

**St. Mark's United Church  
Cannifton, Ontario  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Minister: Rev. Ryan McNally, MDiv.**

**Organist/Pianist: Mark Bond**

**Technical Team: Sheila Parks, Elaner Pound, Mary Milligan, Julie McNally,  
Alfreda Rupert and Lois MacDonald**

***Transfiguration Sunday***

***Gathering to Worship God***

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

Welcome to everyone joining in worship today. For some, it is the first time ever, and for others it is a return. You are appreciated.

**Community News**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

Jesus Christ is the light that shines in the shadows of life, who bursts like sunshine through clouds of sadness, whose presence changes gloom into gladness. We light the Christ candle rejoicing that the presence of God is with us this morning.

**Call to Worship**

We each have a story, something to share:

**warnings borne from wisdom hard-earned,  
a song of praise that falls into lament and then rises again!  
There is comedy and tragedy enough for all.**

The world needs your story, so tell it...  
loud and proud or in the faintest of whispers.  
Tell them about the time you thought  
you'd never make it through, but you did...  
the almost undetectable answers to prayer...  
or how angels appeared unawares and in disguise.

**It is our stories that make us prophets,  
telling the world that God is doing a new thing.**

Storyteller, what are you waiting for?  
The world is listening.

***Michele Rowe**, St. Andrew's U.C. and Centre for Peace, Golden, B.C.  
[www.gatheringworship.ca](http://www.gatheringworship.ca)*

**† 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.

### **Opening Prayer**

*Author: **Camillia LaRouche**, while at Main Street U.C., Mitchell, Ont.*

#### **† Hymn # 595 VU      "We Are Pilgrims"**

- 1      We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
  
- 2      Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.
  
- 3      I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
  
- 4      I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.
  
- 5      When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.
  
- 6      Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

***Living into God's story***

**Theme Time**  
**Looking Back! Looking Ahead!**

† Hymn # 85 MV      “Take, O Take Me as I Am” remain seated

Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me. 3 times

**Prayer of Illumination**

Kate Gregory, Belwood-Metz P.C., Ontario  
*Gathering, A/C/E 2017–2018, p. 46. Used with permission.*

**Scripture**

**2 Kings 2: 1 - 12**

**Read by: Alfreda Rupert**

**Responsive Psalm # 50**

**Page 775**  
**Led by: Alfreda Rupert**

**Refrain: The mighty one, God the Sovereign,  
speaks and summons the earth.**

God, the Almighty, has spoken;  
    **and summoned the world**  
    **from the rising of the sun to its setting.**  
God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.  
    **Our God appears, and will not keep silence. R**

Before you, runs a consuming fire,  
and a mighty tempest rages about you.  
    **You call on the heavens above,**  
    **and on the earth below,**  
    **to witness the judgement of your people:**  
“Gather my people before me,  
the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.”  
    **The heavens proclaim your justice,**  
    **for you yourself are judge. R**

**Mark 9: 2 – 9**

† Hymn # 210 VU      “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

1.    You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.  
      You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer  
      of the way you took and gave.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
      you, whom we both scorn and crave.
  
2.    Clothed in light upon the mountain,  
      stripped of might upon the cross,  
shining in eternal glory,  
      beggared by a soldier’s toss.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
      you who are both gift and cost.
  
3.    You, who walk each day beside us,  
      sit in power and God’s side.  
You, who preach a way that’s narrow,  
      have a love that reaches wide.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
      you, who are our pilgrim guide.
  
4.    Worthy is our earthly Jesus!  
      Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and victory.  
      Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant;  
      you, who are our death and life.

***Responding to God***

**Message**

**Prayers of the People**

**Call:**            Your dominion come,  
**Response:**    **Your will be done on amongst us.**

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**Invitation to Share**

***Kate Gregory, Belwood-Metz P.C., Ontario  
Gathering, A/C/E 2017–2018, p. 46. Used with permission.***

## Video

### Offering Prayer

Each day, we face moments of ending and new beginning. .

#### † Hymn # 586 VU      “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”

- 1      We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
         we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
         tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
         we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
         within the vision of new life in Christ.
  
- 2      We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
         we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,  
         expressive love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,  
         raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
         including all in circles of our love.

### Commissioning & Benediction

God chooses messengers and prophets in every age.  
God's work needs your prayer, your love, yourself.

**In faith, we hear and answer.  
In hope and joy, we go to bear witness  
to the love that frees and heals.**

Go in the Grace of God, Creator, Christ and Comforter. Amen.

*Adapted Robin Wardlaw, Glen Rhodes U.C., Toronto, Ont.  
Gathering, A/C/E 2017–2018, p. 46. Used with permission.*

### Prayer for Opening of the Meeting

Loving God, source of life, source of true community, you call us together. You call us to faithfulness.

**Be with us this morning, bless us in our eating together and our meeting together. Give us a willingness to listen and the courage to speak, a willingness**

**to share our own needs and a willingness to respond to the needs of others.**

Give us a sense of the faith community that is ours, and a vision of what this faith community might become.

**Alert us to the opportunities for service this church presents and our abilities to serve within it and within the community. Bless those who are taking leadership roles at this time, and those willing to take on new leadership responsibility.**

And amid our focus on the local church, keep us mindful of those who offer leadership and ministry through East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC).

**Make us aware of the needs of the wider church of which Mission and Service is a constant reminder. Bless us in our meeting that it may lead to greater ministry for you. Amen.**

*David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.  
Gathering, A/C/E 2017-2018, p. 46. Used with permission.*

## **Postlude**

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