

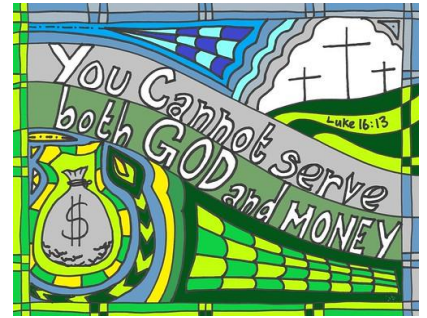
Bethel United Church

September 21 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 September 21, 2025, Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost, and the United Nations International Day of Peace. 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 Lynne Evans.

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.

We will be holding our Anniversary Service on September 28th. 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.

Paul Coutts celebrated his birthday last week. Are there any other celebrations?

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

Bread for the Journey

Bread shows up often in the Bible in important ways—manna in the wilderness, Jesus feeding the crowds, and the bread broken at the Last Supper. Again and again, bread is a sign of God’s care and provision.

That care continues today, through the hands of people willing to share what they have. And yet, hunger is still a daily reality for far too many people. Here in Canada, millions struggle to put food on the table. Around the world, nearly a third of the global population faces food insecurity. These aren’t just numbers—these are our neighbours, here and far away, who are making impossible choices between paying rent or buying groceries, between keeping the lights on or feeding their families.

Through Mission and Service, we are part of the response. Together, we’re helping farmers in India care for their livestock so they can keep their animals and their livelihoods healthy. We’re helping families in Zimbabwe use climate-smart farming techniques so they can grow food even in drought conditions. We’re supporting Indigenous Elders in Alberta with grocery cards, and helping offset the high cost of groceries in Northern Canada through the Food for the North program.

As we give thanks for the food we share in our own homes, may we also remember those for whom a full plate is never certain. And may our gratitude move us to action—so that bread is not just a symbol of God’s promise, but a daily reality for all.

Thank you for the difference you make through Mission and Service.

Call to Worship (*Responsive, based on Luke 16: 1-13*)

We gather as those entrusted with the gifts of God—

called to be faithful stewards of all we have received.

In a world that chases after wealth and status,

we choose to serve the God of justice and love.

Jesus calls us to wisdom that sees beyond the moment,

to live with eternity's values in our hearts.

We cannot serve both God and wealth—

so we choose this day whom we will follow.

Faithful in small things, faithful in great things,

we offer our lives as living sacrifices of praise.

Come, let us worship the One who entrusts us with true riches,

the God who calls us from shrewdness to faithfulness, from greed to grace.

Let us worship God with integrity, serving Christ alone as we gather in his name. Amen.

Sung Call to Worship

VU 376 (vs 1)

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on 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 consider what it means to be a people are called to be peacemakers.

A moment of silent reflection: How do you show that you are committed to Peace and peacemaking both at home and in the community? What do you need to change in order to bring God's message of Peace to our often violent world?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from 1st Timothy:

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Opening Prayer

God, our loving parent, we come today
with gratitude for the gift of community.

As we gather in your name, we invite your Holy Spirit
to be among us, guiding our thoughts, words, and actions.

Open our ears to hear your voice,
and our eyes to see your work among us.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

VU 409

"Morning Has Broken"

**¹ 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!**

**² Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**³ Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Lord, we confess that we find it difficult
to live as Christians in the world.

Every day, we must make our way
through a minefield of decisions and choices.

We confess that so often we choose the easiest option,
or the best one for us personally;

but these decisions may not serve you or your world.

We repent of giving in to our sinful natures
out of greed, ease or sheer thoughtlessness,
and we commit ourselves to prayerfully reviewing
our dealings in the world in the light of your teachings,
and the way you call us to live.

Amen.

Assurance of Love

The world is not forgiving, Lord, but you are.

The world will trick and deceive us, but you will never leave us.

Thank you for your forgiveness when we fall into worldly ways,
giving credence to that which is corrupt.

Thank you for your forgiveness

when we fail to live according to your calling.

We recommit ourselves today to trying harder.

Amen.

Theme Conversation *The cards we're dealt.*

Our Scriptures Today

1 Timothy 2: 1-7

- Offer prayers for those in high positions.

Luke 16: 1-13

- The parable of the dishonest manager.

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Lord, we pray: for a world where money talks and money acts;
for politicians who set out with high ideals, but may have been
compromised;

for nations and their leaders where money for weapons is found, but not for
the needs of hungry people.

And yet, we realise that money is necessary, and we pray:

for the services that care for people, while having to work with diminishing
budgets;

for the financial services that place profit above customer care;

and, for ourselves, for guidance in making careful choices.

Help us in our dealings to be just and fair;

to be true to our ethical values even when we make small purchases;

to think of how our gains may be losses to others.

Money is not evil – it is the love of it.

Let us not love it for its own sake; let it be an agent for good in the world,
used to promote just and equal community.

Today, we have special prayers for:

Joy	Janet	Joan	Bev
Myles	Carol	Norma	Kim
Liam	Dick	Rev. Myra	
Joanne	Rev. Arlyce	David	
Abby	Bill M.	Jim	

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

Closing Hymn VU 421 "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

- ¹ Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.**
- ² Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.**
- ³ Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.**

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Living our Faith this Week

We have been challenged by our scriptures this week to be single-minded in our serve to God, and to the Peace that passes all understanding. This week, take note of the times you are divided between service to God, and service elsewhere.

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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