

**St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, May 10, 2026**

Minister: Rev. Dr. John H. Young

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

WORDS OF WELCOME

COMMUNITY NEWS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

[From Psalm 90]

O God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Let us worship God!*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Creator and Creating God, we have gathered to worship you. So, hear our prayers, speak to us through Scripture, sermon, and song, and bless us as we leave, that we may serve you faithfully in the days that lie ahead. This we pray, in Christ's name, Amen.*

HYMN MV 12 “Come Touch Our Hearts” (Stanzas 1–4 only)

- 1 Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn in justice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

- 2 Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

- 3 Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom,
come touch and bless our minds.

- 4 Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve,
steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, forgive us for those times we choose to remain silent in a conversation or a meeting for fear of what others will think if we offer our opinion, or from a sense that others must know better than we do. Remind us that you give each of us gifts, give each of us wisdom. We make this prayer to you now, in Christ’s name, Amen.

A Time of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

For that assurance of forgiveness and relief from our burdens, we give God thanks and praise.*

HYMN VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle" (sung twice)

THEME TIME

HYMN MV 18 "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy tried and true;
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, help us to hear your word through Scripture and reflection upon it, as you have spoken to generations past in their time and place. Nurture us and strengthen us through your word that comes to us in this way. These things we pray, in Christ's name, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

New Testament Acts 17:22–31 Read by Roger West

Psalm Psalm 66 (VU p. 784–785) Read by Roger West

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing to the honour of God's name;
make glorious the praise of God.

How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your strength, your foes wilt before you.

**For all the world shall worship you,
shall sing to you and praise your name. R**

O come and see what God has done,
a work that is awesome to all earth's children.

**God turned the sea into dry land;
they crossed the river on foot.**

There we rejoiced in God,
who rules in power forever,

**whose eyes keep watch on the nations.
Let not the rebellious lift up their heads. R**

Bless our God, all peoples,
and let the sound of praise be heard.

**God has preserved us among the living,
and kept our feet from stumbling.**

For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

**You led us into the desert,
you laid a burden upon our back,**

you let sickness furrow our brow,
we passed through fire and water;

but you brought us out to a land of plenty. R

I will come to your house with burnt-offerings;

I will pay you my vows,

**the vows which I made with my lips,
and swore with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

I will offer fat beasts in sacrifice, a savoury offering of rams;

I will prepare you an offering of bulls and goats. R

Come then and listen, all you that fear God,
while I tell what God has done for me.

I cried aloud to God; high praise was ready on my tongue.

If I had cherished evil in my heart,

God would not have heard me.

**But truly God has heard me,
has given heed to the voice of my prayer.**

Blessed are you, O God,

for you have not rejected my prayer,

nor withdrawn from me your steadfast love. R*

SERMON: On Not Being Orphaned

RESPONDING

HYMN VU 614 “In Suffering Love”

- 1 In suffering love the thread of life
is woven through our care,
for God is with us, not alone
our pain and toil we bear.
- 2 There is a rock, a place secure
within the storm’s cold blast;
concealed within the suffering night
God’s covenant stands fast.
- 3 In love’s deep womb our fears are held;
there God’s rich tears are sown
and bring to birth, in hope newborn,
the strength to journey on.
- 4 Now to our hearts your joy commit,
into our hands your pain;
so send us out to touch the world
with blessings in your name.
- 5 In suffering love our God comes now,
hope’s vision born in gloom;
with tears and laughter shared and blessed
the desert yet will bloom.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD’S PRAYER

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION — Natalie Land

SHARING OUR GIFTS

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

HYMN VU 333 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

HYMN MV 214 “May God’s Sheltering Wings”

[We shall sing this piece through twice, using “her” the first time and “his” the second time]

- 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