

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, September 20, 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

God of light, we are most aware of your presence at this time of year. The hours of nighttime increase and the days grow shorter. Yet your hope continues. Just as this candle lightens this room, may we feel warmed with your love for us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord. The Lord hears the cries of the people.

Give thanks to God.

The works of the creator are great. Remember what God has done.

Give thanks to God.

God has done miracles and the Lord always remembers God's covenant.

Give thanks to God, Glory and praise is due to our God.

HYMN MV #142 “Oh a Song Must Rise”

**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again
Singing out God’s praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

- 1 From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again.
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descent. R**
- 2 From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again.
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R**
- 3 From every house of worship,
in every faith and tongue,
a song must rise once again.
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung,
a song must rise for the spirit to descent. R**

OPENING PRAYER

O God who knows our every need before we even ask, you provide all our needs and some of our wants. You bless us all. Make us truly thankful and empower us to bless others from the gifts you have given us, for the glory of your name. Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbours.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. Forgive us We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. In Jesus' name we pray.

A Time of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God our sins are forgiven.

We are reconciled to God. Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on your lips.

HYMN 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 #264 “Immortal, Invisible, God only wise”

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree;
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
‘tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Let the wisdom of your Word rain down on us like manna and feed us,
that we may be strengthened to do the work to which we are called, for
the glory and honor of your name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

First Scripture:

Exodus 16: 2-15 (*God answers the people's prayers.*)

Read by: Paula Watson

Responsive Reading

Psalm 105 1-6, 37-45 VU 228-829 parts 1 and 4

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."

Part Four (37 - 45)

You led Israel out, with spoil of silver and gold.
Among the tribes not one fell behind.

**The Egyptians were glad when they went,
for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.**

You spread cloud as a screen,
and fire as light by night.

The people asked, and you sent them quail;
you filled them with bread from heaven.

**You opened a rock and water gushed out:
It flowed like a river through the arid land. R**

For you remembered the sacred promise
you made to Abraham and Sarah, your servants.

**You led out your people rejoicing,
your chosen ones with songs of gladness.**

You gave them the lands of nations;
**they took possession where others had toiled,
that they might keep your laws
and obey your teachings. R**

Led by: Paula Watson

Second Reading:

Matthew 20: 1-16 *(The Parables of the Workers in the Vineyard)*

Read by: Rev. Darren Liepold

SERMON

“What is Fair?”

RESPONDING

HYMN VU # 321

“Maker in Whom We Live”

- 1 Maker, in whom we live,
 in whom we are and move,
 the glory, power, and praise receive
 for your creating love.
Let all the angel throng
give thanks to God on high,
 while earth repeats the joyful song
 and echos to the sky.
- 2 Incarnate Deity,
 let all the ransomed race
 render in thanks their lives to you
 for your redeeming grace.
The grace to sinners shown,
you heavenly choirs proclaim,
 and cry, “Salvation to our God,
 salvation to the Lamb!”
- 3 Spirit of Holiness,
 let all your saints adore
 your sacred energy, and bless
 your heart-renewing power.
No angel tongues can tell
your love’s ecstatic height,
 the glorious joy unspeakable,
 the beatific sight.
- 4 Eternal, Triune God,
 let all the hosts above,
 let all on earth below record
 and dwell upon your love.
When heaven and earth have fled
before your glorious face,
 may all the saints your love has made
 sing everlasting praise.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Great is God's mercy toward us. Let us offer a portion of what God has given with humble and grateful hearts.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Hymn VU # 544 "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

**God, giver of all good gifts, thank you for the resources gathered here.
Use these gifts for the advancement of your realm. In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.**

HYMN VU #266 “Amazing Grace”

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
‘tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
than when we’d first begun.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

HYMN MV #214

“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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