

# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

March 8, 2026 – “Thirsty”

3rd Sunday of Lent



## *Centering Words*

*(Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4)*

*Water gushes from a rock. Living waters well up to eternal life.  
Come and drink deeply. Taste and see that our God is good.*

*Some portions of today's worship are offered in both English and Spanish.  
A bilingual participation guide is available inside the bulletin.*

*Algunas partes del culto de hoy se ofrecerán en inglés y español.  
Una guía bilingüe de participación se encuentra dentro del boletín.*



[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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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 – March 8, 2026

**Prelude**

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

**Call to Worship**

**ONE:** Worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

**MANY:** Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**ONE:** We are the sheep of God's pasture.

**MANY:** We are the lambs of God's flock.

**ONE:** Listen, all who are thirsty!

**MANY:** God bathes us in the waters of life.

**ONE:** Take heed, all who are weary and heavy laden.

**MANY:** Christ offers us living waters to drink.

**ONE:** Pay attention, all who need the healing of God's Spirit.

**MANY:** The Spirit renews our lives.

**ONE:** Listen for the word of God.

**MANY:** Come! Let us worship the Lord.

**Responsive Opening Prayer** (*Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4*)

**ONE:** Living water, flow through our hearts today.

Quench our thirst in our desert wanderings,  
and strengthen us for the road ahead.

**MANY:** Spring of eternal life, well up within us.

Wash away our fears and sweep aside the hurdles  
that keep our hearts from embracing life  
and from renewing our spirits in your grace.

**ONE:** Bathe us in your fountain of eternal life,  
that our spirits may flow with faith and love,  
through the power of your eternal Spirit.

**MANY:** Give us the confidence to share the good news  
of your mercy and compassion with everyone we meet.  
In the promise of your grace, we pray.

Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:**

***Fill My Cup Lord***

1. Like the woman at the well, I was seeking  
For things that could not satisfy.  
And then I heard my Savior speaking—  
"Draw from My well that never shall run dry."  
*Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up Lord;  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.  
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.*

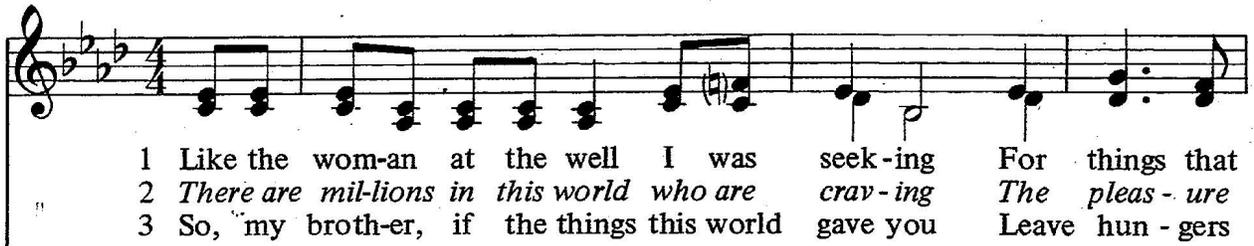
2. There are millions in this world who are seeking  
For pleasures earthly goods afford.  
But none can match the wondrous treasure  
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.  
*Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up Lord;  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.  
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.*

3. So my brother if the things that this world gives you  
Leave hungers that won't pass away,  
My blessed Lord will come and save you  
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray.  
*Fill my cup, Lord; I lift it up Lord;  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.  
Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more.  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.*

## Fill My Cup, Lord

*I will take the cup of my salvation. . . . — Psalm 116:13*

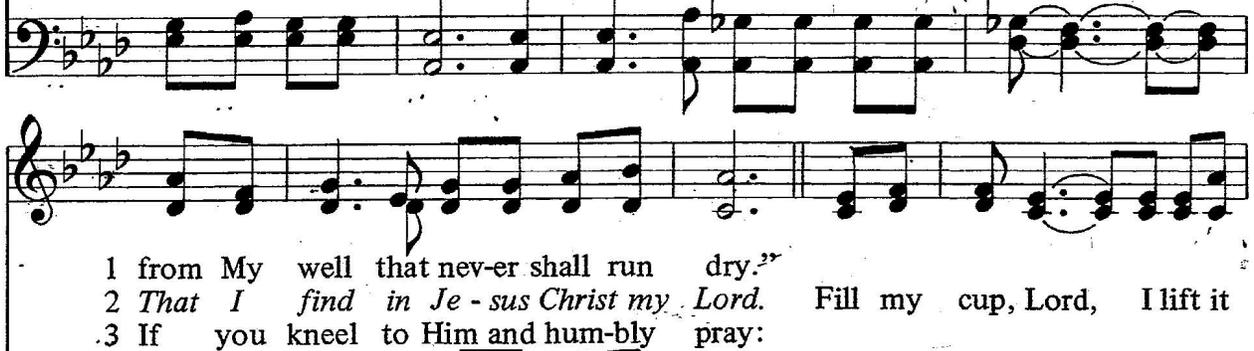
Richard Blanchard

FILL MY CUP  
Richard Blanchard


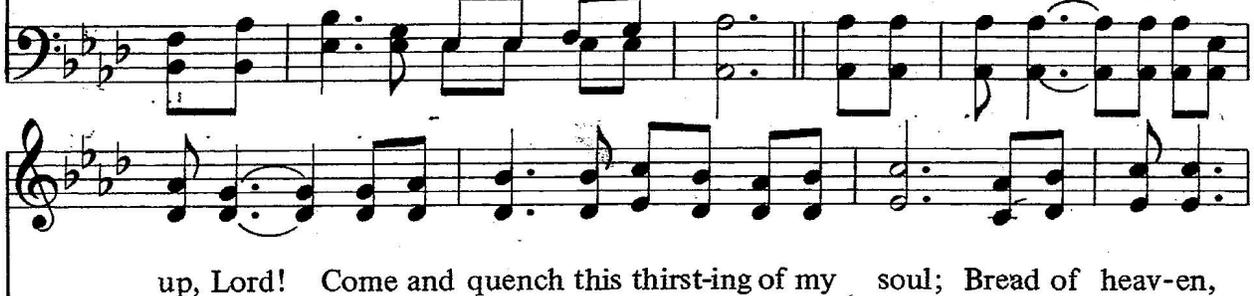
1 Like the wom-an at the well I was seek-ing For things that  
2 *There are mil-lions in this world who are crav-ing The pleas-ure*  
3 So, my broth-er, if the things this world gave you Leave hun-gers



1 could not sat-is- - fy; And then I heard my Sav-ior speak-ing: "Draw  
2 *earth-ly things af-ford; But none can match the won-drous treas-ure*  
3 that won't pass a-way, My bless-ed Lord will come and save you,



1 from My well that nev-er shall run dry."  
2 *That I find in Je-sus Christ my Lord.* Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it  
3 If you kneel to Him and hum-bly pray:



up, Lord! Come and quench this thirst-ing of my soul; Bread of heav-en,



feed me 'til I want no more—Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!



# 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). 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7pm(Mar 18) – 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 (mornings, resume March 21)
- **Upcoming Concerts**
  - Southland Jazz Orchestra - 4pm SATURDAY March 14;
  - Southland Wind Ensemble - 4pm SATURDAY March 21;
  - Southland Symphony Orchestra and Chorus – 4pm SUNDAY April 21.

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

Children’s Time

Jesus and the Woman at the Well

Kids Video

\*Gloria

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## Glory to the Creator

Musical score for "Glory to the Creator" in 4/4 time. The score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) has the lyrics "Glo-ry to the Cre -a -tor, the Christ the Ho- ly Spi- rit". The second system (measures 5-8) has the lyrics "three in one; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er". The third system (measures 9-12) has the lyrics "shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men." The piano accompaniment features chords and bass lines that support the vocal melody. Chord symbols are provided above the staff: 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.

## **Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**Gospel Reading****John 4:5-42****Dr. Mann**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.

And many more believed because of his word.

They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.

## **Prayer of Yearning** (*Exodus 17*)

Wellspring of salvation, quench our thirst this day.  
When our souls are parched,  
we long to taste the healing waters of your grace.  
When our spirits are as dry as desert sands,  
we yearn to find renewal in the well of your mercy and your love.  
Shower us in your living water that we may be washed clean in the river  
of your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.

## **Words of Assurance** (*John 4*)

Those whose souls drink of Christ's living water will never thirst again.  
Those who refresh themselves in Christ  
will have a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

## **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

## **Offering**

**Giving Options:** **In person** – *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)

**zelle**

Use **ZELLE** to send 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** - Bethel Congregational Church 536 N Euclid Ave, Ontario CA 91762.

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



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## **Blessing and Dedication of the Gifts** (*Exodus17, John 4*)

Eternal Spirit, Source of healing and wholeness,  
receive our grateful hearts for your many blessings.  
Transform the gifts we bring this day into  
Christ's promise of living water for the world.  
Bathe those who are touched by today's offering in your goodness and grace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Refrain:*

*Wade in the water,  
wade in the water, children,  
Wade in the water,  
God's gonna trouble the water.*

1 See that host all dressed in white,  
God's gonna trouble the water.  
The leader looks like the Israelite,  
God's gonna trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

2 See that band all dressed in red,  
God's gonna trouble the water.  
Looks like the band that Moses led,  
God's gonna trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

3 Look over yonder, what do I see?  
God's gonna trouble the water.  
the Holy Ghost a-coming on me,  
God's gonna trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

4 If you don't believe I've been redeemed,  
God's gonna trouble the water.  
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,  
God's gonna trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

# Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual

Dm A Dm

Wade in the wa - ter, Wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,

5 Dm Bb A Dm

Wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' a trou - ble the wa - ter.

9 Dm Bb

See that host all dressed in white, God's a - goin' a trou - ble the  
See that band all dressed in red,  
Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?  
If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

12 A Dm Dm Bb7 Dm

wa - ter. The lea - der looks like the Is - rae - lite.  
Looks like the band that Mo - ses led.  
The Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.  
Just fol - low me down to Jor - dan's stream.

15 Bb A Dm

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

## Unison Benediction (*Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4*)

Bathe in the river of God's love.  
Swim in the waters of Christ's baptism.  
Ride the ocean currents of the Holy Spirit.  
Be renewed in the warm springs of our 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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*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.*