



June 30 2024 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

❖ All **bolded** text is a congregational response.

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is June 30, 2024 and it's the sixth Sunday after Pentecost. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you are worshipping with us virtually, or in person.

This week, our service is being led by: Carol Husband and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson, and Sandra Hanna.

On July 7th, we will be once again celebrating our "Gift of Hospitality" and hosting an Ecumenical worship service followed by a potluck supper. Worship begins at 4:30. All are welcome; invite your neighbours and friends and let's see if we can show everyone how awesome it is to worship as one.

Our Annual Picnic Service will be held July 28th, at 11:00am at the Rideau Ferry Yacht Club. Details to follow, but please mark in your calendars this wonderful event.

A quick reminder of our regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew on Tuesdays at 1:30 and our Zoom Prayer and Share at 10am on Thursdays. If you have any questions about our weekly activities, you can access a calendar on our website: www.bethelchurchrideauferry.ca. The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

Any there any celebrations? Where have you seen God at work this week? (I'm celebrating that I got a major paper completed this week!)

Please join me in singing a brief song of celebration:

VU 958

"Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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Land Acknowledgment (Unison)

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Mission and Service Story

Life-Changing Arts Programs for Children

For hundreds of children living in Córdoba, Colombia, arts programs supported through your Mission and Service gifts teach children about their rights, give them an opportunity to express themselves, and promote peace-making as well as gender justice.

"Providing workshops for children that teach them about their rights empowers them to think critically about themselves and their country. Through media, art, music, and theatre, they learn about important social issues, human rights, and gender equality," says the Latin American Center for Popular Communication (CEPALC).

Children are the most vulnerable group in Colombia. Eighty-four percent of violent acts in Colombia are committed against children. Two and a half million children living there work to sustain their families. Many are forced into dangerous labour. That's why CEPALC designs programs in sectors hardest hit by poverty and violence.

"I told my mom that we had seen some works of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Flora Tristan. I remember that they taught us that we must defend the rights of us women. What I like, in general, is that they taught us that we must make peace," says Amelie, an eight-year-old girl who lives in Bogotá and workshop participant. "Thanks to CEPALC workshops, I'll be a writer, and I will write things so that children will promote and defend peace, following Jesus' examples. I will defend and promote our rights in my stories so that nobody can disrespect us or the rights that we have. When I am an adult, I won't be doing violence against anybody."

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Shout to the Lord, songs of gratitude.

God has blessed us mightily!

Remember all the blessings God has poured into your life!

We are so thankful for everything God continues to do in our lives.

Sing your praise to God, even in the midst of troubles.

We sing our praise in the midst of fear and despair, for God is with us!

Sung Call to Worship

MV 161 (vs 1)

"I Have Called You By Your Name"

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen;
you are mine.**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

Together we light our Christ Candle and our World Candle

A moment of reflection: On this Canada Day weekend, take a moment to consider what it means to you to live in Canada. Are you able to recognize the blessings we have, but also balance it with a commitment to justice and Reconciliation? How do we, as a faith community, support our Indigenous Communities as they grieve the loss of their identity and culture?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Psalm 30:

"Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper! "You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever."

Opening Prayer

God of miracles, we listen for your voice and direction this morning. We are so busy with the national holiday celebrations and gatherings, yet the words of anguish arise around us. News of tragedy and war blare at us from all directions. Hear our cries, O Lord. Come and comfort and heal our wounds. Open our hearts so we might become people who bring peace and hope to those in despair. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

VU 288

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**¹ Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Refrain* Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. Refrain**

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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of Celebrations and Sorrows, on this Canada Day weekend, we watch fireworks in our skies, and families gather for celebrations. But in too many places there is little to celebrate. Our spirits ache for people both far and near who suffer and struggle just to have the basic necessities of life, while we live in abundance. We forget that we occupy land that has been taken from others, and have imposed culture and faith on people that already held their own culture and faith. Forgive us when our celebration clouds the needs of others. It is important for us to celebrate, but we must never forget that you call us to reconciliation and justice. Help us be mindful of the many ways in which we can reach out to others. By our attitudes and our actions, may we be those who would bring hope, comfort, healing, and peace. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Assurance of Love

The Lord who made the heavens and the earth hears our cries and answers our calls. Hope in the Lord whose steadfast love endures with us forever. AMEN.

Theme Conversation

Days gone by

Our Scriptures Today

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

- David's lament for Saul and Jonathan.

Psalms 130 (VU pp. 853a)

- Out of the depths, I cry to God.

Refrain Out of the depths I cry to you, my hope is in your promise true.

Out of the depths have I called to you.

O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss,
O God, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you. Refrain**

I wait for you, God;
my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than the watchers long for morning,
more than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,
for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. Refrain**

Funeral Blues: WH Auden

*Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.*

*Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message 'He is Dead'.
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.*

*He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.*

*The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.*

Reflection

Hymn

VU 567

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

¹ Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

- 2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**
- 3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response VU 542 "We Give You But Your Own"
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

What a weekend, o God. It is time to gather and celebrate, time to reflect on the blessings we have as a country that sees mostly peace, and a time to commit ourselves to offering the reconciliation and hope to others. We have gathered here in the midst of the busy-ness of the summer season to seek your justice and to find peace and directions for our lives. Bless us, O Lord, with wisdom tempered with compassion. Do not let the comfort we enjoy so much overwhelm the needs that still abound within our walls and our land. Where there is hatred, help us to bring your words of love. Where there are injustices, help us to correct unjust systems and become advocates for the voiceless and powerless. Where there is apathy, empower us to bring the good news of your gracious transforming love. Today, in our prayers, we include the following beloved people and situations:

Leona	Joanne	Kathie
Joy	Ivan	Wayne
Helene	Andy	Caroline & family
Liam	Sandy	Sarah, Jason and
Dennis	Terry	Friends
Cleo	Kim	Rea
Lennox	Christopher	John
Maddie	Marc	Rae
Hudson	Michael	Rev. Christopher

God in Community, Holy in One, hear us as we lift our voices praying as Jesus has taught us, saying, **Our Father....**

Closing Hymn VU 399 "God Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us"

**¹ God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
worship ancient, worship new.**

**² Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves like thunder bold:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
as creation's tale is told.**

**³ Holy God of ancient glory,
choosing man and woman, too;
Abr'am's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
to your covenant keep us true.**

**⁴ Covenant, new again in Jesus,
Star-child born to set us free;
sent to heal us, sent to teach us
how love's children we might be.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
risen Christ, our Saviour he!**

**5 Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music, sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
joined in love our praises ring!**

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Living our Faith this Week

On this Canada Day weekend, take some time to consider your own personal culture and heritage, and how that influences who you are. Now, look for opportunities to experience and understand other cultures and experiences in our community; particularly Indigenous Cultures.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen**

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