

St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario
Sunday, August 23rd, 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

We light this candle to mark Christ's living presence among us.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Upon this rock, the light of faith is built.

May this flame remind us of our foundation in God's love

CALL TO WORSHIP

You who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

We, who are many, are called to worship God, the three in One.

Come let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Ever present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN VU # 297

"All Praise to You"

- 1 All praise to you, O God of all creation:
you made the world, and it is yours alone.
The planet earth you spun in its location
amid the stars adorning heaven's dome.
We lease the earth but for a life's duration,
yet for this life it is our cherished home.
- 2 With wondrous grace you clothed the earth in splendour;
with teeming life you filled the sea and land.
Instil in us a sense of awe and wonder
when we behold the bounty of your hand.
Then when we hear the voice of bird or thunder,
we hear the voice our faith can understand.
- 3 To tend the earth is our entrusted duty,
for earth is ours to use and not abuse.
O gracious God, true source of all resources,
forgive our greed that wields destruction's sword.
Then let us serve as wise and faithful stewards
while earth gives glory to creation's Lord.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.

We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Time of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If it had not been our God who was on our side,
We would now be lost in our wrongdoings.

But it is our God who is on our side.

And so we are forgiven. Our help is in the name of the Creator, who made heaven and earth.

HYMN # 958 VU

“Halle, Halle, Halle” (sung twice)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Hallelujah!)

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (Repeat)

THEME TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN # 157 MV

“I Am a Child of God”

1 I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.

2 I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.

3 I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.

4 I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.

5 I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of revelation, mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth; only your Spirit can give that gift. Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears and understanding, that through these words your Word may be known. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

First Scripture:

Exodus 1: 8; 2: 10

(Moses is rescued from the Nile)

Read by: Roger West

Responsive Psalm # 124 Page 848 VU

Refrain: Our help comes from God
the maker of heaven and earth.

"If God had not been at our side,"
now let Israel say:
"If God had not been at our side

when mortals rose up against us,
**then they would have swallowed us alive,
when their fury was roused against us.**
Then the flood would have swept us away,
and the torrent would have covered us.
**Then the raging waters
would have gone right over our heads.” R**

But praised be God:
who had not given us as a prey to their teeth.
**We have escaped like a bird
from the hunter’s snare;
the snare is broken and we are free. R**

Led by: Roger West

Second Reading: Matthew 16: 13 - 20

Read by: Rev. Darren Liepold

SERMON
“Who Do you Say I am?”

RESPONDING

HYMN # 371 VU “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,

ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN # 544 VU "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

HYMN # 120 MV "My Soul Cries Out"

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,

so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!**

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
 you work great things in me,
 and your mercy will last from depths
 of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame,
 and to those who would for you yearn,
 you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
 for the world is about to turn?
- 3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
 not a stone will be left on stone.
 Let the king beware for your justice tears
 every tyrant from his throne.
 The hungry poor shall weep no more,
 for the food they can never earn;
 there are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
 for the world is about to turn.
- 4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
 we remember who holds us fast:
 God's mercy must deliver us
 from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
 This saving word that our forebears heard
 is the promise which hold us bound,
 til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
 who is turning the world around.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

HYMN # 214 MV

“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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