

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario

Sunday, May 17, 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

We gather in this place,
as those who would follow Jesus.

We gather in this place,
to hear God's word to us and for us.

Let us worship God!*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Loving God, we gather today bringing different concerns, different anxieties, different fears. So meet us in this time of worship. Grant us the things we need, that we might be relieved of what burdens us and strengthened for today and the days ahead. This we pray, in Christ's name, Amen.*

HYMN VU 330 “Jesus Shall Reign”

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 3 Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 4 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, sometimes a timidity of spirit overtakes us. We see a situation where we should reach out to help, but we hesitate for fear we may be seen as interfering; someone makes derogatory remarks about another person in our hearing but we hesitate to confront for fear of how the other may react. Forgive the timidity that sometimes comes to each of us, and grant us the courage we need to serve more faithfully. This we pray, in Christ's name. Amen.

A Time of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**As far as the east is from the west,
So far does God remove our sins when we confess them.
For that assurance we give God thanks and praise.***

HYMN VU 958 “Halle, Halle, Halle” (sung twice)

THEME TIME

HYMN MV 85 "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, come to us once again through these ancient words, that we might know you better and experience your love for us more clearly. This we pray, in Christ's name, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

New Testament Acts 1:1–14 Read by Jackie Bell

Responsive Psalm Psalm 93 (VU p. 813) Read by Jackie Bell

**Refrain: God, you rule with royal bearing,
Clothed in glory, love and light.**

You rule, O God, clothed in majesty –
robed, and girded with strength.

You have established the world
so that it can never be moved.

**Your throne has stood firm from of old;
for all eternity you are God. R**

The waters have lifted up, O God,
the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters lift up their pounding waves.

**Mightier than thundering waters,
mightier than the waves of the sea,
mightier on high is God.**

Truly your law stands firm;
holiness adorns your house, O God, forever. R

SERMON: What Might We Learn from the Ascension?

RESPONDING

HYMN MV 150 “Spirit God, Be Our Breath, Be Our Song”

- 1 Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...
Spirit God, be our song.
- 2 Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.
- 3 Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our prayer.
- 4 Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn.
Spirit God, be our song.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OUR GIFTS

HYMN VU 540 “Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving”

**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 VU 211 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne:
 hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
 all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
 and hail him as thy matchless King
 through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
 and rose victorious in the strife
 for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
 who died eternal life to bring,
 and lives that death may die.

3. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
 absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
 fair flowers of Paradise extend
 their fragrance ever sweet.

4. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

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

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