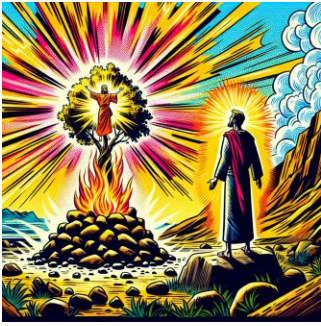




Bethel United Church October 18 2026

- 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 October 18 and a continuation of our October Stewardship month as we welcome Robin Hull from the Alzheimer Society into our community. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you're worshipping with us virtually, or in person in our Sanctuary.

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 Karen Hunt.

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 on Thursdays at 10am. If you wish to be included in this and haven't been, please give Rev. Lynne your email information.

From the Stewardship Committee

Although the Alzheimer's Society receives some funding from the Ontario Government, they also depend on donations and volunteer support, so we continue to financially support them during the month of October by designating the loose change/undesignated funds during the Offering Time on all October Sundays. Contributions can also be made by cheque or through an e-transfer to treasurer@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca marking Alzheimer in the memo line.

Robin Hull, the Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society in Lanark County is with us today to tell us more about this important agency. She will welcome your questions.

Robin has also made available a number of handouts about Alzheimer's and other dementias. You can find them on the table at the back of the church hall.

Thank you members of our Bethel Family for your support of this important undertaking.

They found language for their experiences. They found community where shame once lived, and possibility where isolation once closed in. The relationships they built became an ongoing source of strength.

There were twelve women in the training that week—twelve stories and twelve journeys being strengthened in community. I couldn't help but notice the echo of another circle of twelve. God has always used small groups of ordinary people to carry hope into the world. These women, too, are bearers of that hope.

Among the twelve, three shared that their husbands had left after their child was born with a disability. It was a quiet grief woven into their stories, shaped by the stigma that still surrounds disability in many communities. In the absence of that support, the women leaned even more on one another, finding in community what had been withdrawn at home.

Agness Mduma

Agness carries a vibrant, steady strength. She is a widowed mother of four, and for sixteen years she has been raising her youngest child, who lives with a disability, largely on her own. When her husband died, that baby was just over a month old. The grief, the responsibility, the uncertainty of how she would provide for her family all arrived at once.

Before she connected with MWTC, life pressed in from every direction. Her income-generating activities brought in very little. Markets were limited. Opportunities were scarce. And like so many mothers of children with disabilities in Tanzania, she carried the weight of it alone.

The training she received didn't erase the hardship, but it opened a door. With startup capital and new skills, Agness began selling charcoal, at first in small amounts. She added local chickens and started selling eggs. Then she opened a small grocery shop, and started baking cakes. Each step was modest, but each one widened the circle of possibility.

What struck me most was not the list of businesses she now runs, but the way she spoke about herself. The training gave her tools, but it also strengthened her confidence. She talked about learning to save, to plan, to trust her own decisions. She talked about raising her child with renewed courage.

Her efforts have allowed her to support her children's education, meet daily needs, and even renovate her home. She is still navigating challenges. Her child's medical needs are high, and health insurance remains out of reach, but she is no longer standing on unstable ground. Her story is one of resilience unfolding in real time.

These stories are reminders of what accompaniment makes possible. Not quick fixes. Not tidy narratives. But the slow, steady work of walking

together. The kind of work that honors dignity, nurtures resilience, and allows women to discover strength in one another."

—Amy Zavitz is Global Partnership Program Coordinator, Africa Partnerships, with The United Church of Canada General Council Office

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 99)

Through the ages, priests and prophets have called to God and he has answered them. Today, let us call on God knowing that God will hear our prayers.

Sung Call to Worship MV 79 (chorus) "Spirit Open My Heart"
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.

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we gather together this morning we consider the times when we have caught a glimpse of God's glory.

A moment of silent reflection: How does your 'glimpses of God' change who you are and how you manage in this world"

Listen to God's words for us this morning from the Book of Exodus:

"The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, in holiness and humility, you draw us into your presence, through your Word, through faith, through our prayers and the prayers of others, blessing us with your grace and mercy.

So we call you friend, as well as Lord, and rejoice that you are with us every step of our journey, as we sing and worship and celebrate together to your glory. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn VU 595 "We Are Pilgrims"

**¹ We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**² Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

- ³ I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**
- ⁴ I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**
- ⁵ When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**
- ⁶ Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

Living God,
in your presence, we ask for your forgiveness.
In your presence, we bring those things we are ashamed of.
In your presence, we lay down our worries, our regrets.
In your presence, we let go of all that separates and divides.
In your presence, we acknowledge our lack of commitment.
In your presence, we offer all that we are and all that we long to be.
In your presence, we dare to believe that we can begin again.
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Assurance of Love

My Bethel friends, know this
when we are reluctant to approach God, God approaches us.
When our confidence wavers, God reassures us.
When our sins weigh heavy, God forgives us.
When we feel alone, God reaches out to us.
When life feels overwhelming, God comforts us,
and we can rest in the knowledge that and that we are God's people. Amen.

Theme conversation

Glimpses of God Remembering and Forgetting

Our Scriptures Today

Exodus 33: 12-23

Psalms 99

Reflection

Robin Hull

Hymn

VU 506

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

- ¹ Take my life, and let it be consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- ² Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.**
- ³ Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**
- ⁴ Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**
- ⁵ Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

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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)

We bring to you those who are sick at home and in hospital;
those who wait for test results and those who wait for death;
those who offer comfort and healing and those who watch and pray.
All are your children:

we offer your own to you.

We bring you Israeli and Palestinian, Russian and Ukrainian;
policy maker and citizen; soldier and civilian.
All are your children:

we offer your own to you.

We bring to you all who worship you;
those in church and chapel;
those in temple and mosque;
those in synagogue and meeting house.
All are your children:

we offer your own to you.

We bring to you Liberal, Conservative; New Democrat and Green;
All are your children:

we offer your own to you.

We bring to you all who grieve;
those whose loss is recent and those for whom it is a time of anniversary.
We bring those who face the unenviable choice of food or fuel.
We bring to you those who weep because they do not know what to do, and
those who weep because they know exactly what the right way forward is.
All are your children:

we offer your own to you.

We bring ourselves to you;
joyful and tearful; anxious and confident;
remembering and forgetting; willing and reluctant.
All are your children:

we offer your own to you.

Loving God we bring you your children whatever their age;
whatever their background; whatever their gender.
We come in the knowledge that you love and care for each one;
that you are aware of our needs and opportunities;
that you will offer comfort and challenge;
that you will hear our prayer and respond.
Thank you that we are yours.

Today we offer special prayers for:

Joy	Ben	Robin	Rick
Leah	Brynnley	Grace	Chris L.
Liam	Kim P.	Helen T.	The Riley
Janet	Haley	John T.	Family
Carol	Bill	Lynda	Richard
Kim H.	Chris	Sarah	Linda P.
Fran	Jennifer	Morgan	Reid
Lainey	Sandy	Tom	Chris M.
James	Ellen & Art	Sandra H.	Jo-Anne

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

Our Father....

Closing Hymn VU 642

"Be Thou My Vision"

¹ **Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**

- ² Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
- ³ Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**
- ⁴ Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- ⁵ Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

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Living our Faith this Week

Last week I asked you to start "Counting your Blessings" every night. How's that going for you? Can we add in this week that you pair the "Counting your Blessings" with prayer and thankfulness to God that God continues to allow us to catch glimpses of glory?

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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