



Bethel United Church October 4 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 4, and World Communion Sunday. 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. All of you who are worshipping with us virtually, I would encourage you to have some juice and some bread with you so that you can share Communion with us.

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

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

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.

The UCW meets on Tuesday, October 6th at 11am. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay for Chat & Chew.

From the Stewardship Committee

October is traditionally Stewardship Month at Bethel and for 2026 the Stewardship Committee has decided to focus on the Alzheimer's Society.

The Alzheimer's Society Lanark Leeds Grenville is a non-profit, registered charity that supports neighbours in our communities on their journey through dementia and mild cognitive impairment. They offer free dementia-friendly care, partner support groups, education, social recreation and system navigation.

They have offices located throughout Lanark Leeds and Grenville to better serve the local communities.

Although they receive some funding from the Ontario Government, the Alzheimer's Society also depends on donations and volunteer support.

During October, donations for the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Alzheimer's Society will be gratefully received here at Bethel. Donations will be received as 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's in the memo line.

Robin Hull, Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Society in Lanark County will join us during our Bethel Service on Sunday, October 18th to tell us more about this important agency. She will welcome your questions.

Robin will also make 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.

If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Elizabeth and Seth celebrate their anniversary on Thursday. They were married here at Bethel during Covid and members of the UCW catered a reception for them. Are there any other 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

Breakfast Club

At Plymouth-Trinity United Church, the weekly breakfast program helps families and community members feel welcome and connected before worship. Here is the Mission and Service Story for October 4, 2026.

At Plymouth-Trinity United Church in Sherbrooke, QC, a Sunday morning breakfast is helping families connect with their church community, and creating opportunities for the congregation to build new partnerships in the neighbourhood.

"Breakfast Club" started in January 2025 after Pastor Samuel Vauvert Dansokho and members of the congregation started thinking about how they could better support families who were often arriving late for worship.

For families with several young children, getting everyone ready and out the door on a Sunday morning can be quite difficult. Rather than seeing that as a problem, the congregation decided to try something different by inviting everyone to come early for a free breakfast.

The first Breakfast Club welcomed more than 25 people, about half of them children. Attendance has since steadied at 10-15 people each Sunday.

The program is intentional and straightforward. Breakfast might include cereal, toast, oatmeal, fruit, and baked goods. Sometimes even hot dogs! But beyond nourishment for the body, the program has also become an opportunity for people to spend time together and nourish their souls in community.

Our gifts through Mission and Service help the initiative sustain and grow, alongside significant contributions from the congregation and local partners. Community members have donated baked goods, fruit, and money, while a local international grocery store provides day-old bread. Any extras are sent home with community members.

There are plans to consider opening the program more widely to the surrounding neighbourhood as capacity allows.

For Shanna Bernier, who helped plan the initiative, the success of Breakfast Club is already clear. Families are being fed, food is being diverted from waste, a local business has become a partner, and people are spending time together at church.

"Generosity has been abundant, not only in the form of a grant but in baked goods and fruit prepared by community members, in financial donations, and in fundraising through a Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. Pastor Samuel made a connection with a local international grocery store, securing an ongoing donation of "day-old" breads, which can be eaten at a Toast Bar. When there have been larger donations, loaves of bread are frozen and shared throughout the community."

Our gifts to Mission and Service help congregations respond to the needs they see in their own communities. At Plymouth-Trinity United Church, that support has helped turn a practical idea into an ongoing ministry that brings families, volunteers, local businesses, and the wider community together. Let's give generously.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

From north and south, from east and west, we come:

God's people called to the Table where simple grace nourishes us.

From down the street to across town, from single households to apartment dwellers:

God's people are called to community, where we live and serve one another.

From every class, every race, every status; from little ones with sippy cups to elders with overflowing hearts:

God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to offer peace to a shattered world.

Sung Call to Worship VU 375 (chorus) "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.**

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we remember that we are siblings in Christ across the whole world.

A moment of silent reflection: How easy is it for you to honour God when you interact with other cultures or other world views? How can you live differently so that you can support and care for people that you may have nothing in common with?

"Listen to God's words for you from Exodus 20: *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me."*

Opening Prayer

Help us to see, Lord, that in seeking to follow and obey your laws we bring honour to you and live well with those around us.

We thank you that there can be great joy for us in following your law of love. Amen.

Opening Hymn VU 296 "This is God's Wondrous World"

**¹ This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.**

**2 This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.**

**3 This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation

God of truth, it is hard to admit that we have failed to honour you, but we bring our confession and our sorrow to you now.

It is hard to admit that we have disrespected you, but we bring our confession and our sorrow to you now.

It is hard to admit that we have tried to tame you and make you in our own image, but we bring our confession and our sorrow to you now.

It is hard to admit that our standards have fallen below yours, but we bring our confession and our sorrow to you now.

We ask for your forgiveness in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Generous God, as Moses reassured the Israelites, so we thank you that his words echo through the ages;

equipping us to trust that we need not be afraid of our past;

giving us confidence in your healing and restoring grace;

enabling us to take the next step, to overcome our mistakes,

being guided by your law to live lives worthy of you,

reflecting your love and honouring your holiness. Amen.

Theme conversation

Who do we Honour?

Our Scriptures Today

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

- God gives Moses the Ten Commandments

Matthew 21:33-46

- The parable of the landowner and the violent tenants.

A Celebration of Communion

(Today's liturgy has been retrieved from:

<https://lectionarylurgies.blogspot.com/2013/09/proper-22ordinary-27pentecost-20trinity.html>)

May the composer of heaven's music be with you!

And also with you!

Beloved, God has created you for faithful living.

We lift our hearts to the One who calls us to be Christ's Body.

People of God, sing to the One who cleanses us of our fears.

We will dance with joy to the Table of peace and hope.

Chaos trembled as you spoke, not wanting to hear your goodness breaking it apart, Rock and Redeemer of all.

Creation sang oratorios for you, while earth drummed out the rhythm.

Each day testified 'God is good'; each night whispered 'Glory!'

All that was beautiful and true was created for us,
but wanting to know sin and death,

we exchanged the best you gave to us, for the garbage they offered.
Using words and wonder, silence and speech, prophets came to call us back
into your covenantal love,

but we continued to yearn for what we could not have.
Finally, you sent your Son, in love, in hope, in peace, that we would accept
him and the gift of new life.

So, with those who trembled at the foot of your holy mountain, and with
those who press on to follow you, we join our voices in praise to you:

***Your Word opens our eyes to all creation;
your Word is the sweet taste of joy for hungry hearts;
your Word endures through every trial and triumph.***

***Blessed is your Word who comes in your name!
Hosanna in the highest!***

Holy are you, God of all creation, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our
Lord.

Yearning for us to know you,

he came to be your face of love and compassion for all.

Hungering for reconciliation between you and your children,

he became the broken Bread of Life.

Aching for our release from the agony of sin and death,

he suffered on the cross, so we might be made well.

As we remember his goodness and gentleness,

As we celebrate his life in us, we would speak of that mystery we call faith:

***Setting aside all he valued, Christ became our treasure;
setting aside his own life, Christ rescued us from sin;
setting aside our doubts and fears, we yearn for Christ's return in
glory.***

Here at your Table, Redeemer of all creation, pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and the cup, and on our sisters and brothers in Christ. Your Spirit gives us life, so we may go and serve others. Your Spirit heals our brokenness, so we may bring healing to all. Your Spirit graces us with peace, so we may be peacemakers for our communities.

And when we stand around your Table, all hurtful words silenced, all pain left behind, with hope and grace our closest friends, we will join our hearts and voices with our sisters and brothers who forever sing of your glory, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

On the night before Jesus died, he gathered in Community with his friends. While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28)

And with this, O God we pray Holy Spirit graciously sanctify these offerings, that they may become a symbol of the great mystery which is Christ, with us in covenant and community.

Communion will now be served to all in the pews. This is an open table, meaning that all who wish to be part may be part with no reservations. Please hold on to your bread and your juice until all have been served so that we can celebrate together.

Hymn during Communion VU 467 "One Bread, One Body"

Refrain **One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

- ¹ Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *Refrain***
² Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*
³ Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. *Refrain*

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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)

Creator God, you made a wonderful world and filled it with glorious content - landscapes and oceans, trees, shrubs and flowers, colours and textures, animals, birds and fish and it was to us your children to whom you entrusted stewardship of all that you have made and are making. You call us to be faithful custodians of our planet and so we lay before you our concerns about our changing climate. Change our attitudes that we may show our concern for the future. May our commitment mean that we are willing to pay more now to ensure the future of our planet.

God who trusts us

May we respond faithfully to your trust.

Creator God, you made us creatures of community to support and be supported by each other; to see the needs of our neighbours whether we know their name or have to look their home city up on a map. We thrive because others care for us and so we pray that you will help us to show our concern for those overwhelmed by war, those who are unhoused, those who struggle with mental health, addiction, poverty and displacement. Help us to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger in our midst.

God who trusts us

May we respond faithfully to your trust.

Creator God, your gift to your people is the Church, a global community of people who acknowledge you and seek to be your will. We thank you for our part of the church; for those with whom we worship week by week and we pray for them that they may be strengthened by the power of your Spirit. We pray for our church; you know its strengths; you know its needs. May we all play our part in enabling your word to be proclaimed and your love to be shared that the Church may welcome more and more disciples desiring to serve the God who made them.

God who trusts us

May we respond faithfully to your trust.

Creator God, we bring to you our needs and the needs of those we know.
Today we have special prayers for:

Leah	Ben	Ellen & Art	Sandra H.
Liam	Brynnley	Robin	Rick
Janet	Kim P.	Grace	Chris L.
Carol	Haley	Helen	The Riley
Kim H.	Bill	Lynda	Family
Fran	Chris	Sarah	
Lainey	Jennifer	Morgan	
James	Sandy	Tom	

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

Our Father....

Closing Hymn

MV 1

"Let Us Build a House"

- ¹ 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.**
- ² 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.**
- ³ 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.**
- ⁴ 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.**

**5 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

This week I would like you to consider what it means to have a world-view that calls us to honour God by honouring all. Who do you need to advocate for? Who do you need to care for?

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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