

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, August 16th, 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

"You assure us, Jesus, that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, you are there."

We light this candle to remind ourselves and to celebrate your constant presence.

"Praise be to God, who spoke light into the world, who sends light to live among us, and who brings the light of new dawns."

May we always seek your guiding light and let it shine before others, so that they may see your goodness and feel your love. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Who has lavished upon us, the fulness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Lord Jesus, Son of God, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Strengthen us to trust in your mercy, reach out for your healing, and receive your reconciliation. Amen.

HYMN MV # 30

“It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker”

- 1 It’s a song of praise to the Maker,
 the thrush sings high in the tree.
 It’s a song of praise to the Maker,
 the gray whale sings in the sea,
 And by the Spirit you and I can join
 our voice to the holy cry
 and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

- 2 It’s a call of life to the Giver
 when waves and waterfalls roar.
 It’s a call of life to Giver
 when tides break on the shore,
 And by the Spirit you and I can join
 our voice to the holy cry
 and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

- 3 It’s a hymn of love to the Lover;
 the bumblebees hum along.
 It’s a hymn of love to the Lover,
 the summer breeze joins the song.
 And by the Spirit you and I can join
 our voice to the holy cry
 and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

- 4 It’s the chorus of all creation;
 it’s sung by all living things.
 It’s the chorus of all creation;
 a song the universe sings,
 And by the Spirit you and I can join

our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our shortcomings without fear, to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, and bless us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus, we are tormented. Our lives have been disrupted by the devil and by our own devilish desires and evil exploits. We are dismayed at your presence, anguished by the awful fallout of our own failures. We cannot take back what we have said or undo what we have done or atone for the agony we have caused. We are haunted by the past, plagued by the present, and fearful of the future. We shrink away from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing. Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your favour, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 # 161 MV

“I Have Called You by Your Name”

- 1 I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true,
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.
- 2 I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
- 3 I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.
- 4 I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

First Scripture:

Genesis 45: 1 - 15

(Joseph is reunited with his family)

Read by: Spencer White

Responsive Psalm # 133 Page 856 VU

Refrain:

Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

1 How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
fragrant as precious oil
when running fresh on Aaron's head. **R**

2 How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
fresh like the morning dew
that falls on Zion's holy hill. **R**

3 How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
there is where God bestows
the blessing, life for evermore. **R**

Second Reading: **Matthew 15: 21 - 28**
 (Feeding the dogs)

Read by: Rev. Darren Liepold

SERMON

"Would you Forgive?"

RESPONDING

HYMN # 271 VU

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.

- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
 are more felt than up in heaven;
 there is no place where earth's failings
 have such gracious judgement given.
- 3 There is plentiful redemption
 in the blood that Christ has shed;
 there is joy for all the members
 in the sorrows of the Head.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
 like a crowd of frightened sheep?
 Foolish hearts, why will you wander
 from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader
 than the measures of the mind,
 and the heart of the Eternal
 is most wonderfully kind.

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 # 686 VU

**“God of Grace and God of Glory”
(Alternate Tune # 399 VU)**

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
 on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
 bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure your children's warring madness,
 bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
 rich in goods and pour in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,
 gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
 pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 that we fail not them nor thee.

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

*Projected and printed material used by permission,
CCLI Lic. #111198 / One License #A-723756*