

# Bethel United Church

## October 5 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 October 5, 2025, and Worldwide Communion Sunday. 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, Chris McColl and Sandra Walker. We are also really pleased to have Brian Perkin with us this morning to speak about our October Stewardship Campaign for the Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP)

October is Stewardship Month at Bethel.

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.

We are launching the October 2025 Bethel Stewardship Campaign today, October 5<sup>th</sup> and thank Brian Perkin for being with us this morning to provide an update on the current work being undertaken through CHIP.

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.

Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> the UCW meets at 11am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat 'n Chew.

Are there any 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**

#### ***Preparing a Place of Healing***

United Church ministers serving in northern communities will soon gather at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Manitoba for a time of healing and renewal.

The Northern Indigenous Ministers retreat comes at a critical moment. These ministers carry extraordinary burdens: walking alongside communities devastated by loss, often among young people; leading funeral after funeral; and tending to the deep wounds of grief. This year's wildfires brought further hardship, forcing the retreat to be postponed until October. The need for rest and renewal has only grown.

Because of your incredible generosity through Mission and Service, the retreat will soon take place. Plans are in place for sharing circles where ministers can express what they've been carrying, gather for meals that nourish body and spirit, and engage in cultural practices like ribbon skirt making and beading that bring connection and joy. Massages and other healing activities will help restore strength and release long-held tension. Most importantly, ministers will be surrounded by peers, who understand the unique weight they bear and who can hold that burden alongside them.

The outpouring of support from across the church has been remarkable. Your generosity is creating a space where ministers, who are so often the ones offering care, can finally receive it themselves.

Our ministers will soon step away from the constant demands of ministry and into a circle of care, healing, and renewal. And when they return to their communities, they will carry back not only renewed strength but also the reminder that they are not alone.

Your compassion through Mission and Service makes this gathering possible. Thank you.

### **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

***the world and those who live in it.***

What shall we return to the Lord for all the good things God has done for us?

***We will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.***

### **Sung Call to Worship**

**MV 161 (vs 1)**

***"I Have Called You By Your Name"***

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;**

**I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.**

**I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.**

**You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

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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 our call to be bridge makers in our world.

A moment of silent reflection: What do you do that is building bridges in our world rather than walls? How are you recognizing the people at our gates?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Luke 16

*"He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

### **Opening Prayer**

Loving God, some of us come today

in need of nourishment and refreshment,

some of us in need of company and friendship.

Some come with joy and hope to share.

Help us to all to join as one family, supporting each other,  
and praising and worshipping you.

Amen.

## **Opening Hymn**

**VU 506**

***"Take My Life and Let it Be"***

- <sup>1</sup> Take my life, and let it be consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- <sup>2</sup> 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.**
- <sup>3</sup> Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**
- <sup>4</sup> 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.**
- <sup>5</sup> 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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## **Passing the Peace**

### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

As we come today to your great table, O God, we realize how small we have made our own. Our vision of your grace is too narrow. Our awareness of your mercy is too limited. Our understanding of your kingdom always falls short.

We fail to measure up to the people you have called us to be. Hear our prayers and forgive our shortcomings. Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits, so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus. Amen.

### **Assurance of Love**

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, across time and space and through the generations, God seeks us out. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

## **Theme Conversation**

**Brian Perkin (CHIP)**

## **Our Scriptures Today**

Luke 16:19-31

## **Reflection**

## **Liturgy for World Communion Sunday**

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

People will come from east and west and north and south to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.

They will come with hope and they will come with doubts.

They will come with faith and they will come with fears.  
They will come with love and they will come with regrets.  
They will come from all over. They will come across all sorts of barriers and boundaries. They will come. They will all come for God longs for it to be so. Joining God's people across the globe and joining the saints of every time and place, we come to this table today. Everyone is welcome. God longs for it to be so. God longs to feed with us – all of us – with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts!

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Blessed are you, O God our Creator,  
whose image dwells in every face of the human family.  
In the faces of the matriarchs and patriarchs of Israel,  
we see your desire to raise up a chosen people.  
In the faces of judges and rulers, we behold the sanctity of your law.  
In the faces of your priests and prophets,  
we witness your passion for justice and righteousness.  
So now, joined with the global chorus of our siblings in Christ around the world, we glorify you and pray for the day when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of you as waters upon the face of the sea.  
When the world could wait no longer, you sent your Son into the world to show us your many faces:  
unexpected child,  
unwelcomed refugee,  
unhoused wayfarer,  
teacher and rebel,  
healer and provocateur,  
lover of the unlovable,  
toucher of the untouchable,  
forgiver of the unforgiveable,  
loved by the least, feared by authority,  
friend of the weak, foe of the strong.  
In all of these faces, we beheld love's true form until the world could stand him no longer, so we made him a cross.  
When heaven could wait no longer, O God, you broke powers of death and raised Christ to new life.

Come, Mighty Spirit, upon this bread and cup that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

As once you set your face to Jerusalem

to relieve your people's suffering once and for all—

send now your Holy Spirit to the people of Palestine, starving and tired of being starved...

the people of Burundi, impoverished and tired of being impoverished...

the people of Ukraine, war-ravaged and tired of being war-ravaged...

the people of El Salvador, corrupted and tired of being corrupted...

the people of North Korea, silenced and tired of being silenced...

the people of the United States, divided and tired of being divided.

By your Spirit unite all peoples in Christ until we feast with him and all the saints in light.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

(As Communion is being served, we will sing: VU 467 "One bread, one body")

### **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)**

God of all hope, we your people, lift before you the world.

We pray for those fighting in the Ukraine, for those suffering in Gaza. We think too of the innocent, those who have had to flee their homes and country and long for the day they can return. We pray all who have been arrested for protesting against the war, against rising fascism and against genocide.

God of all hope, who frames our faith with loving freedom,  
we put into your hands our prayers for peace, unity and justice.

We lift before you all who are concerned about today's economy as the pound sterling falls to a record low. We pray for all people concerned about paying bills, for businesses in our local communities struggling to keep going. We pray for those who, as the weather gets colder and energy bills spiral, will have to decide between heating or eating.

**God of all hope, who frames our faith with loving freedom,  
we put into your hands our prayers for trust and provision.**

We pray for your church, God, that in these difficult, unpredictable times it will stand firm upon your word. We pray for all ministers and leaders who guide and nurture your people. We pray too for all Christians in parliament. May their voices be heard as they follow your path.

***God of all hope, who frames our faith with loving freedom,  
we put into your hands our prayers for wisdom and guidance for  
all who lead.***

We pray for the sick and all who look after them. We pray for all suffering with mental health issues, particularly social media's influence today on young people's mental health. We pray for the bereaved, those who are having to adapt to life without a loved one in it.

***God of all hope, who frames our faith with loving freedom,  
we put into your hands our prayers for healing and comfort.***

We lift all people who are grieving and entering a new phase in life. May they walk in the power of your love.

We your people, pray for all those trapped by boundaries not of your making; the exploited, the abused. May they know your loving freedom as even the tiniest seeds of faith root and grow in loving trust.

Today we have special prayers for:

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

Joy	Carol	Kim	Tony
Myles	Dick	Tracy	Fran
Liam	Rev. Arlyce	Pierre	Rae
Joanne	Rev. Myra	Diane	Lil
Abby	Jim	Michel	
Janet	Bev	Stephanie	

**Closing Hymn                      VU 635                      "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me"**

**<sup>1</sup> All the way my Saviour leads me; what have I to ask beside?**

**Can I doubt his tender mercy**

**who through life has been my guide?**

**Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell,  
for I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.**

**<sup>2</sup> All the way my Saviour leads me,  
cheers each winding path I tread,  
gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.  
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,  
gushing from the rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see!**

**3 All the way my Saviour leads me; O the fullness of his love!  
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.  
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,  
wings its flight to realms of day,  
this my song through endless ages, 'Jesus led me all the way!'**  
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### **Living our Faith this Week**

This week have considered what it we need to do to build bridges in our community. As followers of Jesus we are called to lives of justice and reconciliation. This week, choose one 'bridge building' activity that you can begin new in your life.

### **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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