

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, October 18, 2026, 2026
Worship Leader: Roger West
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

Learning Moments (Week 2) **The RAINBOW**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this candle as a sign that Christ is our steady light.

When life feels unclear, when choices feel heavy, when we are unsure of the way, Christ's light still shines — guiding, grounding, and calling us toward **love**.

May this flame remind us that we are never lost to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

When the path is uncertain and the next step unclear,

God meets us with light for the journey.

When life pulls us in many directions,

Christ centers us in love.

When we feel lost or overwhelmed,

The Spirit steadies our hearts and guides our steps.

Come, people of God —

We gather to worship the One who leads us in the way of love.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Holy One, we come seeking your presence and your peace. We bring our questions, our hopes, our worries, and the places where we feel unsure of the way.

Center us in your love. Quiet the noise around us. Open our hearts to your Spirit. Guide us toward what is true, and help us walk in the way Jesus shows — the way of loving you, loving our neighbour, and loving ourselves. Amen.

HYMN VU #374 “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
 in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
 find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
 clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
 be at peace, and simply be.

- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
 cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
 knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
 lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
 finding scope for faith begun.

- 3 In the Spirit let us travel,
 open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
 celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
 there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
 there is always room to spare

INVITATION to New Beginnings

New Beginnings Prayer (Unison)

Merciful God, we confess the times we have acted out of fear instead of love, the moments we have been pulled away from what matters, and the choices that have left us tangled or uncertain.

Forgive us. Steady us. Renew us. Guide us again in the way of love — for you, for our neighbour, and for ourselves.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF NEW BEGINNING

HYMN VU # 958 “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Hallelujah!)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (Repeat)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Old Testament: Exodus 33: 12-23 Read by Spencer White

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 99 VU pg 819 Led by Spencer White

Psalm 99 - page 819 VU

**Refrain: You rule with justice in delight,
and faithfulness maintain.**

You reign, O God, and the peoples tremble,
you sit enthroned upon the cherubim, and the earth is quaking.

**You, O God, are great in Zion,
you are exalted over all the nations.**

Let them praise your great and awesome name:
holy are you and mighty, a ruler who delights in justice.

**You have determined what is fair,
you have done in Jacob what is just and right. R**

Moses and Aaron were among your priests,
Miriam* among those who called on your name;
they called to you, God, and you answered.

**In the pillar of cloud you spoke to them,
they kept your teachings and the law that you gave them.**

O God, our God, you answered them;
**to them you were a forgiving God,
though you punished their offences.**

Proclaim the greatness of God
and worship on God's holy hill;
for God, our God, is the Holy One. R

* from Exodus 15

**Gospel Lesson #1: Matthew 22: 15-22
Gospel Lesson #2: Matthew 22: 34-46**

Roger West

**SERMON
“Finding North Again”**

HYMN VU #642 “Be Thou My Vision”

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Offertory Hymn VU # 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.

OFFERING PRAYER

Hymn MV 154 “Deep in our Hearts”

1. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.
2. Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.
3. Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.
4. Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go now as people who seek God's direction. Go as people centered in Christ's love. Go as people guided by the Spirit's wisdom.

Love God. Love your neighbour. Love yourself. Let the order of love be your compass.

BLESSING

May the God who leads us bless you. May the Christ who centers you keep you. May the Spirit who guides you strengthen you.

Go in peace, go in hope, go in love — for you are never lost to God.

Amen.

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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