

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, August 9th, 2026
Minister: Rev. Darren Liepold
Musician: Mark Bond
Technical Team: Sheila Parks, Elaner Pound,
Mary Milligan, Alfreda Rupert, Lois MacDonald,
Natalie Land, Chloe Land, and Alex Reid

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

WORDS OF WELCOME

COMMUNITY NEWS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this candle to celebrate the love of God made visible in Jesus Christ. Christ's light shines within us. May this flame remind us to carry God's love mercy and grace into the world this week. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has forgiven us and drawn us close, reconciling us through Jesus Christ.

Jesus who has lavished upon us the fulness of the blessed Holy Spirit.
With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things

whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN MV # 144

“Like a Healing Stream”

- 1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
 Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
 God is trickling through our lives
 as in a dream unfolding,
 promising revival and rebirth
 like a healing stream.
- 2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
 Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
 God is bubbling through the soil
 to coax a new creation,
 yearning for an end to want and need
 like a healing stream
- 3 Like a river strong with a restless current,
 Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
 God is carving out a channel in new creation,
 calling for an end to hate and war
 like a river strong.
- 4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
 Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
 God is working in our hearts
 to shape a new tomorrow:
 God will always challenge and provide!
 Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
 like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God,
we open our hearts to admit the fullness of our lives—that which is
beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess
that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with conditions,
and we judge others too harshly. We carry burdens You have already
lifted, and we rehearse our failures instead of resting in Your mercy.
Forgive our sins, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love,
grace, and service. Amen.**

A Time of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN # 958 VU “Halle, Halle, Halle” (sung twice)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Hallelujah!)
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (Repeat)

THEME TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN # 509 VU “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry:
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
 I who make the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? **R**

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful Saviour, your suffering has saved our lives, secured our future, and restored us to relationship with God. Remove the shame and fear that cause us to cower in your presence. By the power of the Spirit, open our eyes and hearts to your Word of love, mercy, healing blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First Scripture:

Genesis 37: 1 – 4, 12 - 28

*(Joseph is betrayed by his brothers and sold as a
slave)*

Read by: Jackie Bell

Responsive Psalm # 105 Pages 828 & 829 VU

Led by: Jackie Bell

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Part One (1 - 11)

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;
tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's holy name;

let those who seek God be joyful in heart. R

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;
seek God's presence continually.

**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,
the wonders and judgements God has given,**

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,*

O offspring of Israel, chosen of God. R

You are the eternal God,

your justice reaches every corner of the earth,

You are ever mindful of your covenant,

the promise you gave to a thousand generations,

**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,
the oath you gave to Isaac.**

You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.

To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,

**"To you I give the land of Canaan,
as your appointed inheritance."**

* from Genesis 17

Part Two (16 - 22)

You called down famine on the land,
and cut off the supply of bread.

**But you sent one ahead of them,
Joseph, whom they had sold as a slave.**

His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck collared with iron;
until his predictions came true, your word tested him.

Then the king sent and released him,
the ruler of nations set him free.

**He made Joseph master of his house,
ruler of all his possessions,**
to correct his officials at will,
to teach his counsellors wisdom. R

Refrain: Bless God, my soul. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Matthew 14: 22 - 33
(Be not afraid)

Read by: Rev. Darren Liepold

SERMON

“Keeping our Heads above water”

RESPONDING

HYMN # 567 VU “Will You Come and Follow Me”

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the “you” you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN # 544 VU

“In Gratitude and Humble Trust”

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

HYMN # 28 MV

“God of the Bible”

- 1 God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.
**Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.**
- 2 God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. **R**
- 3 Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights. **R**
- 4 Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful
small paper lanterns, lighting the way. **R**

- 5 Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
till our world changes facing the Cross. **R**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

HYMN # 214 MV

“May God’s Sheltering Wings”

- 1 May God’s sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God’s nurturing arms,
her cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in her love
- 2 May God’s sheltering wings,
his gathering wings protect you.
May God’s nurturing arms,
his cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in his love,
and hold you in his love

Postlude

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