

# November 17 2024

## 26<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 November 17, and it is the 26<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 Paul Coutts.

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.

A quick reminder to all members of Session that we will be meeting after worship today.

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.

### **White Gift Sunday 2024**

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift (hence the all-inclusive white envelope that all can use) has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations.

*White Gift Sunday here at Bethel will take place on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Our contributions this year will go to The Table Community Food Centre in Perth and the Smiths Falls Community Food Bank in Smiths Falls, as many in our communities are struggling with food costs and food bank use continues to increase.

*If you would like to contribute a White Gift, we invite you to do so using one of the white envelopes which will be in the pews beginning next Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and collected on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Thank you for your generous support for others in the community.

*From the November 13 2024 EOORC Newsletter:*

*Faithful Footprints + Congratulations to Bethel United Church!*

*Bethel United Church (Rideau Ferry, ON) has been working hard on green renovations to the church building. With a grant from the Faithful Footprints program, several ecofriendly renovation projects have been completed. A year after the projects, the church's energy costs are down by 21% and with significantly less greenhouse gas emissions.*

*Congratulations to the congregation on these green renovations!*

Jack Johnson celebrated his birthday last week, and Sarah Miller celebrates her birthday next week. 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**

*Supporting Community Resilience in Zimbabwe*

In Zimbabwe, severe drought and food shortages continue to take a toll on communities, but the Zimbabwe Council of Churches is leading efforts to provide support. In partnership with Mission and Service and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Scaling Up Resilience Project focuses on practical, long-term solutions. By emphasizing climate-smart farming, gender equality, and community-driven initiatives, the project is helping families strengthen their resilience and work towards a more secure future.

The challenges facing Zimbabwe are immense, with frequent droughts, unpredictable rains, tropical cyclones, economic instability, and outbreaks of diseases like cholera all contributing to severe food insecurity. In the Bikita and Gutu districts, up to 60% of people are affected, with many families struggling to put food on the table, send their children to school, and are at risk of gender-based violence. Crop failures, especially due to El Niño, have worsened conditions, leaving communities in urgent need of solutions.

The Scaling Up Resilience Program addresses these issues by building on the success of previous humanitarian efforts. It will provide training in gender-sensitive, climate-smart agriculture, strengthen disaster risk management systems, and revive essential community assets, such as water conservation works and irrigation schemes. By promoting gender equality, supporting financial resilience through savings and loans programs, and ensuring that all community members, including the elderly and those with disabilities, are included, the project is creating a brighter future for thousands of people.

Your gifts through Mission and Service have provided crucial support to partners like the Zimbabwe Council of Churches as they work toward a secure and sustainable future. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

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

Let our hearts rejoice in the God of hope and faithfulness.

**Our strength is in the maker of heaven and earth.**

Our foundation is the cornerstone that never fails.

**The rock of ages is a foundation like no other.**

Hope arises, as the tools of war are broken  
and the weak are given strength.

**Hope lives when the hungry are fed and the poor are lifted up.**

God comes bringing judgment to the ends of the earth,  
calling us to hope and faithfulness.

**Come, rock of ages, come quickly now.**

### **Sung Call to Worship**

**VU 657 (vs 1)**

**“He Leadeth Me”**

**He leadeth me: O blessed thought!**

**O words with heavenly comfort fraught!**

**Whate'er I do, where'er I be,**

**still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

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

Today as we light our Christ Candle and our World Candle we recognize that we are called to a place of Hope.

A moment of silent reflection:

What brings you hope? What fills you with 'possibility'?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from 1 Samuel 2:  
*He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
he seats them with princes  
and has them inherit a throne of honour.*

### **Opening Prayer**

God of possibilities, fill us with your hope and faithfulness.  
Listen to us as we pour out our souls before you.  
Grant us the grace to be your people and to live your teachings.  
Live in us, that we may arise with hope and walk in love.  
In the name of Christ our rock, we pray. Amen.

### **Opening Hymn                      VU 288                      "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

**<sup>1</sup> 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!**

**<sup>2</sup> 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***

**<sup>3</sup> 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**

Merciful God, look upon us, your servants gathered here,  
with grace and compassion.  
Hear our every need.  
Speak to our fearful hearts, that we may pour out our confessions  
and admit our wrongdoings.  
*(Silent prayer)*

Loving God, you have heard our anxieties,  
our vexations, our worries, our hopes, our dreams.  
Breathe in us the spirit of forgiveness, that we may receive your grace,  
and may walk in freedom and glorious hope.  
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

### **Assurance of Love**

Hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for our God, the God of all ages,  
the one who has promised forgiveness, is faithful!  
In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

### **Theme Conversation**

### ***Have Hope***

### **Our Scriptures Today**

1 Samuel 1: 4–20

- Samuel is born to Hannah and Eli.

1 Samuel 2: 1–10

- The song of Hannah.

### **Reflection**

### **Hymn**

### **VU 147**

### ***"What Wondrous Love is This"***

<sup>1</sup> **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

<sup>2</sup> **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life  
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside his crown for my soul.**

<sup>3</sup> **To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;  
while millions join the theme I will sing.**

**4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

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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 (Responsive)**

For leaders and those in power,  
that they might walk in your ways of love . . .

God of all hopefulness,  
**remember your people.**

For people who are weak and in need,  
that they might feel the strength of your compassion . . .

God of all hopefulness,  
**remember your people.**

For those who are hungry or poor,  
that they might find abundance in our generosity . . .

God of all hopefulness,  
**remember your people.**

For those who are downtrodden or dispirited,  
that they might be lifted up with arms of hope . . .

God of all hopefulness,  
**remember your people.**

For the Church and all who call upon your name,  
that we might be found faithful . . .

God of all hopefulness,  
**remember your people.**

For all who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
that your kingdom might come,  
your will be done, today and forevermore . . .  
God of all hopefulness,  
**remember your people.**

Today, we have special prayers for:

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

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

**Closing Hymn            VU 348 (Verses 1,2,4,6)            "O Love, How Deep"**

**<sup>1</sup> O love, how deep, how broad, how high!  
It fills the heart with ecstasy,  
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**<sup>2</sup> God sent no angel to our race  
of higher or of lower place,  
but wore the robe of human frame,  
and freely to this lost world came.**

**<sup>4</sup> For us he prayed, for us he taught,  
for us great daily works were wrought,  
by words and signs, and actions, thus  
still seeking not himself, but us.**

**<sup>6</sup> For us he rose from death again,  
for us he went on high to reign,  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.**

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**Living our Faith this Week**

This week, our call is to hope. What are you doing to convey God's hope to the people around you? Offer hope to the people around you who have sunk into despair.

## **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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