



Bethel United Order of Service April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday

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

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday. 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, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Liz Hughes.

Following Worship this morning we will be sharing a soup and sandwich lunch, and then will be having our Annual Congregational Meeting. Come for the food and stay for the excitement! All are welcome, whether or not you are a (formal) member of Bethel.

This coming Friday, Good Friday, we will be having a worship service in the hall followed by a potluck dinner. Please join us for this time of quiet reflection and good company.

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.

Thank you for your support of the 2025 Lenten Project by providing funds to the PSFDH Foundation for the purchase of a new cataract microscope. Monies can be donated through “loose change” on the collection plate today or by cheque or e-transfer to Bethel United Church. **Working together with others in our community we have an opportunity to enhance local health care.**

Are there any celebrations this week? Where have you seen God at work this week?

Please join in singing our celebration song:

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 a Rights-Based Approach to Growing Food

The Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES), a Mission and Service partner, is located in an area of Central America that is very vulnerable to climate change. This hot, dry region regularly experiences drought. Mining projects have also negatively affected the environment and the people in the region. ADES and other community organizations decided to act to protect the community's right to a healthy environment.

An example of how ADES has responded is a three-year agroecology project co-funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and The United Church of Canada Foundation, along with Mission and Service. Agroecology benefits the land and water because it recycles nutrients back into the soil. It also reduces production costs, lessening the financial burden on rural farmers.

In this project, ADES works closely with the community to grow food in a rural region of El Salvador, promoting sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, maintains the integrity of the land, and upholds rural culture.

At the centre of the project is the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, where rural families, mainly led by women, learn about agroecology. The school provides training, technical expertise, and seeds indigenous to the region. It focuses on preserving the surrounding environment and on upholding gender and human rights as part of its approach to food security.

Your gifts to Mission and Service help support ADES' agroecology project. Thank you for your generosity!

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna! Rejoice for the Lord is in our midst.

He comes with joy and hope.

He comes to set us free from fear.

Hosanna!

Hosanna! Glory to God in the Highest Heaven. AMEN.

Sung Call to Worship

VU 409 (vs 1)

"Morning Has Broken"

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.**

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

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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 think about Palm Sunday, with all of its joy and celebration; but also remember that it's the beginning of Holy Week, and a time of loss and difficulty.

A moment of silent reflection: How do you balance out being hopeful with being realistic? Are you able to be honest with yourself about difficulties, but also remain hopeful that there is meaning and purpose in your experiences?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Luke 19:

"Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.""

Opening Prayer

With great joy we welcome you, Lord Jesus! The journey has been long and we have longed to enter the Holy City. You come into our hearts and our lives, humbly, patiently, encouraging us to learn and grow, to embark on journeys of hope and healing. Open our hearts today to hear your words, as we sing praise to you. Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Lord's Name. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

VU 122

"All Glory Laud and Honour"

Refrain All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

**¹ You are the King of Israel, and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed one.**

Refrain

**² The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.**

Refrain

**³ To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**4 Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king. Refrain**
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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Lord, we confess that when we started this journey, it seemed like a fun idea. Walk the road with Jesus, we thought. But the journey has had many difficult times when our spirits have been challenged and tried. We have come to the time of entrance into the Holy City. We want everything to be wonderful; for you to conquer all those things that threaten us and our peace. We want you to do what we direct. Forgive us, Lord, when we place our fears and ignorance before your love. Help us to look again at the many ways in which we can be a blessing to others, through serving them and you. Release us from our panic and mistrust and help us to place our lives solely in your hands. AMEN.

Assurance of Love

Rejoice, the Lord has come into your presence. You are the beloved ones of God. Know that God walks with you through this parade and time of celebration and in all the times ahead. AMEN.

Theme Conversation

The best party you've ever been to

Our Scriptures Today

Luke 19: 28 -40

Reflection

Hymn

VU 123

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

- ¹ Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**
- ² From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
content that little children should on his bidding wait.**

**3 'Hosanna in the highest!' That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence eternally rejoice!**

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Invitation to the Offering

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 Prayers

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

What a joy it is to celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem! The disciples gathered the colt for him to ride; people shouted "Hosanna!", waved palm branches and placed their cloaks in the path of the colt. Even when some were cautious, Jesus reminded them that the stones would sing out. For triumph was truly coming to the Holy City, triumph in a way they couldn't imagine. So we, this day, wave our palms, sing and shout "Hosanna!". We want Jesus to ride into all the places of tension and anger of our lives. We want Jesus to heal the hurts and establish His reign of peace forever. The parade is a good thing. It is not to be discounted as inconsequential to the events ahead. We need to shout with joy and let the shouts ring in our hearts. Bring us hope, gracious Lord, where we have allowed fear and confusion to reside. Bring us healing, where we have been wounded or have wounded others by our thoughts, words, and deeds. Bring us peace, where we have been bombarded by anger and alienation. Bring us with you, into the holy city, not made with human hands, but in your heavenly realm.

Today we have special prayers for:

Leona	Joanne	Doreen	Dick
Joy	Abby	Thelma	Grant
Helene	Connie	Betty	Kim
Liam	Manfred	Janet	Choughik
Maddi	Shannon	Carol	

And together as a community, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us so long ago: **"Our Father....."**

Closing Hymn

VU 127

"Ride On! Ride On In Majesty"

- ¹ Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.**
- ² Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**
- ³ Ride on! Ride on in majesty! The winged squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.**
- ⁴ Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.**

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Living our Faith this Week

This week, take some time to look at your present life, as well as your future life with a sense of hope and purpose. How is this helping your sense of God's Call for you? How can Bethel maintain hope and purpose?

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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