

Bethel United Order of Service

April 6, 2025 – Lent 5

❖ 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 6, 2025, my first Sunday back after Restorative Care, and the fifth Sunday of Lent. 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: Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson, Ashley Walker. 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. The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

Next Sunday, April 13th Bethel will hold its Annual Congregational meeting following a soup and sandwich lunch after worship. The agenda, minutes of February 18 2024 meeting, and Annual Report can be found on the website. If you need printed copies, please let me know. All are welcome to attend.

Next Sunday, April 13th, there will be an opportunity to contribute to the Lenten Project helping to provide funds to the PSFDH Foundation for the purchase of a new cataract microscope. Monies can be donated through "loose change" on the collection plate or by cheque or e-transfer to Bethel United Church. Thank you for your support.

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

The Next Century: Youth Leading the Way

"100 years from now, I definitely see the church being a diverse and open space for all because of the program boards that are being put in place."

These are thoughts from Mariana Muhumuza, one of The United Church of Canada's Youth Forum Leadership Animators, on her vision for the next 100 years of the United Church of Canada. More of Mariana's thoughts on the United Church's Centennial can be found on [YouTube](#).

In July 2024, Mariana was among eight passionate youth from across Canada who gathered in Calgary. Together, they worked to lay the foundation for 100 young people under the age of 30 to attend The United Church of Canada's General Council 45 in 2025, coinciding with the church's Centennial commemorations.

This group of talented and diverse youth is committed to developing leadership among their peers. After their time in Calgary, they returned to their local communities and regions to work on learning goals and projects for four weeks, and to remain engaged throughout the year.

The group focused on building leadership and guiding their peers as they explore their roles in the church. Their placements in local and regional communities are designed to help them grow and prepare for the future.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support youth as they inspire communities and engage in leadership. Thank you.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

When all we have hoped for and trusted in has let us down;

There is Christ who reaches out to us.

When the world seems dark and despair threatens to close in upon us;

There is Christ, reaching out for us.

Come and let us worship the Lord who is always ready to reach out to us.

We humbly come before the Lord in hope and faith. AMEN.

Sung Call to Worship

MV 115

“Behold, Behold!”

**Behold, behold, I make all thing new
beginning with you, and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all thing new
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.**

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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 consider what we value most in the world, and what seems worth our resources and our energy.

A moment of silent reflection: Where are your priorities? If a stranger observes you, could they tell what your what is most important to you by where you spend your time, and how you spend your resources?

Listen to God’s words for you this morning from John 12:

“Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Opening Prayer

We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ’s name, we pray. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

VU 339

“When Morning Guilds the Skies”

¹ When morning gilds the skies, my heart awakening cries:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

² To God, the Word on high, the hosts of angels cry:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let mortals, too, upraise their voice in hymns of praise:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

³ Let all of humankind in this their concord find:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:

may Jesus Christ be praised!

**4 Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song, through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Patient Lord, we find it easy to blame others and other circumstances for the things which happen in our lives. We hear the words "if only" and wonder why things didn't happen differently for us. Too often we want you to be a "magic" presence which will, with the wave of a wand, cure our ills, give us success and happiness; but we don't necessarily want to take responsibility for our attitudes and actions. Life is. Things happen which we didn't plan for and events swirl around us over which we have no control. But to place blame and not to find ways in which we can work through the situations is detrimental to everyone, especially ourselves. Forgive us when we are so busy placing blame that we don't recognize your presence and love for us. Free us from placing our own desires first and foremost. Help us to look at the many ways in which you are working in the world for peace and justice, and enable us to be part of that ministry. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

Assurance of Love

Let go of your fears. God has forgiven you and offered to you God's healing love. Accept this free gift, for it is given for you through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Theme Conversation

What's worth the money?

Our Scriptures Today

Isaiah 43: 16-21

- Look, I am doing something new.

John 12: 1-8

- Mary anoints Jesus with costly ointment

Reflection

Hymn

VU 506

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

¹ Take my life, and let it be consecrated, all for thee;

take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- ² Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.**
- ³ Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**
- ⁴ Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**
- ⁵ Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

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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

Lord God, how extravagant your love for us is! You continually pour upon us blessing upon blessing - in the lives of people near and dear to us, in the beauty of creation, in the skills and abilities you have given to us. There is so much for which we are thankful. Yet in the midst of this thankfulness, there lurks the demons of demand and confusion. We want you to be in control of taking care of all the things that threaten us. We want you to prevent us from facing times of confusion and doubt. Actually, we want to have a more complete faith. Like Judas, who misunderstood Jesus' intention, we wonder about the anointing of Jesus - about the perceived waste of materials. How hard it is for us to see that we need to take some time to honor and praise Christ instead of continually asking for Christ to do things for us. We have a lot to learn. Lord, teach us! Open our hard hearts to the healing words you have for us. Give us patience and persistence in our service to you. And when we stumble and thrash around faithlessly, bring us back to your presence; that we may find healing and hope.

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, saying, **Our Father...**

Closing 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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Living Our Faith This Week

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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