



Bethel United Church October 12 2025 – Thanksgiving Sunday

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

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is October 12, 2025, and Thanksgiving Sunday. 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, Aidan Williamson, Paul Coutts and Kathleen Williamson.

October is traditionally Stewardship Month at Bethel and for 2025 the Stewardship Committee has decided to focus on the Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP).

Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP) is a coalition of local citizens and organizations who feel strongly about the need to address Perth's housing crisis. In partnership with Carebridge Community Support and the Saumure Group, CHIP is committed to creating affordable housing solutions for neighbours in need of housing ... and we here at Bethel can help.

CHIP donations will be gratefully received as loose change/ undesignated funds during the Offering time on all October Sundays. There are special envelopes in the pews if you wish to use them. Contributions can also be made by cheque or through an e-transfer to Bethel United Church marking CHIP Project in the memo line.

Thank you for your support of this important undertaking.

If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the Stewardship Committee.

My Vancouver family, Seth and Elizabeth, celebrate their third wedding anniversary this weekend. It's a delight for me because they were married here, during Covid, and the UCW put together a lovely celebratory and socially distanced reception here. I'm so grateful for this memory and this care. 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

Setting More Tables Together

At Thanksgiving, many of us gather around tables filled with food, and share familiar traditions and prayers of gratitude. In the Bible, food is more than just sustenance: it's manna in the wilderness, a feast shared among thousands, and a table where all are welcome. Again and again, food is a sign of God's care and abundance.

But we know that not everyone has the blessing of a full table or loved ones to gather with. Hunger remains a painful reality for far too many. These are not just numbers or statistics: these are our neighbours, making impossible choices between heat and dinner.

Through Mission and Service partners, your generosity is part of God's response. Together, we are helping farmers in India care for their livestock, families in Zimbabwe grow food in drought conditions, and communities in Northern Canada access nutritious food despite high costs. Across Canada, ecumenical campus ministries and community centres serve weekly dinners where everyone is welcome. These meals don't just ease hunger, they help reduce stress, support learning, and bring people together where everyone has a place at the table.

This Thanksgiving, may gratitude fill our hearts. May that gratitude ripple outward, becoming generosity that helps set more tables, share more bread, and create more moments of joy. Because when we share what we have, God's promise of abundance comes to life, not just as a symbol, but as a feast of hope and possibility for all.

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

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Bethel friends – Shout to God!

We worship with gladness and joy.

Bethel friends – God loves your laughter!

We thank God that we are part of God's world.

Bethel friends – God loves us and cares for us with great tenderness.

We sing our thanks to God, believing that God loves us and is good to us.

Sung Call to Worship

VU 516 (vs 1)

"Come, You Thankful People, Come"

**Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in, safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home!**

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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 show gratitude for the gifts we have in our lives.

A moment of silent reflection: What three things are you grateful for today?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Luke 17:

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Opening Prayer

O God of wonder and majesty. You have called us to be cheerful givers, to recognize your provision, and to return to you to give thanks.

We pray that we can let go of our worries and concerns and trust that you will keep our hearts and mind safe. As we listen to your Good News of joy and hope this morning, open our hearts, so we can focus on all of your answered prayers, and our good and perfect gifts. Inspire us to a new way of thinking this morning so that we can be part of the joy and peace that is offered to us as your beloved Children.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, your child, who lived and walked with us, so that we can more fully understand you.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

VU 520

"We Plough the Fields"

**¹ We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.**

***Refrain* All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God, for all your love.**

- ² You only are the maker of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give us daily bread. *Refrain***
- ³ We thank you then, O Maker, for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for, our humble, thankful hearts.
*Refrain***

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Passing the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of Grace and Love, we confess this morning that often its hard to feel grateful . We have so many concerns that cloud the vision of our lives with fear or sadness instead of wonder and gratitude. Forgive us, God. Give us eyes that see abundance rather than deficit and hearts that are grateful rather than angry. We ask this in the name of your child, Jesus, who came to remind us of God's provision for us all. Amen

Assurance of Love

My friends, hear the words of the familiar children's hymn this morning. "Jesus Loves Me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so". Walk into this Love. Amen

Theme Conversation

What are you grateful for today?

Our Scriptures Today

Luke 17:11-19

- Jesus heals 10 men with leprosy.

Reflection

Hymn

VU 291

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

***Refrain All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.***

- ¹ Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. *Refrain***

- ² The purpleheaded mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; *Refrain***
- ³ The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. *Refrain***
- ⁴ The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; *Refrain***
- ⁵ God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. *Refrain***

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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

God, giver of all good,
you continually pour your benefits upon us.
Age after age the living wait upon you and find
that your faithfulness has no end,
that your care is unfailing.
We praise you that the mystery of life
is a mystery of infinite goodness.
We praise you
for the order and constancy of nature;
for the beauty and bounty of the earth;
for day and night, summer and winter,
seedtime and harvest;
for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings.
We give you thanks
for all the comfort and joy of life,

for our homes, for our friends,
and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people.
Included in our prayers this morning are:

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

Closing Hymn VU 232 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You”

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;
 hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
 drive the gloom of doubt away;
 giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
 earth and heaven reflect your rays,
 stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 flowery meadow, flashing sea,
 chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.**
- 3 You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
 wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
 Source of grace and fount of blessing,
 let your light upon us shine;
 teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
 God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
 Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
 joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.**

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Living our Faith this Week

This week, take some time every morning to write down three things that you are looking forward to, and then in the evening write down three things that you are grateful for. Take a few minutes with God in gratitude.

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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