UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Bethel United Church
Sunday, November 1 2026



Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #610589. All rights reserved.

WORDS OF WELCOME!

Good morning everyone and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is November 1st All Saints Sunday.

My name is Heather Thompson. I am a Member of Session here at Bethel 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 we welcome Rev. Christine Lowson to Bethel. Rev. Christine will be with us throughout November, December and January. Thank you and Welcome Christine!

Rev. Christine is leading the service this morning with the support of Richard Byrd and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson and Nancy Clark.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A special invitation to any members of the congregation who are interested in participating in worship reading on a regular basis, please contact Rev. Christine directly. You can reach her at 613-859-9368 or email her at revitup@sympatico.ca. She looks forward to hearing from you.

A reminder of our two regularly scheduled Bethel activities: Chat and Chew, in person in the hall on Tuesdays at 1:30pm. and, since our technical challenges have been resolved, Prayer and Share continues online at 10am. on Thursdays. The zoom link remains the same. If you would like to join in and need a copy of the link, please speak with Diane Frias.

The UCW meets on Tuesday, November 3rd in the hall at 11am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat & Chew.

After church today, please join the Stewardship Committee in the hall for muffins, tea and coffee and an opportunity to welcome Rev. Christine and her husband, Richard to Bethel.

In terms of celebrations this week…
we celebrate Brian Perkin who last week received the Perth Medal for his outstanding contribution to the community through volunteerism, fundraising and service. Congratulations Brian.

Diane Frias (Nov. 2), Barb Joynt (Nov. 4) and Lorne Gardiner (Nov. 6) all have birthdays in the coming week. Happy Birthday to you All!
Are there any other celebrations?

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

INDIGENOUS WISDOM

INTROIT

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine x3
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine x3
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine x3
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

GATHERING WORDS, Psalm 34, Nan Merrill *[Psalms for Praying]*

ONE: I will bless the Beloved at all times; a song of praise will I sing. My soul speaks to the Beloved continually; let all who suffer hear and be glad. O, open your hearts, friends, that your pain and loneliness be turned to Love; And then, we shall rejoice in the Beloved together!

ALL: ***When I searched for Love, the Beloved answered within my heart, and all my fears flew away. Look to the Beloved, and your emptiness will be filled, your face will radiate Love. For when you weep, the Beloved hears and comes to companion you; your burdens are eased by Love. The Beloved sends angels when you call upon these messengers for guidance and light, for their gracious inspiration, One with Love, you are never alone!***

HUMBLE PRAYER

TIME TO WONDER

SCRIPTURE VERSE **VU 376** ***"Spirit of the Living God"***

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

MATTHEW 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

REFLECTION

HYMN **VU 232** ***"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"***

1 **Joyful, joyful we adore you God of glory, life and love;**
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2 **All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,**
Stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.

3 **You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,**
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4 **Mortals join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;**
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Let us gather our gifts, our blessings and offer them to God in thought, word and deed!

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

"Youth Leadership Mentors"

What does it mean to be a leader in the church? For eight young people from across the United Church of Canada, this summer was an opportunity to explore that question through the Leadership Animator program.

The Leadership Animator program employs six youth (ages 15-21) from across Canada to participate in leadership development, vocational discernment, Collective conference leadership, and church staff placements. Now in its third year, the Leadership Animator program continues to empower youth and expose them to the life of the wider church.

This past summer, the Leadership Animators took part in General Council, helped lead workshops and discipleship groups at Collective 2026, and spent time shadowing church staff to learn more about the work happening in congregations and communities.

They also ensured they took the time to learn from one another. During time together at Crieff Hills, they shared stories about their lives and experiences in the church, enjoyed a nature walk, and explored the church's role in truth, reconciliation, and decolonization.

Opportunities to connect happened online, too. Through daily gatherings, the young leaders took turns guiding worship and land acknowledgements, while learning about everything from anti-racism and Indigenous reconciliation to church history, finance, and growth.

But leadership isn't just about learning how to organize an event or lead a group. It's also about building relationships, encouraging others, and helping people recognize their own potential.

Through these experiences, the Leadership Animators each year gain confidence, explore their passions, and discover the many ways they can be involved in the life of the church.

They're also bringing fresh perspectives and voices to a wider church where youth leadership continues to grow in importance.
Thank you for supporting programs like the Leadership Animators through Mission and Service. Let's give generously. Together, we're helping young people grow in faith, discover their gifts, and shape the future of our church.

DOXOLOGY **VU 575 (vs 1)** **"*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*"**
I'm gonna live so [live so] God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! [anytime]
I'm gonna live so [live so] God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **VU 918**
We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER PAUSE **VU 400** ***"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"***

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Ben	Ellen & Art	Jim
Leah	Eric	Robin	Chris L.
Liam	Brynnley	Helen T.	The Riley
Janet	Edna	John T.	Family
Carol	Bill	Lynda	Linda P.
Kim H.	Chris	Sarah	Reid
Lainey	Jennifer	Sandra H.	Leigh
James	Sandy	Rick	Grace

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN **VU 684** ***"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"***

1 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your healing power, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2 Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love with all my soul.

3 Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

MATTHEW 5 *The Beatitudes translated Rev. Jorge Lara-Braud*

Good adventure to you whose hearts are genuinely with the poor: you are under God's protective rule.
Good adventure to you who are without power: the whole world shall be yours.
Good adventure to you who are hungry and thirsty for justice: your cup will be filled.
Good adventure to you who look for truth with singleness of heart: you shall see God.
Good adventure to you who work for peace: you shall be called children of God.
Good adventure to you who are persecuted for the sake of justice.
You, too, are already under God's protective rule; rejoice, be very happy, when others say evil things about you falsely because you are mine. God is preparing a great reward for you.
Don't be surprised, prophets have always been an endangered species.

CHORAL BLESSING

VU 424 (vs 1) **"*May the God of Hope Go with Us*"**

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Refrain **Praying, let us work for peace;**
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

POSTLUDE