

July 7 2024 Seventh 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 July 7, 2024 and it's the seventh 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: Ruth Anne Johnson and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Sandra Walker.

Tonight, 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.

For the next two Sundays I will be on vacation; Hugh and I are going to PEI! I will miss you all but I know that you will be well looked after. Rev. Takouhi is covering for emergencies, and Ruth Anne has her contact information.

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?

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!

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

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

Ministers' Retreat: Respite and Reflection

Northern United Church ministers are facing a crisis. The number of deaths in northern communities has been immense, and the grief of burying community members, especially young people, has been overwhelming. The emotional toll of ministering to a grieving community is enormous, and ministers are in dire need of rest and renewal.

A ministers' retreat is being planned for October 2024. The retreat will provide rest, training in crisis management, and spiritual renewal, and will allow leaders to return with renewed strength to help those in need.

Ministers will participate in a blend of training and respite opportunities, including learning about vicarious trauma and administering Naloxone, and relaxation opportunities through art therapy, beading workshops, and sharing circles.

Through your generous support of Mission and Service, this retreat is on its way to being a reality.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

God's greatness is amazing.

Everywhere we look, we can see God at work.

From the highest mountains to the crashing waves on the ocean,

There God's greatness stands majestically.

God's greatness is also in the human heart.

Let us honor and praise God with acts of loving kindness and compassion. AMEN.

Sung Call to Worship

VU 235 (vs 1)

"O Worship the King"

**O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

Together we light our Christ Candle and our World Candle

A moment of reflection: In this time of 'fake news' and the social media, how do we discern good leadership from a good marketing campaign? What makes 'good leadership' for us as people who are followers of Jesus?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Mark 6:

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

Opening Prayer

Lord of mystery and community, today we are reminded of to remind journey laid out for us. Help us to pay attention to the words of Jesus as he sent out his disciples on a mission of healing and compassion. Remind us that success is not measured in the cures, but in hope and restoration offered by healing. Show us how to be your disciples in this world. AMEN

Opening Hymn VU 560 "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"

- ¹ O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- ² Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**
- ³ Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**
- ⁴ in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Puzzling God, we hear in the Gospel Message that Jesus was questioned and rejected by his own hometown, friends, and relatives, and we wonder how he was able to continue in ministry with such a lack of support. We want to our own plans to have full support and acclamation. We are often afraid to start something if our families, friends, and hometown folk belittle it and also us. So rather than face this, we back down. Forgive our lack of faith and vision. Empower us to be in service to you, even when we do not feel the support of our family. Let us trust in your power and presence with us. Heal us. Guide our lives and our journeys all our days. AMEN.

Assurance of Love

Do not be afraid of other people making fun of you. Place your trust in God's call and guidance. Know that the Lord is with you always, even to the ends of the earth. AMEN.

Theme Conversation

Who is the best boss you ever worked for?

Our Scriptures today

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

- ***David is anointed King.***

Mark 6:1-13

- ***Jesus, rejected in Nazareth, sends out the 12 to teach***

Reflection

Opening Hymn

MV 176

"Three Things I Promise"

- ¹ Three things I promise, Holy God,
in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**
- ² Your love unfolded time and space,
and life and all that life became,
and so, with thankful heart and voice,
through good and ill, I bless your Name.**
- ³ I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid our culture's tides and trends,
for here your name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.**

- 4 Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.**
- 5 If I should live when vigour fades,
and family and friends are gone,
three acts of loving faith remain
when days are slow and work is done.**
- 6 Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

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.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

When we are brand-new disciples, we can hardly wait to be sent out on mission for Christ. We are eager to proclaim, to shout God's praise to the people, to comfort, guide, and heal. But time takes its toll on us. We begin to let doubt assail our enthusiasm. And then we hear Mark's gospel message. Jesus is ridiculed by his hometown people. They can't imagine that one of their number could actually be God's chosen One. They are focusing on what they know....that he is a carpenter, the son of a carpenter, and brother to James, Joses, Judas, Simon and several sisters. He reminds them that they are short-sighted. And with sadness he recalls that even the prophets are not honored or respected in their hometowns. That is the world into which Jesus is sending his disciples, cautioning them to take nothing extra with them. He suggests that they rely on the hospitality of people, and when it is not present, to shake the dust off their shoes and move on. We have trouble with that because we want everyone to like and support us. Lift us up from our fears. Place us squarely on the path of service. Guide our feet and our hearts in your direction, merciful God.

In this moment of silence we hold all of those people and situations in our hearts that we are unable to name out loud.

We also hold the following people in prayer today:

Leona	Hudson	Marc
Joy	Joanne	Kathie
Helene	Ivan	Wayne
Liam	Andy	John
Dennis	Sandy	Caroline & family
Cleo	Terry	Janis
Lennox	Kim	John
Maddie	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 357 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

- ¹ Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**
- ² First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.**
- ³ Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!
And how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows and hushed the wind.**
- ⁴ Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!**
- ⁵ Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Living our Faith this Week

As we have considered what good leadership is as people of faith, this week, find ways in which you can profess this same leadership to our world, and step into your role as one of Jesus' disciples. For many of us it may feel awkward and uncomfortable, but trust that God is laying this path for you.

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**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)