

# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

December 7, 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Peace

“READY FOR PEACE”



## *Centering Words*

*(Isaiah 11)*

*A righteous branch grows out of the root of Jesse—a branch that brings justice and peace. Let us prepare our hearts to receive the blessings of this branch in our lives and in our world.*



[www.betheluccontario.org](http://www.betheluccontario.org)

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 9:55am

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Bethel Congregational Church, UCC  
Sunday – December 7, 2025

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

**Call to Worship**     *Lighting of the Second Advent Candle*

Reader 1: On the Second Advent Sunday, we light two candles.  
We come to this season with those precious to us,  
gifts of peace God has unwrapped in our lives –  
family or friend, near or distant, living or remembered.

**People: We light a candle of our deepest hopes (pause, light)  
and a candle for the peace we have learned  
from one or more whom we trust. (pause, light)**

Reader 2: Isaiah the prophet looks to a time  
when people who walk in uncertainty  
will hold hands and walk forward  
with God's starlight to guide.

**People: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come.  
Touch a flame of hope and peace on the wick of our lives  
so that we may shine all around us. Amen**

**Unison Opening Prayer**

God of hope and peace, as we worship you this day,  
may we catch a glimpse of your peace;  
may we open ourselves to receive your grace;  
may we welcome one another,  
as you have welcomed us;  
may we prepare hearts and our lives,  
for Christ to be born in us once again.  
And when our worship is done,  
may we be renewed in body and spirit,  
prepared to bring your righteousness and justice  
to the world.  
In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

## Gathering Hymn:

## O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1-3)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Child of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's own shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

O come, Desire of Nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!*

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran-som cap - tive  
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir-its by Thine  
3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peoples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -  
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And  
heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em -  
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## Welcome, Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events

- ***Sundays – Worship! (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am***
- ***Tuesdays – 7pm SSO Chorus***
- ***Wednesdays - 5 – 6:30pm OYS. 6pm Scouts(basement).***
- ***Thursdays 10am - Qi-Gong ;***
- ***Fridays – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)***
- ***Saturdays –SSO Rehearsals (mornings); FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2***
- ***Sunday Dec 7 at 4pm – “MESSIAH” – Southland Symphony; Wed Dec 10 6pm OYS Concert***

## Children's Time

## 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.

## 71                      Glory to the Creator

5

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Gloria 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.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.  
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;  
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Matthew 3:1-12****Pastor Sylvia**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,  
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”  
This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his[b] baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**Sermon**

*Ready for Peace*

Dr. Mann

### **Responsive Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Let us pray for the Spirit of Wisdom to rest upon us

**A spirit of understanding and knowledge**

**Grant us to live in harmony**

**God's mercy prevail**

Let us pray for God's steadfastness to gird our spirit

**May peace prevail like lamb and wolf**

**Grant us to live in harmony**

**God's mercy prevail**

Let us pray, for voices crying out in the wilderness

**Women living in fear, children hiding**

**Grant all a place of harmony**

**God's mercy prevail**

Let us pray, repent of harm done to the innocent

**Clear the chaff of abuse and hurt**

**Bear the Spirit of harmony**

**God's mercy prevail**

Let us pray for the God of hope, joy and peace to fill

**All hearts, one voice glorify**

**God, prepare the way**

**God's mercy prevail**

## **Prayers of the People**

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

## **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**

### **Prayer of Blessing and Consecration**

### **Words of Remembrance**

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

### **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. 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)**

**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).*

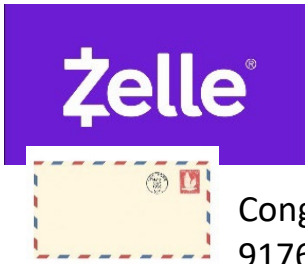
**Give online** at [www.bethelucanario.org](http://www.bethelucanario.org),



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** 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@bethelucanario.org](mailto:info@bethelucanario.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 and Dedication of the Gifts

Abundant God, your blessings and righteousness  
are bountiful in our lives.

May these gifts bear good fruit as they go forth,  
that peace may come, that creation may be healed,  
and that those who cry for justice may be heard. Amen.

## \*Singing into Mission

## Peace, Peace (*Sing 2 times*)

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all

This is a time for joy This is a time for love

Now let us all sing together  
of peace, peace, peace on earth

## Unison Benediction

Let us go forth knowing that we are led by God,  
that we are held by God, that we are loved by God.  
Let us know that God empowers us as  
God holds and leads and loves us;  
And knowing all that, Let us stand as a signal  
That the glory of God dwells with us now and forever more.

**Go with God**

**Go in Peace**

**Amen**

## Postlude

## Carillon



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

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