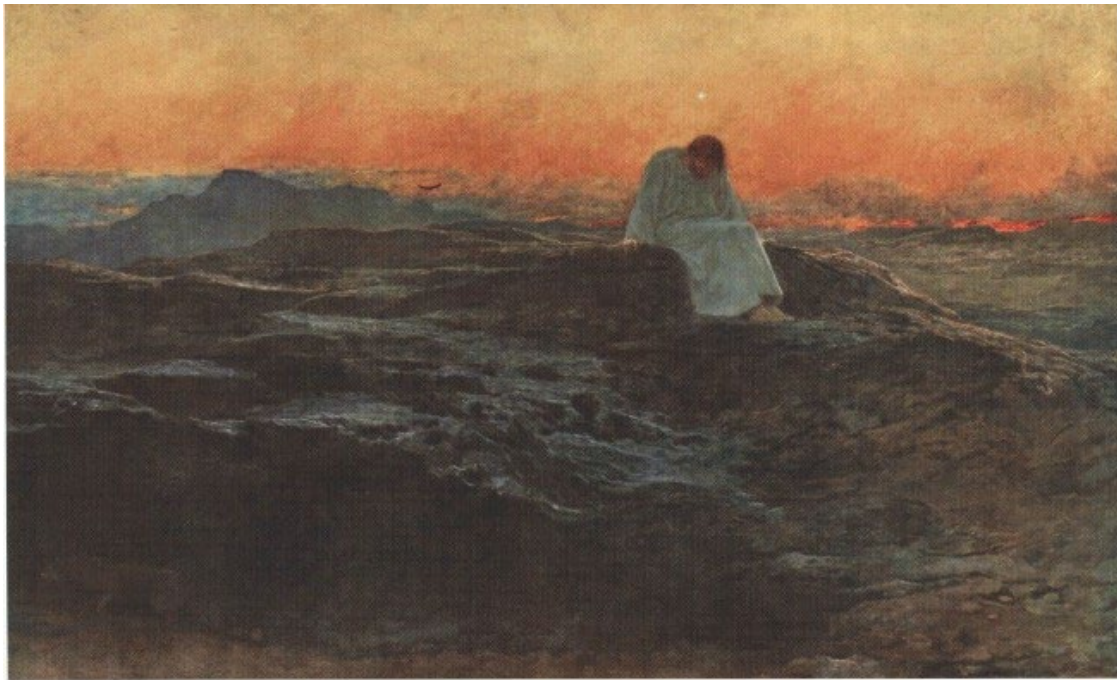


# Worship Bulletin - Bethel Congregational Church UCC

March 9, 2025 – First Sunday in Lent

“Trials in the Wilderness”



## **Centering Words**

*(Deuteronomy 26, Psalm 91, Luke 4)*

*God is our refuge and strength, our companion and guide. Leaning into this truth helps us find our way through difficult seasons of our lives.*



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

536 N Euclid Ave Ontario CA 91762

In Person & Live Streaming Sundays at 10am

Facebook, YouTube, Twitch;

Also available On Demand on Vimeo, Roku and Amazon Fire TV

**ANNUAL MEETING DAY!**

**Bethel Congregational Church, UCC**  
**Sunday – March 9, 2025**

**Prelude**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

ONE: On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

**MANY: God, rescue us in the wilderness!**

ONE: Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

**MANY: God, rescue us within the wilderness!**

ONE: Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

**MANY: God, rescue us through the wilderness!**

ONE: Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

**MANY: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Responsive Opening Prayer**

ONE: Welcome home, beloved children of God!

**MANY: Gathered in God's arms, we come to worship.**

ONE: Sheltered in God's love, we come to grow in love.

**MANY: Abiding in God, we seek solace and comfort.**

ONE: Even as God sends us on wilderness journeys,

**MANY: We trust that God is with us, guiding and protecting our days.**

**May we be worthy of our calling and help others find their way.**

**AMEN**

**Gathering Hymn***We Are a Wilderness Wandering People*

We are a wilderness wandering people  
on a journey of the soul.  
May we find our destination  
in our longing to be whole.  
Our Holy God is calling to us.  
With Jesus by our side,  
may compassion be our compass;  
may the Spirit be our guide

May we cherish all our children,  
let us heal our family's pain.  
Help us cure our city's madness,  
let love and justice reign.  
Reconciled with one another  
in prayer and praise song,  
We're the body of Christ together  
and we know that we belong  
We belong, we belong, we belong

# A Wilderness Wandering People 3113

*Flowing* (♩ = 80)

C F/G C F/G

5 C G/B Am Dm Am

8 G Em7 Am Dm7 F

12 Gsus G C G/B Am Dm7 C/E

16 Gsus G C G/B F/A

19 Dm7

1 Gsus G Gsus G 2 Gsus G

23 C F/G C F/G rit. C

**Passing the Peace - Announcements/Regular and Special Events:**

- **Sundays** – *Worship!* (Bethel 10am Sanctuary/Parlor; FCCO 11:30am upstairs) Council TODAY - Annual Meeting (w/potluck)
- **Mondays** – Southland Jazz Orchestra Rehearsals 7-9:30 (per calendar)
- **Tuesdays** – SSO Chorus Rehearsals 7:30 – 9pm resume Feb 11
- **Wednesdays** – Cub Scouts 6pm (basement).
- **Thursdays at 10am** - Qi-Gong
- **Fridays** – evenings SWE Rehearsals (sanctuary/parlor)
- **Saturdays** – Mornings SSO Rehearsals / FCCO Korean Fellowship 10-2 (upstairs).
- **CONCERT: Sat Mar 15 - SWE**
- **Children’s Time**      **The Temptation of Jesus**      Saddleback Kids  
(used by permission)

**\*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**

The musical score is written for guitar and voice in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) has a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ the Ho-ly Spi-rit". The second system (measures 5-8) has a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. 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 a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men." The score includes guitar chords: 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.

## **Gospel Reading**

## **Luke 4:1–13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**SERMON**

“Trials of the Wilderness ”

**Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann**

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

Gracious God, you hold us, but in times of stress, we fear that we are all alone. We hunger for easy comfort, even knowing that our appetite will return. We aim for power over uncertainty, forgetting that control is an illusion. Forgive us for choosing distraction to escape from chaos. Bring our focus back to you, to your word, your presence, and your child Jesus. Amen.

### **Words of Grace**

In God's love, we are delivered.

In God's presence, we are sheltered.

In times of trouble and times of joy,

God is with us, always and everywhere.

### **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 (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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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

Scan. Pay. Go.

## Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.



\*Singing into Mission     *Seek Ye First*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and His righteousness  
And all these things shall  
be added unto you  
Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and the door  
shall be opened unto you  
Allelu alleluia

We shall not live by bread alone  
but by ev'ry word  
That proceeds  
from the mouth of God  
Allelu alleluia

***(Repeat 1st verse)***

4 verses

# Seek Ye First

405

D F#m G D G  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

D Em7 A7 D F#m  
le - lu - ia, Al - le -

righ-teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

G D G D A7sus A7 D  
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

add-ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o-pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Karen Lafferty, 1972 (Mt. 6:33; 7:7)  
MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

4. repeats 1

3. We do not live by bread alone  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the  
mouth of God Allelu, Allelu

SEEK YE  
Irr.

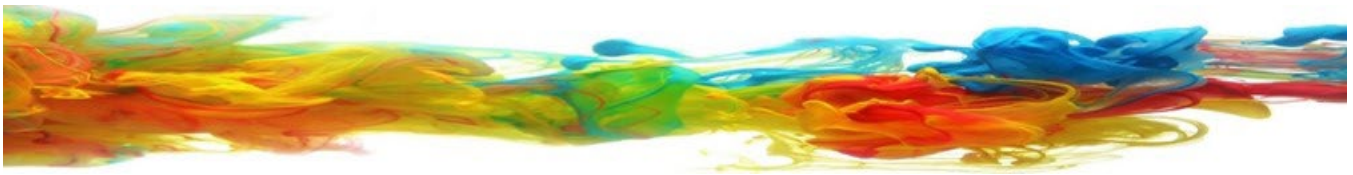
## Benediction - Unison

Beloved, you who live in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shadow of the Almighty —will find in God your refuge and fortress. Go now, in the blessing of the Triune God who shelters you and rescues you, that we all might be a shelter and a rescue for and with one another. Go in Peace  
Amen.

Postlude

Carillon

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING in the Parlor!



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Rev. Dr. Sylvia Lee Mann  
Pastor & Minister of Music  
[drmann@betheluccontario.org](mailto:drmann@betheluccontario.org)  
(626) 393-5507 (mobile)

Live Stream Sundays at 10am on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitch](#) - (Videos remain available for access any time)\**All music licensed and used by permission (CCLI, One License, Artist Permission, PD)*

*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.*