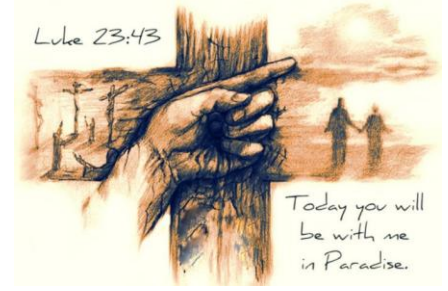


**Bethel United Church  
February 15 2026**



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

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is February 8<sup>th</sup> and it's the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. We welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worshiping with us in our sanctuary, or from home through our Live Streaming.

Rev. Dave Steele continues with us until Rev. Lynne returns from her restorative leave.

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

Chat and Chew continues on Tuesdays at 1:30 but the Zoom Prayer and Share is suspended for the next few weeks. If you have any questions about our weekly activities, you can access the 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.

The Perth and area World Day of Prayer service 2026 will be at St John the Baptist Roman Catholic church on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, This year's service was written by an ecumenical group of women from Nigeria. All are welcome to attend.

Are there any birthdays or other celebrations this week? Where have you seen God at work this week?

Please join in singing a brief song of celebration:

**VU 958**

**"Halle, Halle, Halle"**

**Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Halle, halle, halle-lujah!**

**Halle, halle, halle-lujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

*(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)*

**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 & Service Story**

### ***Support That Grows with Families***

Becoming a parent or guardian is a life-changing, complex experience that doesn't have a one-size-fits-all answer. As kids, we looked to adults for guidance as we navigated the world with fresh eyes. Now, as adults, we recognize that we're still figuring things out as we go, and there's always an opportunity to grow our skills and minds.

In London, Ontario, Mission and Service partners with the London Community Chaplaincy as they respond to parents and guardians who want to build a network of support, share the parenting journey, and develop new skills as they navigate raising children in a low-income setting. Together, these parents are working hard to build a positive future for their children and families.

Each week, London Community Chaplaincy provides a welcoming and safe social setting for adults to connect and grow as parents. Not only do they learn how to guide a child through critical stages of development, but also how to navigate being a parent or guardian while managing financial stress, food insecurity, housing complications, and more. Gathering with other adults in a similar situation allows participants to share their struggles and triumphs, further building a sense of community.

Your gifts to Mission and Service support partnerships like the London Community Chaplaincy as they help empower parents along the parenting journey. Thank you.

## **The Lighting of the Christ Candle and World Candle**

Today as we light our Christ Candle and World Candle we are reminded of the assurance of God's presence in our lives. Whenever life threatens to extinguish the light in our lives, remember that God's light is always with us.

Listen to the words of 1 John:1:7:

But if we live in the light, as God does, we share in life with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus washes all our sins away.

## **Call to Worship**

**One:** Before we were formed in the womb, God knew us.

**All:** ***Before we took our first breath, God had consecrated us.***

**One:** Today, we gather to worship the One who calls us, the One who equips us.

**All:** ***Let us trust in God, who is our refuge and strength.***

**One:** Come, let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in praise.

**All:** ***We will worship the God of love and grace!***

### **Opening Prayer (Unison)**

***Loving God, we come before You humbled and open, longing for spiritual renewal. As we lift our voices in worship, we breathe fresh life into our spirits. Restore our weary hearts and renew our minds so that we may walk faithfully in Your ways. May this time of worship rekindle our passion for You and deepen our relationship with Christ. Empower us to live as vessels of Your love and light in the world. Amen***

### **Opening Hymn**

**VU 509**

**"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"**

**<sup>1</sup> I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.**

**All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

***Refrain* Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard you calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if you lead me.**

**I will hold your people in my heart.**

**<sup>2</sup> I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.**

**I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain***

**<sup>3</sup> I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.**

**I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain***

*(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)*

### **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Offering Music**

### **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.**

*(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)*

### **Offering Prayer (Unison)**

***God of love and generosity, we dedicate these gifts to your service. May they be used to proclaim your word, share your love, and bring hope to the world. Bless our offerings, and use our lives to reflect your grace and truth in all we do. Amen.***

## **Scripture**

- Luke 23: 39-43 (NLT)
- 1 Thessalonians 1: 4-6 (CEV)

## **Message**

*"The Words of Assurance"*

## **Hymn**

**VU 747**

**"Psalm 23; The Lord's My Shepherd"**

**<sup>1</sup> The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.**

**<sup>2</sup> My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.**

**<sup>3</sup> Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.**

**<sup>4</sup> My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.**

**<sup>5</sup> Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore my dwelling-place shall be.**

*(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)*

## **Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Rev. Myra	Fran	Wayne P.
Liam	Jim	Chris O.	Liz T.
Joanne	Bev	Michael	Adrian
Lorne	Kim	Leah	The people of
Abby	Pierre	Amanda &	Tumbler Ridge
Janet	Dianne	Wayne T.	
Carol	Rae	Serge	

And together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: **"Our Father....."**

## **Closing Hymn**

**VU 217**

**"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

**<sup>1</sup> All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing:**

**hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Bright burning sun with golden beam,**

**soft shining moon with silver gleam,**

**sing praises, sing praises,**

**hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

- 2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;  
O lights of evening, find a voice:  
sing praises, sing praises,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**
- 3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day  
brings forth rich blessings on our way:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,  
let them God's glory also show:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**
- 4 And everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and yield up all your care:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**
- 5 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

## **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**

*(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)*