

THE GOOD  
OUTSIDE AND THE  
EVIL WITHIN

MARK 9:38-50



## September 29 2024 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is September 29<sup>th</sup> and it is the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner, and I welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worship with us in our sanctuary, or from home through our Live Streaming.

This week, our service is being led by: Ruth Anne Johnson and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Barb Joynt.

Immediately following worship we will be having our Official Board Meeting. All are welcome to attend.

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](http://www.bethelchurchrideauferry.ca). The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

The UCW will meet on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat 'n Chew. All ladies are welcome.

October is traditionally Stewardship Month at Bethel and for 2024 the Stewardship Committee has decided to focus once again on the Guatemala Stove Project – Canada. The October 2024 Bethel Stewardship Campaign will be launched next Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> when Tom Clarke from the Guatemala Stove Project will be with us at Bethel to speak during the service. That morning we will also have a sharing time in the Hall after church with coffee, tea and muffins so that members of the Bethel Family can visit with Tom, ask questions about the Guatemala Stove Project and look over any Guatemala Stove Project materials that he brings with him. Please plan to join us then. Guatemala Stove Project donations will be gratefully received as loose change/undesignated funds during the Offering time on all October Sundays. Contributions can also be made by cheque or through an e-transfer to Bethel United Church marking Guatemala Stove Project in the memo line. If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the Stewardship Committee. Thank you for your support.

My Son in Law, Seth, celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday yesterday. Are there any other 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**

#### **Inuinnaqtun Language Revival Group**

The Inuinnaqtun language is the cultural foundation of the Inuinnaqtun people, who live in the central Canadian Arctic. The word *Inuinnaqtun* literally means “to be like an *Inuinnaq* (a person).” Today, fewer than 600 people can speak Inuinnaqtun fluently, with many having lost the language when they were taken from their communities and sent to residential schools.

Mission and Service partner Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, is dedicated to keeping Inuinnaqtun alive. They offer one-on-one language immersion sessions with mentors to inspire reconnection.

Since the initial gathering of the Inikhaliuqatigiit team in 2021, many significant successes have occurred. Over the past year, the team has worked hard together, both in person and online, to create helpful resources for revitalizing the Inuinnaqtun language. They have spent many hours making sure these resources will make a positive impact.

One big success is the development of the Inuinnaqtun Dictionary app, which is newly available for free on Android and Apple. The team has also created a beginner Inuinnaqtun curriculum called Inuinnaujunga and is working on lessons for more advanced levels. They are also teaming up with linguist Richard Compton from the Université de Québec à Montréal to create a Community Grammar of Inuinnaqtun.

Your passionate gifts through Mission and Service are supporting programs that help preserve language and culture.

## **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

**Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!**

Our help is in God's name, the One who calls us here.

**We come with songs of praise, with prayers  
too deep for words.**

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

**Blessed be the Lord!**

## **Sung Call to Worship**

**VU 589 (vs 1)**

***"Lord, Speak to Me"***

**Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your straying children lost and lone.**

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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 consider our Call to be in service to God throughout our whole lives.

A moment of silent reflection: What are you called to do for God? What are your barriers to realizing this call?

Listen to God's words for you this morning Mark 9:

*"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other."*

## **Opening Prayer**

Christ Jesus, we come into your presence from many different places.

We come with songs of joy and shouts of gratitude.

We come carrying heavy loads and sighs of suffering.

As you welcome us into your house, lift our hearts and receive our praise.

Salt us with your grace and flavor us with your mercy.

Bind us together, that we may be at peace with one another

and be strengthened to go forward in service to the world.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

## **Opening Hymn**

**VU 342**

***"You Servants of God"***

**<sup>1</sup> You servants of God, your Saviour proclaim,  
and publish abroad that wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol,  
whose kingdom is glorious and rules over all.**

- 2 God rules from on high, almighty to save,  
whose Word still is nigh, a presence we have.  
The great congregation God's triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**
- 3 Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son!  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
bow down in deep reverence and worship the Lamb.**
- 4 Then let us adore and give as is right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.**

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## **Passing the Peace**

### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

God of unity, we do not always live as people bound together in your love. Forgive us, Holy One: when we do not pray for those who suffer, or care for those who are sick; when we forget to offer words of gratitude for the many gifts in our lives; when we judge others and neglect your teaching that we are in partnership with one another; when we lose the saltiness of your teachings, the excitement and energy you offer us on this journey of discipleship. Flavor us with your love. Knead into our very being your mercy and your grace. Sprinkle us with the spices of compassion and commitment. Even as we are forgiven, leaven us with forgiveness for others. In trust of your eternal grace and merciful forgiveness, we pray. Amen.

### **Assurance of Love**

Scripture promises:

"Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."

Friends, no matter how great our sins,  
or how far we have wandered from the path,  
the word of scripture is true.

In the name of Christ, in Christ's mercy and love,  
we are all forgiven and reconciled to God.

## **Theme Conversation**

## ***The Little Drummer Boy***

## **Our Scriptures Today**

**Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22**

- **Esther pleads for the life of her people.**

**Mark 9:38–50**

- **If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off.**

## **Reflection**

### **Hymn**

**VU 595**

**“We Are Pilgrims”**

- <sup>1</sup> We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**
- <sup>2</sup> Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**
- <sup>3</sup> I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**
- <sup>4</sup> I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.**
- <sup>5</sup> When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.**
- <sup>6</sup> Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**

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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**

Lord, you want us to be "salt", to add savour to your world. We cannot be bland witnesses to your love, only working when it's convenient for us or doing work that is incomplete. If we lose our "saltiness", it cannot be regained. Give us courage and joy in our service to you. Help us to be people who clear the pathways to service rather than those who place roadblocks and "potholes" in which people can stumble. Many are called to serve You, O Lord. Help us to be people who work willingly with others, not demanding that our way is the only way, but rejoicing in a new approach to ministry.

Today, we have special prayers for:

Leona	Sandy	Wayne
Joy	Marc	Dick
Helene	Michael	Carolyn
Liam	Janis	The Germain/Frias
Dennis	Rea	Family on the loss of
Cleo	John	Caroline
Lennox	Abby	The youth of Lanark
Maddie	Brian	County
Hudson	Luke	
Joanne	Guy	

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

**Closing Hymn      VU 421      "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"**

**<sup>1</sup> Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.**

**In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.**

**Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.**

**We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.**

**<sup>2</sup> Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,**

**but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.**

**We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,**

**and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.**

**3 Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,  
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.  
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land  
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.**

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### **Living our Faith this Week**

This week, look seriously at your life and how you are called to serve in God's world. What are your own barriers to doing this work? What do you need to really walk into your call as a Christian?

### **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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