



FIRST SUNDAY  
*in Lent*

**Bethel United Church**  
**February 22 2026**  
**Lent 1/Communion**

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

**Introit**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is February 15<sup>th</sup> and it's the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We welcome all of you into this place, whether you are worshipping 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 Walker.

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.

There's a soup & sandwich lunch after worship, today. Please stay for a time of fellowship.

Today is the first Sunday in Lent.

2026 Lenten Project

This year during Lent, Session, the UCW and the Stewardship Committee are partnering on a Lenten Project. The goal of our Lenten Project is to provide our Bethel Family with updated information about the Hospice Hub and encourage support for the Hospice Hub

(<https://www.thehospicehub.ca/>).

The Hospice Hub now in its third year of operation is a community-led initiative that provides comprehensive, compassionate, and integrated services to support anyone at end of life and bereavement, including their family and caregivers, wherever they call home.

They provide education, information, system navigation, and responsive compassionate support services to allow people to live well with as much comfort as possible for as long as is possible.

The Hospice Hub serves Perth, Smiths Falls, Portland, Westport and surrounding areas. They serve the same community as the Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital.

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!**

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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**

#### ***Where Play Builds Community***

I’m going to sleep here!” Amarah, age 6, threatens from under the table. Along with her sisters, she hides from her family at the Tomken Grove Afterschool Program’s pickup time. This is a common occurrence because every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., the children feel that two hours together is not enough.

Through the passion of Westminster United Church in Mississauga, ON, the Tomken Grove Afterschool Program aims to encourage community among local children. The program creates a recreational space outside of school where neighbourhood kids can spend time together in an electronics-free environment.

Some form of physical activity is always scheduled: dance battles, obstacle courses, hula-hooping, spending time outdoors, and more. Snacks such as fresh fruits and yogurt keep the kids healthy and energized, and everyone is involved in cleanup responsibilities for snack and outdoor time, which encourages independence and innovation.

Your gifts through Mission and Service help programs like this as they encourage community and connection. Thank you.

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

**One:** A table is set before us. A feast is prepared for us.

**All:** *A meal of bread and wine.*

**One:** The Lord calls us to this supper of remembrance.

**All:** *The Lord calls us to serve and to be served.*

**One:** As we break the bread and share the cup,

**All:** *our understanding may fail us.*

**One:** But we will never forget Christ's example.

**All:** *We will never forget the full extent of his love.*

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

Today as we light our Christ Candle and our World Candle we recognize that we are called to the Communion Table. We are called to eat the bread of life and share the cup of hope and strength.

*A moment of silent reflection.* Is there anything that is stopping us from experiencing communion to the fullest?

Listen to God's Word this morning from 1 Corinthians 10:16-17,

"Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

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

*God of love, as we enter this first week of our Lenten journey, guide us on the path that leads to you. Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength and peace. Help us to grow closer to you this Lent through the practice of prayer and in the sharing of communion. In your name we pray, Amen.*

### **Opening Hymn**

**VU 108**

**"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"**

**<sup>1</sup> Throughout these Lenten days and nights  
we turn to walk the inward way,  
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,  
we live in hope till Easter Day.**

**<sup>2</sup> The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,  
who found in weakness greater power,  
embraces us, though lost and flawed,  
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**

- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain  
of human burdens, human strife,  
while sisters, brothers help sustain  
our courage till the Feast of Life.**
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep,  
the Spirit ever calls us on through  
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,  
until we see the coming Dawn.**
- 5 So let us choose the path of One  
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,  
and slept in death that we might wake  
to life on Resurrection Morn!**
- 6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing  
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!  
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings  
on Easter Day will rise again!**

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### **Scripture Reading**

Mark 10:17-31 (CEV)

### **Reflection**

“When Life Encounters Jesus”

### **Communion Liturgy**

The bread and fruit we partake nourishes us so that we may nourish others. Through this sacrament of Communion, we affirm that we are committed to Christ's way of love and peace by our motives, thoughts, actions, and practices in this world. We acknowledge that we are one community made by God, and that we must consciously choose, day by day, to be in right relationship with God, each other, with creation and with our sacred values. We therefore dedicate ourselves, individually and collectively, to make the Body and Spirit of Christ real in this world, here and now, and throughout our life as a community of the faithful. What we symbolize here in this holy space, we make real by our service when we go forth from this place.

Christ invites “all” to the table of reconciliation – those who affirm their intrinsic worth, and those who are yet to do so...those whose hearts and minds are admirable, and those still struggling to make them so...those who are most like us, and those who are least like us. In the spirit of Christ, we at Bethel United church welcome you to share your spiritual journey with us as we share ours with you in a ritual designed to bridge all differences in a spirit of extravagant welcome, of heartfelt openness, and of mutual loving-

kindness. In coming together, let us recognize our responsibility in living in love and peace with one another and all creation so as to be joined together as one Holy Communion of Body and Spirit throughout this good earth.

For centuries, Christians of different customs have gathered to commune with you and each other through the sharing of this feast. Therefore, with all the saints of every time and place, we join the angels in their praise, singing:

**All: Sanctus and Benedictus**

*(Sung) Music found on page 942, Voices United*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might**

**Heav'n and earth are full, full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the of the Lord!**

**Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**One:** The Lord be with you.

**All: *And also with you.***

**One:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: *We lift them up to the Lord.***

**One:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: *It is good to give God thanks and praise.***

Let us pray:

We thank you God of life for you have created us and you love us. O God we remember how you speak to us through creation and in the scriptures and we especially remember how you sent your son Jesus to show us that God is love and that we are not forgotten. You long to heal us and have your love and life fill our lives.

We thank you for Jesus and for his life, his teaching and his love. We thank you for the new life he brought to those he spoke to and freed and healed. We thank you God that Jesus lives today and that we can reach out and touch him and be renewed through this act of Holy Communion. O God be present in our lives and present in this bread and this wine and give us the healing and the life we need by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

**As Communion is being distributed we will sing:**

**VU 480**

**"Let us Break Bread Together"**

**<sup>1</sup> Let us break bread together on our knees,  
let us break bread together on our knees.**

***Refrain* When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**<sup>2</sup> Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

**<sup>3</sup> Let us praise God together on our knees,  
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain***

### **Words of Communion**

"The body of Christ broken for you"

"The blood of Christ shed for you"

### **Prayer After Communion (Unison)**

The Disciples would have sung the great hymn of Psalm 136 at the end of their Passover meal and in our new tradition, let us recite part of it to close our meal together.

***"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.  
Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. Give  
thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. To him who  
alone does great wonders, His love endures forever."***

### **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.**

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#### **Offering Prayer (Rev. Dave)**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Closing Hymn**

**MV 145**

**"Draw the Circle Wide"**

***Refrain* Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

- 1 God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. *Refrain***
- 2 Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *Refrain***
- 3 Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. *Refrain***  
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## **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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