

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario

Sunday, May 24, 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

[Adapted from Gathering, Pentecost 1, 2026, Year A, p. 27]

In this place may we find shelter, lift our hearts in prayer, and sing songs of praise.

**May we find strength in knowing that we are the body of Christ,
enlivened by the Spirit, engaging the work of God in this world.**

Let us worship God.*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

On this Pentecost Sunday, pour out your Spirit on us. Through your Spirit, grant us courage in our times of fear, strength in our times of weakness, wisdom in our times of questioning, and patience in our times of trial. We ask these things that we might be your faithful witnesses in this time and place. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

HYMN VU 373 "As Comes the Breath of Spring"

- 1 As comes the breath of spring
with light and mirth and song,
so does your Spirit bring
new days brave, free, and strong.
 You come with thrill of life
 to chase hence winter's breath,
 to hush to peace the strife
 of sin that ends in death.

- 2 You come like dawning day
with flaming truth and love,
to chase all glooms away,
to brace our wills to prove
 how wise, how good to choose
 the truth and its brave fight,
 to prize it, won or lose,
 and live on your delight.

- 3 You come like songs on morn
that fill the earth with joy,
till we, in Christ newborn,
new strength in praise employ.
 You come to rouse the heart
 from drifting to despair,
 through high hopes to impart
 life with an ampler air.

- 4 You breathe and there is health;
you move and there is power;
you whisper, there is wealth
of love, your richest dower.
 Your presence is to us
 like summer in the soul;
 your joy shines forth and then
 life blossoms to its goal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that sometimes we do not want your Spirit to come, at least not to us. Sometimes we fear the demands the Spirit will make of us—demands to speak about our faith, or to confront a situation, or to make an unpopular choice.

Forgive that reluctance we sometimes feel, and remind us that, through your Spirit, you will give us the strength we need. This we pray, 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 90 "Don't Be Afraid"

- 1 Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger and I have promised,
promised to be always near.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, on this Pentecost Sunday, we give you thanks for the presence and activity of your Spirit among us. Through that Spirit, enlighten us this day that, as we hear Scripture read and reflection offered, we might hear your word to us and for us. This we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

New Testament Acts 2:1–21

Read by Spencer White

Psalm Psalm 104, Part 2
(VU p. 827, Refrain 1)

Read by Spencer White

**Refrain: Bless, O my soul, the Almighty,
who rules all creation.**

O God, how manifold are your works!
**With Wisdom at your side you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. R**

There lies the great and mighty Sea,
teeming with living things both great and small.
**Upon it sail the ships, and there is Leviathan,
the monster you made to play in it.**

All these look to you,
to give them their food in due season.
**What you give them they gather up.
When you open your hand,
you fill them with good things.**

But when you hide your face they despair.
When you take away their breath, they die,
and return to dust.
**But when you send out your spirit, they live again,
and you renew the face of the earth. R**

May your glory, O God, endure forever.
May you rejoice, O God, in your works.
When you look at the earth it trembles,
when you touch the mountains they smoke.
I will sing to God as long as I live.
I will praise my God while I have being. R

Epistle 1 Corinthians 12:4–13

Read by Rev. Dr. John Young

SERMON: Thinking About the Holy Spirit

RESPONDING

HYMN VU 193 “Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost”

- 1 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
taught by Thee, we covet most,
of Thy gifts at Pentecost,
holy, heav'nly love.
- 2 Love is kind, and suffers long;
love is meek, and thinks no wrong;
love than death itself more strong;
therefore give us love.
- 3 Prophecy will fade away,
melting in the light of day;
love will ever with us stay;
therefore give us love.
- 4 Faith will vanish into sight;
hope be emptied in delight;
love in heav'n will shine more bright;
therefore give us love.
- 5 Faith and hope and love we see
joining hand in hand agree;
but the greatest of the three,
and the best, is love.
- 6 From the overshadowing
of Thy gold and silver wing
shed on us, who to Thee sing,
holy, heav'nly love.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 MV 83 “Let My Spirit Always Sing”

- 1 Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.
- 2 Though my body be confined,
let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern
how much more there is to learn,
see the world becoming whole
through the window of the soul.
- 3 Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change,
to accept, and not estrange,
let my joy be full and deep
in the knowledge that I keep.

- 4 Let my spirit always sing,
to your Spirit answering,
through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust your love, through life and death.

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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