

**September 22 2024
Anniversary Sunday – 129years**



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

Prelude Hugh Gardiner

Welcome and Announcements

Happy Anniversary, Bethel! Today is September 22 and our 129th anniversary. I'm so happy you are able to worship with us this morning, especially those of you who are in our virtual congregation. All of you are welcome to join us for a potluck lunch and cake immediately following our service, in our lovely church hall.

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

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.

A BIG thank you to everyone who sponsored me for the Terry Fox Run! We raised a lot of money to help fight cancer. I truly appreciate your support. All the best, Aidan

The next OB meeting will be held on Sunday, September 29th after worship. Please send your committee report to Linda Hamon and be sure that your committee is represented at the meeting. Bring a bag lunch.

Are there any celebrations this week? 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!

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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

Update: Pastors Retreat—Respite and Reflection

A short while ago, we shared that a Pastors Retreat is being planned for October of 2024. This retreat will provide badly needed respite for northern United Church ministers who are facing a crisis.

The number of deaths in their northern communities has been immense. The grief of burying community members, especially young people, has been overwhelming. The emotional toll of ministering to a grieving community is enormous.

Your response has been profound and powerful. When we shared that leaders are in dire need of rest and renewal, you went into action. Thanks to your generous and outstanding support of Mission and Service, this retreat is going to be a reality.

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. Pastors will participate in a blend of activities, including learning about vicarious trauma and experiencing relaxation opportunities through art therapy, beading workshops, and sharing circles.

Thank you for your expression of compassion through Mission and Service that has ensured that this retreat will move forward.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

Looking forward to see our path.

We honour those who have gone before us,

Learning from their successes and failures.

We celebrate who we are today,

And welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.

We gather to worship God,

the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Sung Call to Worship

MV 1 (vs 1)

“Let Us Build a House”

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;**

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

Together we light our Christ Candle and our World Candle, and we remember the faithful example of so many people who have been part of this community before us.

A moment of silent reflection: What are you recognizing on this Anniversary of Bethel? What does it mean to you to inherit a place and a space like this? How are you living into the Vision of Bethel?

Listen to God's words for you this morning Luke 16:

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.'

Opening Prayer

God who calls us to be the church in this place and time, we come together to celebrate your presence among us. In this time of worship, as we sing and pray and listen, may you awaken in us a hope for the future. May our time together remind us why the church is needed in the world. Amen.

Opening Hymn

VU 642

"Be Thou My Vision"

- ¹ Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**
- ² Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
- ³ Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**
- ⁴ Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- ⁵ Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

O guardian of our hearts,
so often we have focused on the wrong things
and turned away from those who need our help.
Whether through thoughtlessness, presumption or fear,
we have not embodied the abundant life you offer us.
Re-tune our hearts to your Spirit and your perfect love,
motivate us to find ways of helping,
even when we feel limited or without resources.
May we never turn away from doing something
because we cannot do everything.
Help us be light wherever we are, not keeping it to ourselves
but working together to show your generosity.
Forgive us, restore us, and guide us, we pray. Amen

Assurance of Love

Loving God,
thank you that it is not too late.
Every day is a new chance to serve you,
to love others and to be the people you made us to be.
Thank you for forgiving us when we get it wrong.
Thank you for being ever willing to begin again.
May we dispense kind words and generous actions.
May we be known for an attitude of love,
that honours you and all you have made.
Amen.

Theme Conversation

Moses and the Prophets

Our Scriptures Today

- **Luke 16.19-31 (Building the Kingdom of God)**

Reflection

Hymn

VU 356

"Seek Ye First"

**¹ Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

- ² Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**
- ³ We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, hallelujah.**

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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

Into your hands, Lord, we place the victims of the ways of the world; the poor and sick of war-torn nations, and those who struggle to make ends meet in our own.

We acknowledge that no fault attaches to these people; they have not brought it on themselves.

We pray for greater awareness of those on the edges of our own community.

Who is at our gate, Lord?

Let us not be unseeing and uncaring in our self-satisfaction.

May we never isolate ourselves in self-indulgence, blind to the needs of others.

Holy God, as we try to live our lives as Jesus did, fill us with a longing for justice, and give us generous hearts.

Help our actions to show that we really do want your kingdom to come, here and now, and not just in heaven.

Today, we have special prayers for:

Leona	Maddie	Michael
Joy	Hudson	Janis
Helene	Joanne	Rea
Liam	Ivan	John
Dennis	Sandy	Abby
Cleo	Christopher	Linda
Lennox	Marc	Caroline

Wayne
Bill

Dick
Carolyn

The youth of Lanark
County

And together as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying, **Our Father....**

Closing Hymn

VU 602

"Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"

- ¹ Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.**
- ² Before our Maker's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.**
- ³ We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.**
- ⁴ This glorious hope revives our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day.**

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Living our Faith this Week

This week, consider who you are listening to, and if you are becoming a person that others will listen to. What can you do to realize God's eternity in this world?

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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Postlude

Hugh Gardiner