

Bethel United Church

May 3 2026



Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is May 3rd and the Fifth Sunday of Easter. My name is Dana Ducette and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you are worshiping with us virtually, or in person.

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

A quick reminder of the regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew, in person and in the hall on Tuesdays at 1:30 and our Zoom Prayer and Share on Thursdays at 10am.

The UCW meets on Tuesday, May 5th at 11am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat & Chew.

Are there any celebrations this week?

Please join in singing a brief song of celebration:

VU 179

"Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks"

**Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Land Acknowledgement (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 Story

Healthy Food, Healthy Relationships

Many communities are feeling the weight of isolation. Poverty, violence, and the pressures of daily life can make it harder for people to stay connected, even when living side by side.

At Carlington Community Connection, a chaplaincy in Ottawa, Ontario, people who saw this need chose to respond. They noticed the growing isolation around them and decided to create a place where people could be welcomed and treated with dignity.

That response sounds simple, but it matters deeply. Volunteers and staff greet people with coffee or tea, and a home-baked muffin. They sit together, listening and creating space for everyday connection.

In these moments, people are not defined by what they are facing, but by their shared humanity.

That care is also growing in practical ways. The program now offers healthier food options, providing more nourishment during each visit. Volunteers and staff also make it possible for people to take home items like fruit, yogurt, and cheese for their children—supporting families in ways that make a real difference in daily life.

Through Mission and Service, this kind of response is possible. Our gifts to Mission and Service support the people who see a need and choose to act with compassion and care.

When we respond to isolation with kindness, something begins to change. Make your gift to Mission and Service today.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

God is present in the still of the night or the quiet of the morning

God is present for one and all.

Christ is alive in the gathered community,
or in our acts of service, care, and love.

Christ is alive for one and all.

The Spirit is discerned through our moments of quiet reflection and prayer,
Or through the insights shared by others

The Spirit is here for one and all.

Let us be alive to its call upon our lives this day and every day.

(Written by Bill Steadman, Gatherings, L/E/P 2011, page 46 Used with permission)

Sung Call to Worship VU 409 (vs 1) “Morning has Broken”

Morning has broken like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our Christ candle and our World candle, we consider the patterns and habits that we have in our lives that show that we are followers of Jesus.

A moment of silent reflection: What do you do in life that allows other people to recognize God? What habits have you set up that point to the Divine?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Luke 24:

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

Opening Prayer

We gather this day, O Lord, as people who seek your guiding love. Open our hearts and make us ready to stand firm in the faith that leads to loving service. Create a new people in this place so that your love may surround all who enter here. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

MV 142

"Oh, a Song Must Rise"

Refrain Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend

Oh a song must rise once again (again)

**Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,**

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend. (descend)

**¹ From the mountains to the valleys, from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again.**

**From the voices of our leaders, the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. Refrain**

**² From poverty and riches, from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again. (again)**

**From the free and the imprisoned, the timid and the bold,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. Refrain**

**³ From ev'ry house of worship, in ev'ry faith and tongue,
a song must rise once again.**

**From the villages and cities a new song must be sung,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. Refrain**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy.

Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Assurance of Love

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

Theme Conversation

Our Scriptures Today

John 14: 1-14 Jesus Is the Way to the Father

Reflection *Pencil*

Hymn MV 79 *"Spirit, Open My Heart"*

***Refrain* Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
 As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
 Spirit, open my heart.**

**¹ God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.**

**² Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.**

**³ May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.**

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Invitation to the Offering

Our offerings come from more than our toiling and work, they come from our heart and need to see God's vision lived out in this world. Let us now offer what we have for God's work.

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

Gracious God we give these gifts for the good of our work. May they bless the hands and hearts of this world to speak justice and show love in your name. Amen

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Today, we have special prayers for:

Joy	Kim H.	Lainey	Jennifer
Liam	Fran	James	Sandy
Shirley	Chris O.	Brynnley	Ellen & Art
Janet	Leah	Kim P.	Robin
Carol	Serge	Ellen Jane	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father....

Closing Hymn

VU 649

"Walk With Me"

Refrain Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

**¹ When Moses heard the call of God he said, 'Lord, don't send me.'
But God told Moses, 'You're the one to set my people free.'**

Refrain

**² Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock;
but Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock. *Refrain***

**³ Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,
and by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door.**

Refrain

**⁴ And when you share your faith with me
and work for life made new,
the witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.**

Refrain

(reproduced with permission under license # 610589 LicenSingOnline)

Living our Faith this Week

Commissioning and Benediction

Go in peace, and may the peace of God, which shines brightly and vanquishes our darkness, always be with you. Go, knowing that God is your rock and your refuge. You are not alone. God is always with you. AMEN.

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)