



## November 10 2024 Remembrance Sunday

- ❖ All **bolded** text is a congregational response.
- ❖ Our worship service today was written (in part) by: (Rev.) Nathan Wright—  
Chaplain, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Fredericton, NB) and used with permission

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario, and this service of remembrance. We have gathered here with gratitude to recognize the sacrifices of our Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who have offered themselves in service to our country. Through world wars and regional conflicts, at home and abroad, they have demonstrated courage, loyalty, integrity, and service. And so, on this Sunday before the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, we remember them. 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 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](http://www.bethelchurchrideauferry.ca). The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

The next OB meeting will be held on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> after worship. Please send your committee report to Linda Hamon and be sure that your committee is represented at the meeting. It's also soup 'n sandwich Sunday.

Last week our Fall 2024 Newsletter was distributed, but we recognize that many of our virtual worshipers have not received it; because we have no idea who you are! If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send us your email; either by Facebook Messenger, or to [pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca](mailto:pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca).

Ruth Anne Johnson celebrated her 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**

#### ***Overcoming Obstacles***

Sue, 61, has faced a lifetime of challenges, starting in her youth when her mother was involved with organized crime and jailed for fraud. Later, as a young mom, a car accident left Sue with chronic back pain. And last fall, a fire destroyed her Hamilton apartment, forcing her onto the streets. Despite these struggles, Sue has found stability at Mission and Service partner Wesley. In Wesley’s special care unit, Sue is working to overcome the drug addiction that she has lived with since she was 11. While the process has been difficult, she is slowly reducing her drug use with the help of prescribed medications and support from Wesley’s staff.

The care unit operates under a harm reduction model, allowing clients like Sue to manage their addictions in a supported environment. Wesley’s program is part of a broader effort in Hamilton to address homelessness and substance use. Recently, the program expanded its capacity, and now provides about 30 beds for individuals struggling with multiple substances. Clients are not expected to quit drugs immediately but are supported in stabilizing their lives, receiving medical care, and reconnecting with family. Wesley’s team includes doctors, nurses, and addiction specialists who help clients find their own path to recovery.

For Sue, this support has been transformative. Her room at Wesley provides a much-needed sanctuary, offering a reprieve from the constant stress of homelessness and addiction. She continues to focus on her recovery, working in the garden and taking steps toward quitting fentanyl altogether. Sue dreams of eventually finding her own home and reuniting with her beloved cat, Kitty Cat, who was rescued from the fire and is being cared for by a friend.

Your gifts through Mission and Service help support people like Sue on her ongoing journey to build a better future for herself and her children. Thank you for your continued support.

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

**One:** From east and west, north and south, we gather on this day of remembrance to give thanks and praise.

**All: We come to be inspired by the Word of God and honour the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to service before self.**

**One:** In times of peace, in times of conflict, and in times of uncertainty,

**All: We remember that we are not alone.**

**One:** We are the people of God, connected across time and space, from generation to generation.

**All: We are united by the love of the One who said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."**

**One:** As we gather to remember, let us sing and pray.

### **Sung Call to Worship**

**VU 296 (vs 1)**

***"This is God's Wondrous World"***

**This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.**

**This is God's wondrous world;**

**I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.**

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### **Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle**

Jesus said (Matthew 18:20): "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." We light this candle as a reminder that we are not alone. May its flame warm our hearts and inspire us to live the message of the gospel.

### **Opening Prayer**

God of our past, present, and future, we have come to this place as a people of hope. We hope for a future without war and a world that lives together in peace. In years past, and in the present day, members of our armed forces have put their lives at risk for this hope, with some paying the

ultimate cost. May what we do here today strengthen our resolve to work together so that this hope may be fulfilled. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### **Opening Hymn**

**VU 806**

**"O God Our Help in Ages Past"**

- <sup>1</sup> O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:**
- <sup>2</sup> under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defence is sure.**
- <sup>3</sup> Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.**
- <sup>4</sup> A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**
- <sup>5</sup> Time like an ever-rolling stream soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.**
- <sup>6</sup> O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.**

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### **Passing the Peace**

#### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

Holy One, when our lives are comfortable and we live in relative safety, it can be all too easy to forget that what we enjoy today has come at a great cost. For some, the price was their last breath. For others, it was wounds to body, mind, or spirit. Our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.

Forgive us for using violence as a way to resolve our differences.

On days like this, we remember those who defend our freedoms and we say "Lest we forget." Yet, too often we forget that the wounds to mind and spirit can last a lifetime.

Forgive us for not remembering once the poppies have been put away.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," but we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us...

## **Assurance of Love**

Jesus said (John 3:17): "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Receive the Good News: in Christ, you are forgiven! Our loving God desires that all people, indeed the whole world, be restored to right relationship with God and one another, so that we might live together in peace.

## **Act of Remembrance**

**Hymn**

**VU 524**

**"O Canada"**

**O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
the True North strong and free!  
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

### **In Flanders Fields (by LCol John McCrae)**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### **Words of Remembrance**

**One:** They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.  
**All: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.**  
**One:** At the going down of the sun and in the morning.  
**All: We will remember them.**

## **Reading of the Honour Roll**

### **Last Post**

### **Minute of Silence**

### **Rouse**

### **Responsive Prayer**

Eternal rest grant to them, O God,

and may perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 6: 10-18, 23-24

### **Gospel Reading**

Luke 7:1-10

## **Reflection**

### **Hymn**

**VU 678**

***"For the Healing of the Nations"***

- <sup>1</sup> For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**
- <sup>2</sup> Lead us forward into freedom, from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.**
- <sup>3</sup> All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.**
- <sup>4</sup> You, Creator-God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service, earth its destiny may find.**

## **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**

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and RCMP who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime. Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives. May our commitment to them be as full and complete as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day...(moment of silent prayer)...Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

Today, we have special prayers for:

Leona	Lennox	Abby
Joy	Maddie	Rev. Takouhi and her family
Helene	Hudson	Choughik
Liam	Joanne	Yasmina
Dennis and Stella	Sandy	Cathy and family
Cleo	Marc	

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

### **Closing Hymn**

**VU 586**

***"We Shall Go Out"***

**<sup>1</sup> We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**<sup>2</sup> We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
expressive love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
including all in circles of our love.**

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

This week, as you consider what it really means to be called to be the world's Peacemakers, consider what you can do from your 'small corner' to further God's Peace and Sanctuary 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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