

Bethel United Church November 2 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 November 2, 2025, and All Saints Day. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner, and I welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worshiping with us in our sanctuary, or from home through our Live Streaming.

This week, our service is being led by: Ruth Anne Johnson and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Heather Thompson.

The UCW meets on Tuesday, November 4th at 11am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat 'n Chew. All ladies are welcome.

Yesterday was Elizabeth's 28th birthday. Are there any other celebrations?

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)

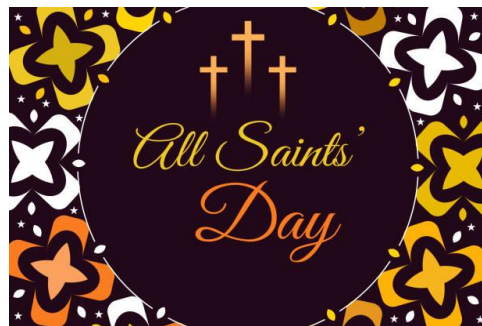
For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Peoples and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Minute For Mission

Faith, Farming and Friendship

For the first time in human history, more people live in cities than in rural areas, and that shift has brought new challenges, especially in caring for the Earth. In Japan, your Mission and Service gifts support a partner that's responding with vision and hope: the Asian Rural Institute (ARI).

Founded in 1973 by Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, ARI trains rural leaders from the Global South in servant leadership, sustainable agriculture, and community building. Each year, participants from around the world come together for nine months of hands-on learning, studying, farming, cooking, and cleaning side by side. The farm provides almost all of the food they eat, and the surplus supports their neighbours.



This year, your support through Mission and Service helped purchase a used minibus for ARI and provided scholarships for six participants: Arun from Sri Lanka, Robert from Liberia, Lily from Zambia, Lukogo from Congo, Sarmo from Indonesia, and Bob from Kenya.

They're learning organic farming methods like composting, natural pest control, and ways to keep soil healthy. As Arun says, "God creates everything in order. If things are in order, then everything will be okay. Everything is connected."

But the lessons go beyond agriculture. Students also learn about servant leadership, leading by serving others. "Peace is number one," explains Bob. "Then love."

For Lily from Zambia, it's been especially powerful to see so many women in leadership roles. She shares, "It inspired me to show others what is possible."

Life at ARI isn't easy. Days begin early, with prayer and physical work. Cultural differences, personalities, and misunderstandings do sometimes lead to conflict. Yet these tensions also provide rich opportunities to learn reconciliation, communication, and collective responsibility. Robert said, "It is wonderful to be in diversity. There are a lot of things I like and don't like. It is a challenge to learn to overcome them. It shifted my perception on how to live, to respect culture and not to offend. It is teaching me how to live." Arun summed up, "It is sacred to live in this environment."

Through your gifts for Mission and Service, participants at ARI experience transformation in their faith, their farming, and their leadership. And when they return home, they bring that transformation with them, helping their communities grow in hope, peace, and sustainability. Thank you.

Thank you for helping seeds of change take root around the world.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Let us remember:

Those throughout history who have led in praising God and spreading the good news.

Let us remember:

The warm embrace of loved ones, those who have comforted us over time, those who have acted fearless in times of despair and devastation.

Let us remember:

The strength and love of elders, the lasting presence of our friends, the kindness of strangers, the laughter of children, and the unconditional love of those who offered it.

On this All Saint's Day, let us remember:

The love of Jesus, the wonder of the Holy Spirit and the abiding presence of God.

Let us remember as we worship today.

Sung Call to Worship

VU 705 (vs 1)

"For All the Saints"

**For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

Today as we light our Christ Candle and our World Candle and remember the Saints who have gone before us.

Who has been your 'saint'? Who has provided you with support and direction in your life? What are their character traits that were what you needed in life?

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

"The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence."

Opening Prayer

Magnificent God, we praise you for giving us the glorious people who have gone before us, those who are saints, and those who have lived a life of saintly example. Today we ask that you help us follow their path and offer ourselves to that calling; to commit ourselves to service in your name. Amen.

Opening Hymn

VU 660

"How Firm a Foundation"

- ¹ How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- ² 'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.**
- ³ 'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

- ⁴ 'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**
- ⁵ 'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!'**

Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Living God,

When we hear "All Saints Day", its easier to remember famous saints, like St. Francis of Assisi, or Mother Teresa, or even Mary, the mother of Jesus. Remind us this morning that we are all called to be saints as followers of Jesus. We have been "set apart" by God to be a living witness to God's love, inspired by God's marvellous creation to do good works for the earth and all people. We recognize that we are still a work in progress. We are still being crafted by your divine hands. We acknowledge that we are flawed, alongside the gifts we have to offer. Remind us that we are not called to perfection, but to transformation.

Help us remain open to the Spirit who influences our mind, body and soul, so that we can continue to a place of transformation.

Amen.

Assurance of Love

Friends,

Our good news this morning is that we are not a 'competed' creation, but God's continuous creation; being ever made in the image of Christ. Today we are called to be "set apart" and to join the communion of Saints. You are loved and forgiven.

Amen

Theme Conversation

The Saints before us.

Our Scriptures Today

- **Ephesians 1: 11-23**
- **Luke 6: 20-31**

Reflection

Hymn

VU 325

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

**¹ Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help for ever,
and its confidence alone.**

**² To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving-kindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.**

**³ Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.**

**⁴ Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.**

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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 (Responsive)

Loving God,

You have chosen us in Christ and given us an inheritance of grace.

We thank You for calling us to belong—to You, to one another, and to Your Church in every time and place.

Grant that we may live as people of hope, trusting in the power that raised Christ from the dead.

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of all wisdom and revelation,
Open the eyes of our hearts to see Your glory in the world.
We pray for Your Church—here in this community and across the globe.
Make us a sign of Christ's body:
faithful in worship, generous in love, bold in witness, and gentle in service.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Ruler above all powers and authorities,
We lift before You the nations of the world.
Where there is war, bring peace.
Where there is greed, bring justice.
Where there is despair, kindle hope.
Guide leaders with wisdom that serves the common good,
and strengthen those who work for reconciliation and truth.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Compassionate God,
Christ's body suffers wherever Your people are in need.
We pray for all who are sick, weary, or grieving—
for those who live in loneliness, and for those who struggle with fear or
uncertainty.
Surround them with Your healing power and the assurance that they are
held in Your love

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Janet	Bev	Fran
Myles	Carol	Kim	Chris O
Liam	Dick	Pierre	Michael
Joanne	Rev. Myra	Dianne	Leah
Abby	Jim	Rae	

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

Closing Hymn VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

**¹ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

- ² Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**
- ³ Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.**
- ⁴ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

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Living our Faith this Week

Where are you in need of transformation this morning? What do you need to do so that you walk into your Call as one of the "Saints". This week, consciously move yourself to a new place in your walk with God.

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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