

**St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, September 6, 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 first candle to celebrate human labor—the energy, skill, and sweat that shape our communities and sustain our daily lives.

May our work reflect our creativity and honor the Creator

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Opening HYMN MV 109 My Soul is Thirsting for you

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
Thirsting for you, my God.
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
Thirsting for you, my God, thirsting for you, my God.

1. Oh God you are my God, and
I will always praise you. In the shadow of your wings
I cling to you and you hold me high.
2. Through the day you walk with me, all the
Night your love surrounds me. To the glory of your name
I cling to you and you hold me high.
3. I will never be afraid, for I will not be abandoned.
Even when the road grows long and weary
Your love will always rescue me.

Opening Prayer

Bless our time together in this service. Open our ears to your word, our hearts to fellowship, and our eyes to the needs of our neighbors. Direct our steps as we go back into our workplaces and daily routines, that everything we do may bring honor to your name. Amen

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,
Loving God, while we still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are

Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbours as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Time of Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Friends hear the good news of the gospel: who is in a position to condemn.
Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Friends believe the good news of the gospel
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

VU 958 Halle, Halle, Halle

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

THEME TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN VU 389 God is Here

1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4 God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First Scripture:

Exodus 12: 1-14 The First Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread

Read by: Roger West

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 149 Page 873 VU

Led by:

Second Reading:

Matthew 18: 15-20 Wherever two or three are gathered

Read by: Roger West

SERMON

SIGNS OF SUCCESS

RESPONDING

HYMN # 594 VU O Christian Love

1. O Christian, love your sister and your brother!
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
to worship rightly is to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

2. Follow with reverent steps the great example:
Jesus whose holy work was doing good;
so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

3. Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
Of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;
Love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
An in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

IN GRATITUDE AND HUMBLE TRUST

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

HYMN # 145 VU Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

- 1 God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. R
- 2 Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. R
- 3 Let the dreams we dream be larger,

than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. 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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