

Bethel United Church
October 25 2026

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

Prelude

Emily and Michael **"*His Eye is on the Sparrow*"**

Welcome and Announcements

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to Bethel United Church in Rideau Ferry Ontario. Today is October 25 and Reformation Sunday. My name is Rev. Lynne Gardiner and I am pleased to welcome all of you into this place of worship, whether you're worshiping with us virtually, or in person in our Sanctuary.

Our church phone number is: (613) 267-3855.

This week, our service is being led by: Paula Grenke and our choir, Aidan Williamson, Kathleen Williamson, and Lynne Evans.

Chat and Chew will continue at 1:30 on Tuesdays, but there will be a brief hiatus with our Zoom Prayer and Share until we get our virtual ministry sorted out.

From the Stewardship Committee

Many thanks to all members of the Bethel Family for your support for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. The opportunity to view and discuss the documentary film No More Secret Battles, the very informative presentation and handouts provided by Robin Hull from the LLG Alzheimers Society and your generous donations have all been ways that we, as a community, have been able to grow, learn and support work in the important area of Dementia Care. It is a way of supporting one another.

As a follow-up to Robin Hull's presentation last Sunday, ... if there is interest, we could explore learning more about becoming a Dementia Friendly Community here at Bethel. Robin Hull was interested in providing a workshop which could help us gain more skills. If you would be interested in following up on this, please speak to Karen or email her at murkarhunt@gmail.com

Are there any celebrations this week?

Please join in me singing our celebration song:

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

Campus Connections

Campus Ministry at Algonquin College provides pastoral care, spiritual support, and practical assistance to students and staff navigating uncertainty. Here is the Mission and Service Story for October 25, 2026.

For many young adults, post-secondary education extends beyond studying and getting through exams. It's a pivotal time when they'll figure out who they are, what they believe, and what they hope their future will look like. Campus Ministry at Algonquin College in Ottawa, ON provides a place for students and staff to explore those questions and find support along the way.

Campus Ministry is an ecumenical chaplaincy serving approximately 20,000 students and staff. Since 1993, it has offered pastoral care, spiritual counseling, workshops, and opportunities to explore faith in a safe and non-judgmental environment.

Our Mission and Service gifts help make this ministry possible.

Since 2006, our gifts through Mission and Service have helped support a part-time campus minister. Yuriy Derkach has served in the role since 2011, providing pastoral care and spiritual counseling throughout the year.

Campus Ministry has responded to some significant needs in the Algonquin community. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the ministry provided support to international students from Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, as well as Ukrainians arriving in Ottawa on temporary visas. This included connecting people with language courses and helping them find support with housing, employment, and education.

The ministry also offers practical care during particularly stressful times. At the end of each fall and winter semester, "Pause Break" tables are set up in the Student Commons. In partnership with local congregations, including United Churches, Campus Ministry provides free refreshments and encouragement to students during final assessment week.

That presence is especially important now. Like many post-secondary institutions, Algonquin College has faced program and staffing cuts in response to declining international enrolment. Students are concerned about losing program options, while staff face uncertainty about their jobs. As overall anxiety increases, more members of the college community are seeking support from Campus Ministry.

The impact of this ministry also continues long after students leave campus. A former student recently wrote to express gratitude for the prayers and encouragement they received from Campus Ministry years ago, sharing that the support helped them find their vocation, their life partner, and a church community where they continue to grow in faith.

Our gifts to Mission and Service help make this ministry possible. They allow us to be present in the lives of young adults as they navigate questions of faith, relationships, education, work, and their future.

Together, our gifts help create communities of care, welcome, and hope. Let's give generously.

<u>Call to Worship</u> (*Responsive*)

On the open road, when certainty wavers and questions linger, the Living Christ meets us where we are.

Our hearts stir within us as the scriptures are opened and ancient truths speak.

We gather as a changing church, always being made new by grace, called out of comfortable traditions into the living Spirit of love and justice.

We bring our doubts, our hope for renewal, and our longing for companionship on the journey.

In the sharing of honest conversation, in shared meals in community, our eyes are opened to see God in one another and in all creation.

Come, let us worship with open hearts and ready spirits, continually being transformed by grace!

<u>Sung Call to Worship</u> MV 115 (sing twice) "*Behold, Behold*"

Behold, (*behold*,) behold, (*behold*,)
I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, (*behold*,) behold, (*behold*,)
I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

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<u>Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle</u>

As we gather together this morning we are reminded that we are always changing, and that this 'journey' is done in community and with God.
A moment of silent reflection: At what points in your life could you recognize that God was walking with you?
Listen to God's words for us this morning from Isaiah 43:
"*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland*".

<u>Opening Prayer</u>

God of the open road, you meet us in our questions, our tiredness, and our wonder. As you walked with the disciples toward Emmaus, walk with us now.
Open our hearts to your wisdom, and give us a hope that can face the world with courage and compassion.
On this Reformation Sunday, remind us that faith is never finished. Keep us open to new understanding, ready to let go of what no longer serves love, and willing to be shaped by your grace.
May we recognize your presence in scripture, in community , and in the people we meet along the way.
Gather us in your inclusive love, and send us out renewed to seek justice, offer welcome, and care for one another. Amen.

<u>Opening Hymn</u> VU 288 "*Great is Thy Faithfulness*"

<u>1</u> Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!**
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

<u>2</u> Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***Refrain***

3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,**
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. ***Refrain***

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of the journey, we confess that we don't always recognize your presence among us. We've been slow to listen, quick to judge, and reluctant to question the ways things have always been done. We've held tightly to certainty when you were inviting us to grow, and we have turned away from people whose stories challenge or unsettle us.

Meet us again on the road. Open our hearts to your wisdom, forgive what harms, and give us courage to change. Renew us in your love, so that we may offer welcome, seek justice, and walk more faithfully with one another. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Hear the good news: the God who walked with the disciples walks with us still. By grace, we are forgiven, renewed, and called into new life. Our past does not have the final word; love opens a way forward.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Theme Conversation

Phyllis Tickle and the 500 years of Reforming

Our Scriptures Today

Luke 24: 13-35 (*The Road to Emmaus*)
Isaiah 43: 18-21 (*I am doing a new thing*)

Reflection

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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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music **Emily and Michael** **"*Pie Jesu*"**

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

God of love, we pray for our church. Help us keep learning and changing. Give us the courage to question practices that exclude people and to make our communities welcoming to all.

We pray for people affected by war, violence, displacement, and injustice. Guide those making decisions toward peace and fairness. Help us care for the Earth and work together to address climate change.

We pray for people who are grieving, lonely, ill, or under stress. Support them, and help us notice when someone needs care or companionship.

We pray for our community and for those close to us. We remember people carrying difficult problems, and we hold them in our thoughts.

Help us listen to one another, share what we have, and work for the good of all. May we recognize your presence in the people we meet and follow the way of Jesus. Today we offer special prayers for:

Joy	Carol	James	Haley
Leah	Kim H.	Ben	Bill
Liam	Fran	Brynnley	Chris
Janet	Lainey	Kim P.	Jennifer

Sandy	John T.	Sandra H.	Linda P.
Ellen & Art	Lynda	Rick	Reid
Robin	Sarah	Chris L.	Jo-Anne
Grace	Morgan	The Riley	
Helen T.	Tom	Family	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:
Our Father….

<u>Closing Hymn</u> **MV 1** **"*Let us Build a House*"**

<u>1</u> Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

<u>2</u> Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

<u>3</u> Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

<u>4</u> Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

<u>5</u> Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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Living our Faith this Week

We are all together being called into a new thing. Take some time this week to recognize that God is in this place.

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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