



Bethel United Church March 8 2026 – Lent 3

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

THIRD SUNDAY
In Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry, Ontario. Today is March 1st and it's the Second Sunday in Lent. 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 Liz Hughes.

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.

Our Lenten Project - Week Three

As we heard from Isobel Boyd last Sunday, the Hospice Hub is there to help by providing responsive, compassionate support services, navigation support, information and education that will allow people to live well as long as possible.

They offer home hospice care including emotional support, caregiver respite, advance care planning and grief and bereavement services.

The Hospice Hub assists with system navigation and advocacy for clients, their families and loved ones. They accept clients in the communities served by the Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital.

There is no charge for their services. The work of the Hospice Hub is funded by donations, sponsorships, grants and in-kind support.

Bethel's Annual Pancake Breakfast

This year's Pancake Breakfast will take place on Saturday, April 4th from 8 am until 11am. Note: This is also Easter Weekend.

Once again we are partnering with Oliver's Mapleworks and their delicious Maple Syrup will be available to complement your plate of yummy 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

Partnership in Bloom

Spring doesn't arrive quietly. It pushes. It breaks through frozen ground, insisting on life.

That same insistence is at work through Mission and Service partners around the world. And when we give to Mission and Service, we're not simply supporting good intentions. We're strengthening this steady, rooted, courageous work that is already underway.

Our generosity supports partners as they show up, day in and day out, wherever there is need.

When wildfires displace families: they're there to open their doors in welcome.

When food prices rise beyond reach: they're organizing food distribution before cupboards are bare.

When storms wash away infrastructure: they're planting crops in soil made fragile by climate change.

When isolation presses in on communities: they're creating safe spaces for learning, healing, and belonging.

Every gift we give through Mission and Service is fuel for this response. Our collective generosity becomes groceries on a table, a workshop that shifts harmful beliefs, seeds planted in changing climates, and training for leaders.

This work is not theoretical. It's daily, practical, and faithful. And it grows because, together, we continue to help it grow.

Spring is coming. Let's make sure hope grows everywhere it's needed.

Give to support Mission and Service today; help love take root.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle and World Candle

Today as we light our Christ Candle and World Candle we acknowledge that we sometimes give in to despair or seem to lose hope along our journey of life. We fall into a time of lamentation. Sometimes it is difficult to see, or feel, God in the storms of life. In times like these Lord, help us to feel your peaceful presence and to find the light of hope ahead.

Listen to the words of Psalm 19:

I am overcome with sorrow. Encourage me, as you have promised to do. I am your servant, LORD, and you have kept your promise to treat me with kindness.

Call To Worship

One: In this journey of Lent,

All: *we come seeking God.*

One: In this time of uncertainty in our lives,

All: *we come seeking God.*

One: Quieting our minds, opening our hearts, and waiting for the divine mystery to make itself known,

All: *we come to worship God!*

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Gracious God, we ask that the Holy Spirit will move among us in our worship service today, Fill us with Your wisdom and strength as we gather together to worship you. Create a spirit of unity among us so that we can serve you, and others, in a true spirit of love and compassion. And we ask this in the name of the compassionate and meek Shepherd Jesus.

Opening Hymn VU 112 "O God, How We Have Wandered"

**¹ O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling, you call us each by name.**

**² And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

**³ O God of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

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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)

Caring God, we humble ourselves today by returning the bounty you first shared with us back to your care. Without pretension or self-righteousness, we resolve to be slow to judge and ready to provide aid. We strive to increase our commitment to being thoughtful, generous people. We pray in the name of the one who served you here on Earth, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 22: 1-5 (CEV)

Matthew 27: 45-46 (CEV)

Message

'The Words of Doubt/Lamentation' (Words of Love Series)

Points to Ponder

Negativity

I'm sorry

Power of positivity

Lies

Your relationship with God

Look within

Do for others

Good

Look after others

Justice

Your voice

Love

Hymn

MV 135

“Called by Earth and Sky”

Refrain Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

1 Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean’s dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again. **Refrain**

2 Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace. **Refrain**

3 Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation’s faithful song. **Refrain**

4 Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.
Refrain Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky. called by earth and sky.

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Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Bev	Amanda &	Barb & Jeff, in
Liam	Kim	Wayne T.	the loss of
Joanne	Pierre	Serge	Jeff’s sister
Lorne	Dianne	Wayne P.	The Gardiner &
Abby	Rae	Liz T.	Holden families
Janet	Fran	Adrian	in the loss of
Carol	Chris O.	Lainey	father David
Rev. Myra	Michael	James	
Jim	Leah		

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

Closing Hymn

VU 218

“We Praise You, O God”

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

**2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.**

**3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

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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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