

Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

August 9, 2026 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

“Storms and Walking on Water”



CENTERING WORDS (Matthew 14)

If you find yourself in raging waters, deep waters, do not fear.

Look . . . trust . . . your rescue is near



536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762
In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am

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 – August 9, 2026

Prelude

Music for Gathering

Sandy Gunn

Call to Worship (*Matthew 14*)

One: God moves among us.

Many: We welcome your presence, Lord, no matter by what means you arrive.

One: Reach out your hand and I shall always be with you.

Many: We reach for you, Jesus, and trust that you are present when we fear or ache.

One: Your presence, Oh Lord, calms the seas as it calms our hearts.

Many: May we rest assured that you are ever present with us, assuaging our worries as you love our anxieties into softness.

Unison Opening Prayer

Loving and Wonderful God, you make a home for us.

You provide us shelter and sanctuary. You embrace us and uphold us.

You come to us and go before us. You command us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey.

We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us.

We come to you now.

We search for your presence in this world, in this community, and in this gathering. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you.

Let us connect with you and be reminded of the path of full and flourishing life you offer.

Let us connect with one another and be reminded that your beloved community comes in us and through us for your glory.
Amen.

1 When peace like a river, upholds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul:

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

3 My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought -
my sin - not in part, but the whole -
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
"even so" - it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul;

it is well, it is well with my soul.

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When Peace, Like a River

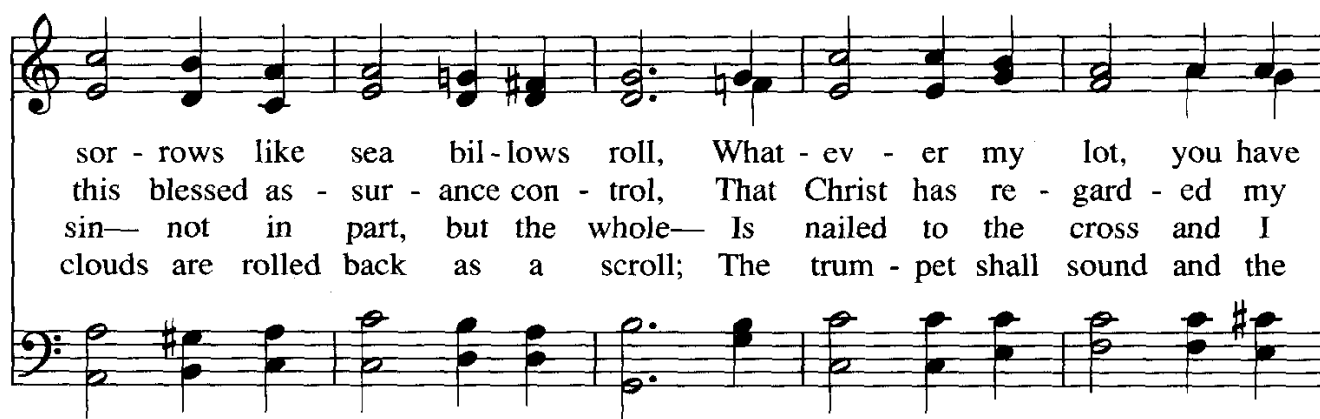
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

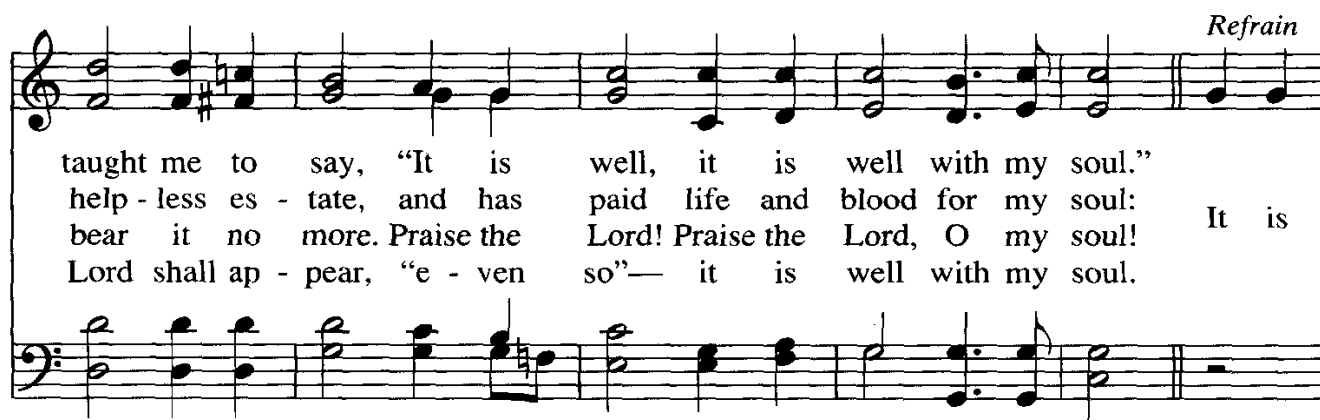
Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought—my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul:
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! It is
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

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**
- **August 30th – Special Offering “Save the Church”**
- **Sign up to join Bethel’s Relay Team!**
- **<https://secure.acsevents.org/goto/BethelOntario>**

Special Music

Pop-Up Choir

Children's Time

Jesus Walks on Water

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

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.

Genesis 37:1-4 ,12-28*(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)* Donna Saxton

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSVUE)

Pastor Sylvia

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Sermon

“Storms and Walking on Water”

Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*Unison*)

God our gentle parent, bring calm to the storms that batter us
and blow us off course. We do not need to walk on water;
we need only walk through our lives as whole and holy children
who recognize that your love unites us, buoys us,
and carries us forward to face miraculous challenges
in a complex world.

Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence
in order to focus on what is most important:
love, compassion, faith, and connection. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Matthew 14)

When the unexpected comes;
when the unthinkable overwhelms;
when our choices lead to despair;
remember the words of Jesus,
“Take heart, I AM, do not be afraid.”
Remember the grace of Jesus, reaching out,
raising us up.
Remember the power of Jesus,
the Son of the One, True, Living God.

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

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

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



Blessing of the Gifts *(Unison) (Matthew 14)*

Generous One, you reach down to raise us
from fear and death.

You reach down so that we may reach out
with your hope and help.

Bless, accept, and multiply this offering,
so many may know you, your saving power,
and your saving love. Amen.

Singing into Mission

Here I Am, Lord

I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go Lord, If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart

I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain
I have wept for love of them, They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go Lord, If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart

I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my Life to them, Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go Lord, If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart

Here I Am, Lord

based on Isaiah 6

Dan Schutte

with majesty ♩ = 80

11/29/10

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My peo - ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I who makes the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide, 'til their hearts are sat - is - fied.

Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? _____ HERE I
I will speak My word to them.
I will give My life to them.

AM, LORD. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have heard You

call - ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____ if You

lead me. _____ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart. _____

33 1, 2. 3.

Unison Benediction

Beloved of God,
go now in peace to make peace.
Go, reaching out in love,
extending the hand of grace
and life to those in need.
Go with the blessing and power of Almighty God—
Creator, Redeemer, Spirit. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon



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Pastor & Minister of Music
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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.*

www.bethelucanario.org