

Bethel United Church
March 15 2026 – Lent 4



FOURTH SUNDAY
In Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is March 15th and it's the Fourth Sunday in Lent. 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: Paula Grenke and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Barb Joynt.

Chat and Chew continues on Tuesdays at 1:30 but the Zoom Prayer and Share will resume when Rev. Lynne returns. If you have any questions about our weekly activities, you can access the calendar on our website: www.bethelchurchrideauferry.ca. The calendar will appear on the first screen and has all of our activities listed.

Everyone is welcome to stay for a soup and sandwich lunch, today, following the worship service.

Lenten Project Week Four

The goal of our Lenten Project this year is to learn more about and encourage support for the Hospice Hub.

Two important programs provided by the Hospice Hub are the Home Support Program and the Bereavement Program.

The Home Support Program offers emotional support and practical help to clients facing a life limiting illness, wherever they call home. The Hospice Hub team provides support to trained volunteers who make regular, sometimes weekly, home visits. Hospice volunteers provide someone to listen, to read, and to talk with. Volunteers can assist at mealtime or simply watch over while the client rests. This program allows caregivers to do errands or to rest, knowing that their loved one is being cared for.

The Hospice Hub provides support for the family and caregiver during an illness and after the death of a loved one. The Bereavement Program is led by a group of dedicated volunteers who help clients find comfort and peace even during grief. Through contact or referral to the Bereavement Coordinator, bereaved who have experienced a death can participate in our bereavement group programs.

Bethel's Annual Pancake Breakfast will take place on Saturday April 4th from 8am until 11am.

Once again we are partnering with Oliver's Mapleworks and their delicious Maple Syrup will be available to enjoy on your pancakes and sausages.

It takes our entire Bethel Family to successfully carry out this important community event. A sign-up sheet is available and we ask for your help in looking after all the tasks that help ensure a successful Pancake Breakfast.

Your help is also requested in getting the word out about the Breakfast. Posters are available in the Hall. Please share them broadly.

As well, we will make the Pancake Breakfast information available electronically. Please forward the information to family, friends and any other community contacts.

Together we can make this Breakfast happen once again...and we always have a lot of fun along the way!

Any questions, please contact Karen Hunt or any member of the Stewardship Committee.

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 & Service Story

A Steady Flow of Care

For most of us, a shower is routine.

For someone without stable housing, it can be transformative.

In St. Catharines, Ontario, Silver Spire United Church offers more than access to water. Their shower program offers dignity, relief, and a fresh start to the day—sometimes all in the same hour.

While guests take a private shower, their laundry is washed and dried in the next room. Clean clothes are ready when they step out. Toiletries like soap, shampoo, deodorant are generously donated by the community and is available to all guests. Devices can be charged in the room, and guests are

welcome to keep their belongings in the room with them to keep them secure.

It may sound simple, but being able to wash your body and your clothing at the same time changes a day. In the extreme heat of summertime, a cool shower can prevent illness and save lives. In the winter, warm water restores circulation and comfort. Beyond physical relief, something deeper happens: people are reminded they matter.

But programs like this require steady support. Costs for utilities, supplies, coordination, volunteers, and care can mount quickly.

Through Mission and Service, we're helping Silver Spire United Church keep the water running and the program staffed. We're helping ensure that dignity is not an afterthought, but a priority.

A shower should not be a luxury, and clean clothes should not be out of reach.

When we give, dignity flows.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle and World Candle

Today as we light our Christ Candle and World Candle we acknowledge the humanity of Jesus when he walked this earth. Confined by his humanity he walked the same human journey that each one of us experiences from birth until death. Because of this, he can relate to our joys and our sorrows, our challenges and our victories.

Listen to the words of 1 John 4: 1-2

¹ Dear friends, don't believe everyone who claims to have the Spirit of God. Test them all to find out if they really do come from God. Many false prophets have already gone out into the world,

² and you can know which ones come from God. His Spirit says that Jesus Christ had a truly human body.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: The heavens are telling of the glory of God;

All: *and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.*

One: Your law, O God, is perfect, reviving our souls,

All: *and your commandments are sure, rejoicing our hearts.*

One: Let our words and worship, the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable to you,

All: *O God, our rock and our redeemer!*

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Great and loving God, we ask your Holy Spirit to bless our time together and to refresh us with your presence. In the midst of a world full of trouble and strife, we thank you for watching over us, guiding us, and as we confess our sins, for forgiving us. Enable us

to enter your presence today joyfully and reverently, and let us depart with the assurance of your love. Fill us, O God, with the peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

Opening Hymn VU 120 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

**¹ O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**² O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.**

**³ O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.**

**⁴ O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.**

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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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Offertory Prayer (Unison)

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you.

Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 63: 1-8 (NLT)

John 19: 28-29 (CEV)

Message

'The Words of Humanity' (Words of Love Series)

Hymn

MV 154

"Deep in Our Hearts"

- 1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**
- 2 Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.**
- 3 Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.**
- 4 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

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	Lainey
Abby	Pierre	Amanda &	James
Janet	Dianne	Wayne T.	
Carol	Rae	Serge	

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

Closing Hymn

VU 245

"Praise the Lord With the Sound of Trumpet"

- 1 Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.**

**Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or
snow or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.**

**2 Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment,
nothing let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!**

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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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