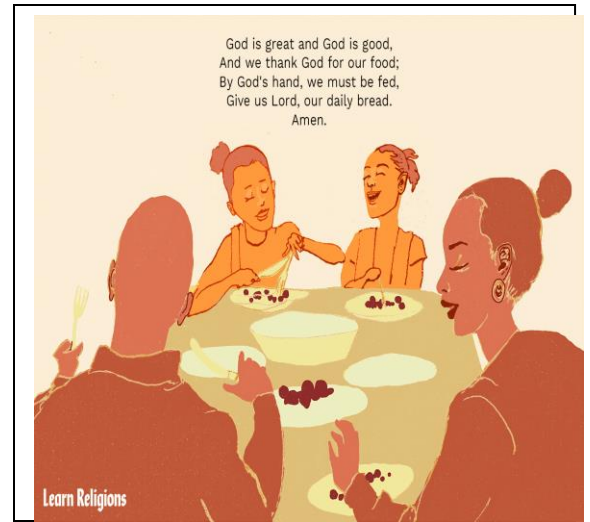


A warm welcome to all visitors and persons seeking a relationship with a faith community. How do we define “visitors and persons seeking faith”? Just turn to the back of this bulletin for more details.

At Bethany United Church we remain committed to the health and safety of our community of faith.

We remind all individuals to wash or sanitize hands upon arrival when visiting our sacred space.



If unwell, please be mindful of your neighbour.



*Today's bulletin is in loving memory of Gloria Shave from Mont, Heather & John Fitzpatrick, and grandchildren Laura, Jennifer & Andrew.*

*~ Ushers for May 2024 ~*

*Linda Knechtel, Dan Jackson, & Pam Carter*

*~ Hosts for Coffee Hour ~*

*Carolyn Kunz, Janice MacDonald, Mary Farmer,*

*Janet Benvie & Julia Jewett*

*~ Audio Visual Ministry Team ~*

**Penny Allen, Glen Knapp, Stephen Morley, Barry Paton & Rob Steeves**

Our monthly newsletter is online via our website [www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca](http://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca) or a hard copy can be picked up from an usher or from the church office thru the week.

**WORSHIP SERVICES WILL REMAIN ONLINE VIA LIVESTREAM ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL BETHANY HALIFAX OR VIDEO RECORDING SHARED ON OUR WEBSITE.**

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### **Church Office Update!**

Volunteering is a great way to get plugged into your church, feel like part of a community, and serve God at the same time. If you are uniquely equipped with specific skills and gifts or want to learn a new skill or grow a gift, YOU are invited to utilize these gifts in our community and within our church office while simultaneously lightening the load of a church's staff. **Contact Dana Mills, 902-455-0521, x. 221.**

**PLEASE NOTE! WORK HOURS FOR TINA GASCON, FINANCE OFFICER - MONDAYS, 10am-3pm, or by appointment: [finances@bethanyunitedchurch.ca](mailto:finances@bethanyunitedchurch.ca) or 902-455-0521, x. 225.**

Our **Treasurer, Rob Steeves**, is also available if you have questions. Please drop him an email ([rbsroad@hotmail.com](mailto:rbsroad@hotmail.com)) or call the office to schedule a time to meet. He too is in the church most Mondays and at various other times during the week.

**Bethany United Church**  
**Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday May 12, 2024**

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**Minister: Rev. Kevin Little**

**Ministry of Music: Shawn Whynot**

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*Transportation Ministry... need a lift or can you offer a lift?  
Contact Heather Gillis at [heatherwgillis@gmail.com](mailto:heatherwgillis@gmail.com) or 902-454-5309  
and she will try her best to help you navigate here safely and with support.*

*As disciples of Christ, we are called to serve any way we are able. One opportunity is to give what we can for the work and witness of this community of Christ. Offering plates are located at the entranceways. We give and receive with grateful hearts.*

*Sunday School is concurrently being offered at 10:30am in the gymnasium.*

*All children between the ages of 3 and 13 are welcome!*

*Young ones are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary for worship.*

*Speak with Louisa Duck, youth welcome to help lead in this time faith.*

**Music for the Gathering: Prelude in D minor (Suite No. 2) J. S. Bach**  
**Aiden Russell, cello**  
**Choral Introit: Let's Sing Unto the Lord Carlos Rosas**

**Acknowledgement of Territory Ann Bradley**  
*Welcome to this service of worship. We begin by acknowledging Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw People. As Treaty people, we are committed to truth and reconciliation. Mi'kma'ki is a vast area. Its diverse landscapes, seascapes, rivers, plants, animals, fish, rocks, and islands are inseparable from Mi'kmaw people, language, stories, history and spirit. We seek a healing relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in the original intent of peace and friendship.*

**Hymn: VU 395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down**  
**Welcome and Announcements Ann Bradley**  
**Lighting of the Christ Candle Ann Bradley**

We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by distance, which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.

**Call to Worship (Written by Bruce Prewer)**

**One:** I tell you this: It is a wonderful thing when members of the family live together in love and peace.

**Many:** They shall be like trees planted beside flowing rivers.

**One:** May the church be one, just as Christ and God are one, that Christ may be glorified in us.

**Many:** They shall yield good fruit in its season, and their leaf shall never wither.

**One:** The grace, mercy and peace, of the Lord Jesus, be with you all.

**Many:** And also with you.

## **Prayer of Confession and Commitment**

**One:** God of Grace, you call us to be different from the world,

**Many:** but the world is seductive, and so we come here to be strengthened.

**One:** God of Vision, you hold before us an alternate way of life,

**Many:** different priorities, different loyalties, different values.

**One:** But we know that the world is not only seductive but powerful,

**Many:** and so we are drawn in to following its priorities, accepting its values, showing loyalty to its gods.

**One:** God who blesses the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful,

**Many:** forgive us when we lose sight of these qualities, when we misunderstand their role in the world.

**One:** Rejoice and be glad! God is gracious and God offer blessings. God calls us to life in the world, God offers us the chance to explore how to live out God's vision. We are called, we are forgiven, we are blessed.

**Many:** Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Hymn:** VU 377 Holy Spirit Hear Us

**Ministry of Music:** Traumerei (*Scenes from Childhood*)

R. Schumann  
Aiden Russell, cello

**Bible Readings** Psalm 1 VU 724 & John 17:6-19

Ruth Bona

**Sermon** *What prayer offers us*

Kevin Little

**Ministry of Music:** Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

Ann Bradley

**Closing Hymn:** VU 420 Go to the World

## **Benediction**

**One:** Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the tender and nurturing hands of God, embrace you, the farseeing eyes of God watch over you, the breath of God sustain you, and the prayers of the Risen Christ protect you, both now and forevermore.

**Many:** Amen

## **Prayer (sung by all)**

The time has come, O God, for us to leave this place.

Guide us and protect us and lead us in Thy grace.

Wherever life may take us, as we go our separate ways,

Help us share with others, the things we've shared today.

May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ His Son,

Guide us in the days ahead and shelter us each one.

May the blessings of the Spirit, fill us from within,  
Protect us and return us, to this fellowship once again.

## Music for Going Forth: Meditation Religioso (from *Thais*) Jules Massenet

*\*A special thank you to Aiden Russell, cellist, for providing such beautiful music for today's service. Aiden is a member of Symphony Nova Scotia and also grandson to Les Russell.*

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**"We walk by faith, not by sight." ~ 2 Corinthians 5: 6-7**

Bethany United Church [7171 Clinton Avenue]

Mailing Address: 2669 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G5  
(902) 455-0521 or [office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca)



We are located on the land known as We'kwaltijk (Northwest Arm) "end of the bay; ending without a river coming in" (Mi'kmaw place names in an area of Sipekne'katik on the Atlantic Coast in Mi'kma'ki.) in Sipekne'katik "area of wild potato/turnip" (District of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.).



Bethany's Affirming Working Group will be hosting workshops and events in the upcoming months as we continue our journey of exploring what it means to be an Affirming Congregation. Please stay tuned for further details. For more information regarding Affirm United, available resources and upcoming events, please visit our **Affirming Ministry** page on our Bethany website: <https://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca/affirming-ministry>.

The Affirming Working Group can be reached at [bethanyaffirming@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyaffirming@gmail.com).  
We welcome any questions, opinions or concerns you may wish to share with the committee.

## God's Love Is Wider

*A special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down heeled; wailing babies, excited toddlers, questioning children, adults with all the answers; to those strong singers or silent hummers; those "just browsing", just woken up, or just out of prison; those who are more Christian than the Moderator of the United Church of Canada or haven't been to church since Christmas years ago; those over 60 but not grown up yet and teens that are growing up way too fast; those doting moms, hockey dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters; those who are in recovery or still addicted; those with problems, down in the dumps, or don't like organized religion; those who think the world is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here with their loved one who is visiting and wanted to come back to Bethany one more time; those who are inked, pierced, both or neither; those who can use prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids; or just got stuck at the Armdale Rotary and wound up here. A "visitor or person seeking faith" can be a pilgrim, tourist, seekers, doubters ... and YOU!*

*(Adapted from a message shared by Coventry Cathedral, England and Fort Massey United Church, Canada)*

*Thank you, Joan Craig, for passing along this definition to Kevin.*

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**Would you like to contribute offsetting the costs of printing the bulletin each week?**

*There is a spot reserved for a message in tribute or in memory of a loved one who you wish to honour. Amount requested to place a note is \$50.00. Contact the church office to reserve your date for 2024.*