



Bethel United Church
May 11 2025
UCW Worship Service for the 100th Anniversary
of the United Church of Canada
"Here I Am"

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

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is May 11, 2025, the fourth Sunday of Easter and today we celebrate with the UCW the presentation of Life Memberships and the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner, and I welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worshipping 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 Karen Hunt.

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.

The next meeting of the Official Board will be on Sunday, May 25th after worship.

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

Learning about God's Love

Queer Kid Bible Camp is a unique and affirming space that has emerged to provide a supportive environment for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth within the framework of spirituality. Started by Mission and Service partner Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines, Ontario, Queer Kid Bible Camp blends teachings of God's love with messages of inclusivity.

Queer individuals have often been marginalized or excluded in spiritual experiences, which can make them feel isolated and alienated. Queer Kid Bible Camp aims to challenge these negative experiences by fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance in a spiritual context. The camp offers a place for young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals to explore and reconcile their faith with their identity. Through theological and spiritual discussions, youth can openly ask questions without feeling uncertain about their safety.

The benefits of Queer Kid Bible Camp extend beyond its immediate impact on individual campers. The camp experience sparks conversation with parents and guardians who want to connect and understand their children better. As young participants gain confidence and self-acceptance, they become advocates for change within their own communities. The Rev. Karen Orlandi of Silver Spire United Church has seen a wonderful ripple effect, noting that she's seen "healing for queer adults as they see queer kids openly embracing their identity."

Your support through Mission and Service provides the queer community with opportunities to thrive in safe environments as they learn about God's love. Thank you.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Creator God, You call.

We come as others came before us.

You call your people to do your work.

We come to listen to your call.

As our ancestors listened to your call to action one hundred years ago.

Here we are.

Sung Call to Worship

MV 7

"Gather Us In"

Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

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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 remember the strength and service of the UCW in our congregation, our community and our world.

A moment of silent reflection: When you look back on your life of faith, what had the most influence on you? Who spoke into your life so that you could hear the voice of God for yourself?

Listen to the God's words for you this morning from 1 Samuel 3:

Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we come in search of unity with others and with you. We have not always listened. We have not always heard. We come in gratitude to you for walking with us on our journey. Be with us now as you have with those who have gone before. Be near us as we strive to listen to each other and walk together as one United Church. We welcome all to celebrate God's presence in their lives. Let us join to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Opening Hymn VU 395 "Come In, Come In and Sit Down"

Refrain **Come in, come in and sit down,
 you are a part of the family.
 We are lost and we are found,
 and we are a part of the family.**

**¹ You know the reason why you came,
 yet no reason can explain;
 so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
 for we are a part of the family. Refrain**

**² God is with us in this place,
 like a mother's warm embrace.
 We're all forgiven by God's grace,
 for we are a part of the family. Refrain**

**3 There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family. *Refrain***

**4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family. *Refrain***

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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Assurance of Love

Theme Conversation

Presentation of UCW Life Memberships

Our Scriptures Today

1 Samuel 3: 1-19

Matthew 10: 5-15

Reflection

Hymn

VU 509

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

***Refrain* Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain***

**3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain***

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Response MV 191

“What Can I Do”

**What can I do? (*What can I do?*)
What can I bring? (*What can I bring?*)
What can I say? (*What can I say?*)
What can I sing? (*What can I sing?*)
I’ll sing with joy. (*I’ll sing with joy.*)
I’ll say a prayer. (*I’ll say a prayer.*)
I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share.**

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Offering Prayers

Loving God, you, who have given us so much, have called us to use our time and talents and treasures, united in your service. Receive our gifts as an expression of our love for you, and of our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ. May they be used for the total mission of the United Church responding to your call to build a new and better world for tomorrow.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (VU 909, adapted)

Compassionate God, hear us as we pray in this Anniversary year,
for the UCW, with its history and hopes,
we pray for the church and the various ministries,
for your Church and its varied ministries,
for the work of justice and the healing of creation,
for care of strangers, neighbours, family, friends,
for those isolated by sickness, sorrow, violence, fear,
for those who face illness and death,
for those broken by the world.

Today we have special prayers for:

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| Leona | Abby | Janet | Howard |
| Joy | Connie | Carol | Tom |
| Liam | Manfred | Dick | Nick |
| Maddi | Shannon | Grant | Marc |
| Joanne | Betty | Kim | |

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

Closing Hymn VU 332 “The Church’s One Foundation”

**1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

- 2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**
- 3 'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**
- 4 Yet she on earth hath union with God the three in one,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

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Living our Faith this Week

Who do you need to influence today? Is there a younger person in your world that you need to teach to hear God like Eli did with Samuel? Where do you need to 'shine the light'?

Commissioning

Loving God here we are. You call us to serve you to walk new paths, not knowing where we are going.

We know that your hand will lead us and your love support us and we go out in Faith, Hope and Love.

Closing Prayer

And now, go with us, God, into the days ahead.

Strengthen us for peace. Give us wisdom, keep us humble, and may we live and work together, and so striving, build a new and better world For tomorrow. Amen

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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