



## Bethel United Church August 31 2025

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

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is August 31, 2025, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. My name is Lillian McNamee, LLWL, and I welcome all of you into this place, whether you 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 Heather Thompson.

A quick reminder of our regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew on Tuesdays at 1:30; our Zoom Prayer and Share resumes at 10am on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Bethel's UCW resumes meetings on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am, followed by a potluck lunch. All ladies are welcome; hope to see you there.

The next meeting of the Official Board will be on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Bring a bag lunch. Please send your committee report or any item for the agenda to Linda.

Looking ahead to September, we will be holding our Anniversary Service on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Debbie Steele will be our guest preacher and we will be receiving new members into the Bethel Family that Sunday. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see me so that we can include you in this celebration. This same Sunday we will also be celebrating Carol Husband and her years of dedicated service to the music ministry of Bethel. Carol will 'come out of retirement' for this Sunday and will be on the keyboard and directing the choir.

**Hi! Aidan Williamson here.** I will once again be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. If you would be interested in sponsoring me, my pledge forms will be posted on the church bulletin board from **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** (inclusive). Cash or cheques are accepted. Cheques should be made payable to: **"The Terry Fox Foundation"**. If you prefer not to drop off your donation at the church, you could put it in my mailbox. I will fill out

the pledge form on your behalf using information from our Bethel Directory. I live just a few minutes from the church at 1013 Port Elmsley Road. Thank you in advance for your support. Sincerely, Aidan PS: As yet, there is no "official" local run this year, but as this is my 24<sup>th</sup> year of participating, I know the route

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**

#### ***Education Shaped by Compassion***

In some parts of the world, children are preparing to return to school. They are sharpening pencils, packing backpacks, and stepping into another year of possibility. But in communities across the globe, education can look very different.

Our global partners understand that education is more than just access to classrooms or books. It's a foundation for hope, dignity, and lasting change. Because they are rooted in their communities, Mission and Service partners can respond directly to local needs, creating educational opportunities that are culturally relevant, spiritually meaningful, and deeply empowering.

Picture a kindergarten class in a refugee camp where children are not only learning letters and numbers but reclaiming a sense of safety and possibility. Imagine a young adult encountering their faith in a new way, guided by mentors and peers who offer space for honest exploration and spiritual growth. Think of parents gathered in workshops tailored to their realities, where they share stories, strengthen leadership skills, and envision a future grounded in compassion and justice. Envision elders and youth learning together, reviving ancestral languages and knowledge long threatened by colonization and displacement.

These aren't just moments of learning; they are acts of restoration, resilience, and renewal. And they are possible because of you.

### **Call to Worship (Unison)**

***We are called forth from our homes, our yards, our vacation places, our workplaces, to come together as members of God's family, to honour God with our bodies, our spirits, our minds and our hearts. We are called to worship and praise God, to respond to the love God showers upon us. Let us worship in joy.***

*(George Allen, Chatham, Ontario – Gathering Pentecost 1, 2025)*

### **Sung Call to Worship      VU 377 (vs 1, 2, 3)      “Holy Spirit, Hear Us”**

**<sup>1</sup> Holy Spirit, hear us, help us while we sing,  
breathe into the music of the praise we bring.**

**<sup>2</sup> Holy Spirit, shine now on the book we read,  
light its holy pages with the truth we need.**

**<sup>3</sup> Holy Spirit, prompt us when we bow to pray,  
speak within and teach us what we ought to say.**

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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 pause to recognize the importance of Christ in our daily lives, in our work, in our play, in our relaxation. Whatever we are doing and wherever we are, in good times and in hard times, we give thanks that the Light of Christ is with us.

### **Opening Prayer**

Holy God, you call us to build the houses of our lives on strong and sure foundations. You have called us together as a community of faith so that this community may be part of how we build this world with the love and teaching of Jesus, our chief cornerstone. Open us to your presence so that our lives may be firmly rooted and grounded in Christ. Amen

*(Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C. Nipawin Sask. Gathering Penyecost 1, 2025)*

### **Opening Hymn      VU 562**

### ***“Jesus Calls Us”***

**<sup>1</sup> Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'**

- 2 Long ago apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'**
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
'Christian, love me more than these.'**
- 5 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.**

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### **Passing the Peace** (Jeremiah 2)

We worship the one who brings us living water when we look to cracked cisterns. In gratitude and joy for God's gracious gifts, let us share signs of the blessed peace we find in Christ our Lord.

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### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

Long-suffering One we long to return to you with love and gratitude in our hearts. We yearn for food that satisfies, the bread of life you offer without cost. Refresh us from your living waters as we stare into the cracked cisterns and the dry riverbeds of our petty complaints. Stand by us, Holy One, lest we forsake your glory in vain pursuits that neither profit us nor bring us joy. Amen

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### **Assurance of Love**

God offers us these words and this hope: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it." God offers us these words of assurance: "I will never leave you or forsake you." God is faithful even when we are not.

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## **Our Scripture Today**

**Luke 10: 1-12**

### **Reflection**

### ***The Value of Labour***

#### **Hymn**

**VU 560**

**"O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"**

- <sup>1</sup> **O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
teach me thy secret, help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- <sup>2</sup> **Help me the slow of heart to move  
with some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.**
- <sup>3</sup> **Teach me thy patience; still with thee,  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**
- <sup>4</sup> **in hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

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#### **Invitation to the Offering**

Our gifts and tithes are gladly received. We pledge them to the furthering of God's purpose and the support of this church: a ministry of welcome where we care for all. To the glory of God, your offerings are joyfully received.

*(Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Zion Lutheran church, North Dakota – Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2025)*

#### **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**

May all that we offer and all that we do be pleasing, O God, unto you. Bless these offerings that they may be multiplied by your loving hands so that all your children may feel your love through our actions. Amen

*(Cheryl Dillon, Trillium U.C. St. Catherines, Ont. – Gathering Pentecost 1, 2025)*

## **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Today, we have special prayers for:

Joy	Carol	Bill M	David
Myles	Dick	Sue N	Jim
Liam	Connie	Norma	Bev
Joanne	Randy	Hailey	Kim
Abby	Rev. Arlyce	Kylie	
Janet	Elaine	Rev Myra	

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

### **Closing Hymn**

**VU 342**

***"You Servants of God"***

- <sup>1</sup> You servants of God, your Saviour proclaim,  
and publish abroad that wonderful name;  
the name all victorious of Jesus extol,  
whose kingdom is glorious and rules over all.**
- <sup>2</sup> God rules from on high, almighty to save,  
whose Word still is nigh, a presence we have.  
The great congregation God's triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**
- <sup>3</sup> Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son!  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
bow down in deep reverence and worship the Lamb.**
- <sup>4</sup> Then let us adore and give as is right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.**

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

Labour Day is more than just a long weekend; it's an opportunity to honour the dignity of work and the contributions of those who labour tirelessly in various field. As we celebrate this day, it's essential to pause and seek God's blessings over our work, acknowledging that all we do is a gift from Him. Whether you're a professional, a tradesperson, a homemaker, or engaged in any other form of work, dedicating your labour to God through prayer can bring a renewed sense of purpose and fulfillment.

*(prayerprompt.org/labor day prayers)*

## **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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