**St. Mark's United Church, Cannifton, Ontario**
**Sunday, November 15, 2026**
**Led by: Natalie Land**
**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

## COMMMUNITY NEWS

## CANDLE LIGHTING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us come to this place to worship God
**We come together to be surrounded by God's presence**
We thank God for he gives each of his children their own unique gifts for them to share with the world
**Lord, we thank you for blessing us with these gifts.**
We come before you ready to offer our gifts
**Let us worship God and rejoice in the gifts we have been given**

**Hymn: MV 79 "Spirit Open My Heart"**

**Spirit, open my heart**
**to the joy and pain of living.**
**As you love may I love,**
**in receiving and in giving,**
**Spirit, open my heart.**

1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. **R**

2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
may my living bring you glory. **R**

3 May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. **R**

## OPENING PRAYER

**God, you touch our lives with mystery and hope. We come to this place today, ready to see your power working through us. Help us to be open to your Word, and to answer your call among us.**
**In the name of Jesus. Amen**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all creation, you love us into being,
yet we often flee our rightful place in your creation.
We confess that we exploit the gifts you place around us, and dominate the richness of the natural order. Forgive our greedy grasping.**

**We confess our part in the devastation of our planet home, mirrored in the violence of cities, and the brokenness of hearts.
Forgive and restore us, O God.**

**Nurturing God, remind us of other ways to live and of a place called home, where creation reflects your goodness and each thing lives in balance with all others. Come and find us, set us right again, and take us home**

***A Time of Silence***

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Hymn MV # 145 "Draw the Circle Wide"**

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

1 God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. **R**

2 Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. **R**

3 Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. **R**

## THEME TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

## HYMN MV 126 Are You a Shepherd?"

1 Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

**Yes, you are a shepherd, parent and teacher,**
**but you are greater than all that we know.**
**Holy and living, loving and giving,**
**God, you are with us wherever we go.**

2 Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best? **R**

3 Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight. **R**

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**O God,**
**your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.**
**Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

**First Scripture:**
**Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

**Read by: Jackie Bell**

**Responsive Reading**
**Psalm 123, VU 847**

**<u>Refrain</u>: To you, O God, our eyes we raise**
**until your mercy we may praise.**

To you I lift up my eyes,
**to you who are enthroned in the heavens.**
As the eyes of servants look to their master's hands,
**as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**
so our eyes look to you, O God,
**as we wait till you show us your favour. R**

We have had more than enough of contempt.
**Too long we have suffered the scorn of the wealthy,**
**and the contempt of the arrogant. R**

**Led by: Jackie Bell**

**Second Reading:**
**Matthew 25: 14-20** ***"The Parable of the Three Servants"***
***Read by: Natalie Land***

**SERMON**
**Faith Over Fear**

**HYMN MV 144 "Like a Healing Stream"**

1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream.

2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need
like a healing stream

3 Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in new creation,
calling for an end to hate and war
like a river strong.

4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,

like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

**RELECTION TIME**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**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.

**DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**Hymn MV 120 "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 MV 1 "Let us Build A House:**

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
**All are welcome,**
**all are welcome,**
**all are welcome in this place.**

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **R**

3 Let is build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **R**

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **R**

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter

**Postlude**

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