for ev - er

gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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**

Special Music

We'll Build a Land

Pop-Up Choir

Children's Time

The Fiery Furnace

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.

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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.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for guitar and voice. It is in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system (measures 1-4) has chords C, G/D, C, G/B, G, C, G/B, and Am/C. The lyrics are 'Glo - ry to the Cre - a - tor, the Christ the Ho - ly Spi - rit'. The second system (measures 5-8) has chords G/D, D⁷, G, C, G⁷, and G⁷. The lyrics are 'three in one; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er'. The third system (measures 9-12) has chords C, G, G/F, C/E, C/G, G⁷, and C. The lyrics are 'shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Psalm 145: 8-14

Responsive

L: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

L: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.

P: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

L: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

P: The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Dr. Mann

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Sermon

"The Yoke of Freedom"

Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One, we come before you from different perspectives. Some come in a spirit of celebration. Others bring lament and despair. All of us benefit from the power of transformed lives, individually, relationally, and communally. We pray in the assurance that new life is available. We ask for the strength, courage, and persistence to seek your blessed community, peace, justice and righteousness in any and all circumstances and for all people and creation. Amen.

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Words of Assurance

The God of the covenant is still with us. By the power of the Spirit, we receive the fruit necessary to fuel our shared commitment and commission to building the world as God would have it over the world we inherit. God has given us everything we need to contribute, including the community of faith so that we do not labor alone.

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

Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring your light and love 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)

The Holy One gives gifts beyond measure or compare. The Holy One gives with abundance and generosity. The Holy has provided for every need and invites us to ensure equitable, faithful, and mutual sharing so that no one needs to experience a lack of resources. Let us give from the well of abundance to honor God's faithfulness and to demonstrate trust in God's provision

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 & Thanksgiving

Giving God, make us a people who not only receive your gifts,
but empower us to give in mutual measure
so that all needs are met.

Bless these gifts and amplify their impact
as a witness to your goodness
and so all may flourish in your name. Amen.

Singing into Mission *This Land Is Your Land*

Words & Music by Woody Guthrie

*This land is your land, 'n this land is my land
From California to the New York Island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.*

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway;
I saw below me that golden valley;
This land was made for you and me.

*This land is your land, 'n this land is my land
From California to the New York Island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.*

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;
And all around me a voice was sounding;
This land was made for you and me.

*This land is your land, 'n this land is my land
From California to the New York Island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.*

When the sun comes shining and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
As the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting,
This land was made for you and me

*This land is your land, 'n this land is my land
From California to the New York Island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.*

THIS LAND

Lyrics by Woody Guthrie
Melody traditional

(Chorus)

This land is your land 'n this land is
my land, From Ca - li - for - nia to the New York
is - land, From the redwood fo - rest, to the gulf stream
wa - ters: This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
And I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley:
This land was made for you and me. (Chorus)

I roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
And all around me a voice was sounding:
This land was made for you and me. (Chorus)

When the sun come shining and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling;
As the fog was lifting; a voice was chanting
This land was made for you and me. (Chorus)

This land is your land 'n this land is my land,
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest, to the gulf stream waters: This
land was made for you and me. (Chorus)

Unison Benediction

As you go,
Celebrate liberty and pursue justice
Pray for the land on which you are planted
And open space for neighbors seeking a home
Remember the challenges and blessings of the past
Work for the promise and hope of the future
Knowing that the God of the Covenant
Lives, reigns, and abides with us
As the journey continues
Go in peace and go for peace
To love and to serve. AMEN

Postlude

Carillon



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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.*

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