

Bethel United Church June 21 2026

- All **Bolded Text** indicates a congregational response

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is June 21 and Father's Day. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you are worshipping with us virtually, or in person. Much of our liturgy this morning has been taken from the United Church of Canada website and is used with permission.

We recognize that Father's Day can be a difficult day for many people, and often is a place of sadness or disappointment rather than a celebration. Regardless of your experience, and your feelings, you are welcome in this place. Welcome to celebrate, welcome to grieve, welcome to disregard. Welcome with all of who you are.

Rev. Lynne's contact information is: Phone (613) 267-3855 or email pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca

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

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

Mark your calendars. The UCW's annual Summer Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, July 4th from 9am until sold out. All donations of baked goods, jams, pickles, etc is gratefully accepted.

Bethel United Church is honoured to make our Church Hall available for a Grief and Bereavement Drop-In Support Group Wednesday, June 24th from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. If you would like to participate, please register with Brad Dowdall, Community Home Support Lanark County Lanark. Call 613 267- 6400 or email bradd@chslc.ca

The Gardiner family celebrated Emily's graduation and Nursing Pinning ceremony on Friday and Lynne Evans celebrates her birthday this coming week. Are there any other celebrations?



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.**

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Land Acknowledgment

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

Campfires and Confidence

For 60 years, Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp has been a place where children and youth can unplug from screens, connect with nature, and discover new strengths in themselves. In 2026, the camp is celebrating six decades of outdoor adventure, friendship, and belonging on the shores of Long Lake in Nova Scotia.

At Camp Kidston, children and youth spend their days canoeing and kayaking, trying slack lines and bog-walking, exploring the outdoors, making crafts, and building confidence through games and leadership opportunities. Campers are encouraged to try new things, build friendships, and simply enjoy being kids.

Our gifts through Mission and Service help make these experiences possible by providing specialized recreational equipment and supplies that go beyond the basics. New life vests for paddling programs, updated sports equipment, and nature exploration kits help make camp safer, more engaging, and more accessible for every child.

These gifts are about more than equipment. They help children build confidence as they learn new skills and discover what they are capable of. They help ensure that every camper, regardless of background, can fully participate in the fun, learning, and adventure that camp offers. And they help create memories that young people carry with them long after summer ends.

Even during the challenges of the summer of 2025, including extreme heat and a region-wide fire ban, Camp Kidston was filled with joy and creativity. Campers enjoyed waterfront adventures, theme days, team-building activities, and imaginative campfire alternatives created by staff.

Leadership programs for teens continued to grow, and families spoke about the sense of belonging their children experienced at camp.

As Camp Kidston celebrates its 60th anniversary, our gifts through Mission and Service are helping ensure that children and youth can continue to experience the wonder, friendship, and confidence-building that camp makes possible for years to come.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

There is no hope like you, O God!

Hope for those who cry out from the deserts of their lives.

There is no grace like you, O God!

Grace for those rejected, ignored, and cast aside by the world.

There is no love like you, O God!

Love for those who have known days of trouble and nights of loneliness.

There is no one like you, O God!

No one! Amen.

Sung Call to Worship MV 62

"There is Room for All"

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;

there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all!

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we are invited to consider why we come to church, and how professing a faith makes a difference in our lives.

A moment of silent reflection: How do you personally tap into a sense of God's presence in this world? Does your faith change you? What does 'giving up your life' or sacrificial living meant to you?

Listen to God's words for you this morning from Matthew 10:

"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

Opening Prayer

God of mercy and wonder,

When our hearts are burdened with worry and weariness,
you meet us with quiet strength.

When the noise of the world drowns out hope,
you speak words of life into our souls.

When we wander through uncertainty,
you walk beside us, guiding us toward your peace.

There is no faithfulness like yours, Loving God.

You gather the forgotten, welcome the stranger,
and lift up those who have fallen low.

You call us to trust more deeply,
love more freely, and serve more gladly.

As we worship you this day,
renew us in your Spirit and draw us closer
to one another and to you.

In your holy name we pray.
Amen.

Opening Hymn VU 560 “O Master Let Me Walk with Thee”

**¹ O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**² Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**³ Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**

**⁴ in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

It is never easy to confess our lives to you, Listener to our words. When we have a chance to speak up for the outsider, we too often join in sending them away into the wilderness of hopelessness. When we could shout good news to a needy world, our voices drop to a whisper. When we could abound in grace, we continue to wallow in wrongdoing.

Forgive us, Hearer of our hearts, and have mercy on us. You lean over to listen to our words, and then to cast them into your sea of forgetfulness. You show us your signs of hope, that we might point others to you. You help us when we are weakest and, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you save us when we cannot save ourselves. Amen.

Assurance of Love (Responsive)

Do not be afraid. God cherishes us, God treasures you, beyond all else in creation. You are graced, you are forgiven, you are healed.

We will not keep this good news to ourselves. We will shout our hope from the rooftops of our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Our Scriptures Today

Genesis 21:8–21 Hagar and Ishmael sent away.
Matthew 10:24–39 Discipleship: Lose your life to find it.

Reflection

A Celebration of Communion

May the God of Abraham and Sarah be with you.

And also with you.

There is no one like the God of Hagar and Ishmael.

And so we lift our hearts to God.

God will gladden the souls of all people.

We sing to the One who is always gracious.

There is none like you, Everlasting Grace,
shaper of goodness and beauty out of the shadows of chaos.

You gladdened the soul of all creation
with stunning sunsets, clear-streamed valleys,
mountains towering into the sky.

These gifts, as well as your hopes and dreams, were for us,
but we sent them away into
the wilderness of forgetfulness,
choosing to live in
the long days of rebellion.

The God of forgiveness, your words calling us back
overflowed from the mouths of the prophets,
but we continued to sin.

Seeking to unite us with you once more,
you sent Jesus, to baptize us with your life,
even as he was baptized into death for us.

Therefore, we join with those in this place, as well as our siblings throughout all creation in singing your praises:

***Holy, holy, holy, God of every time and people.
All creation kneels, glorifying your name.
Hosanna in the highest!***

***Blessed is the One who lost his life for our sake.
Hosanna in the highest!***

Holy are you, Steadfast Love, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
He could have remained the Child of your heart,
but came to be with
his siblings in life and death.

Seeking to glorify your name,
he was called a blasphemer,
accused of usurping your power.

Longing to lead us out of despair's deep desert,
he willingly went to the grave,
that we might be raised
to life with you forever,
walking the streets of the kingdom.

As we remember his baptism at the Jordan,
as we recall his baptism into death,
as we celebrate his resurrection to life,
we sing of that mystery called faith:

***Christ gave his life, for the sake of all;
Christ rose, for death lost its power over him;
Christ will come, for we have been baptized into his death.***

As we come to your Table of peace and hope,
pour out your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and the cup,
and upon your children gathered in your name.

As we are nurtured by the Bread of Life,
may we have no fear,
but boldly go to serve
those cast out by our world.

As we are nourished with the wine of wonder,
may we not keep
your love and grace a secret,
but shout the good news
of your salvation for all.

And when we have been baptized into death like Christ,
and raised into life with you, we will join our voices
with our sisters and brothers singing your glory forever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

At Bethel, we have an Open Table, meaning that anyone that wishes to be a part of the Celebration of Communion may be, regardless of your faith or lack of faith, regardless of who you are and what you experience. You are welcome.

The ushers will serve Communion to you in the pews. Please let them know if you need support or assistance. For inclusion purposes, all of our Communion elements are gluten-free and we use grape juice rather than wine. We ask that you hold both the bread and the juice until we can all partake of them together.

Hymn

MV 194

"Bread of Life, Feed My Soul"

**¹ Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

**² I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share in the feast
that is laid out for you
to show how much I care."**

**³ Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
the boundless love of Christ for you and me.**

**⁴ I have heard your voice calling,
"Come, my friend, and share in the feast
that is laid out for you
to show how much I care."**

**⁵ Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

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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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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Responsive)

God of compassion and hope, You hear the cries of your people before they are spoken, and you know the needs of the world better than we know them ourselves.

For your Church in every place, that it may be a sign of your love, a refuge for the weary, and a voice for justice and peace, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer

For the nations of the world, for leaders and public servants, for all who bear responsibility for others, that wisdom may overcome fear, and compassion may guide every decision, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer

For those who live amid conflict, violence, displacement, or uncertainty, that they may find safety, comfort, and companions for the journey, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer

For those burdened by illness, grief, loneliness, anxiety, or loss, for those whose struggles remain unseen, and for all who long for healing and hope, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer

For our community, for our families and friends, for neighbours known and unknown, that we may recognize Christ in one another and share generously from the gifts we have received, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer

For the earth, your good creation, for forests and fields, rivers and oceans, creatures great and small, that we may be faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer

For the prayers we carry silently in our hearts, for concerns too deep for words, and for hopes known only to you, we pray to you now in silence.

(Silence is kept.)

Faithful God, you accompany us through every season of life.

Receive these prayers, and strengthen us to live as people of faith, hope, and love.

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

Our Father....

Closing Hymn VU 561

"Take Up Your Cross"

- ¹ Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.**
- ² Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.**
- ³ Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel;
your Saviour once accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.**
- ⁴ Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
think not till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

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Living our Faith this Week

As we continue to think about what it means to "lay down our lives" I want you to spend some time with a new spiritual practice; a time of prayer, meditation, Lectio Divina and so on. What would it mean for you to stop 'striving' and instead 'rest' in trust of God's presence and God's direction.

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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