

**St. Mark's United Church
Cannifton, Ontario
March 17th, 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**

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Gathering to Worship God

Prelude

Lent Video

Welcome

Good morning! We welcome you all, whether you're here in person or watching from home. We are so glad that you are part of this community of faith.

Community News

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we journey through Lent, as we move towards the darkness of the cross, we light a candle to remind us of the Light that can not be put out. May its light remind us that we are not alone, in the good and the bad of life, we are not alone.

Call to Worship

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know.
Be still.
Be.”

Attributed to St. Patrick of Ireland.

† Hymn # 79 MV **“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**

Approaching God through Prayer

† Hymn # 642 VU **“Be Though My Vision”**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Living into God's story

Scripture

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

Read by: Mary Milligan

Responsive Psalm # 51

Page 776

Led by: Mary Milligan

**Refrain 1: God, I call to you for help;
 in your mercy hear my prayer.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great kindness,
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.
**For I acknowledge my faults,
and my sin is always before me. R**

Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and done evil in your sight,
**so that you are justified in your sentence,
and blameless in your judgement.**

Guilty I have been from my birth,
a sinner from the time of my conception.
**But you desire truth in our inward being,
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean,
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities. R

Put a new heart in me, O God,
and give me again a constant spirit.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
O God, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. R

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it;
you take no delight in burnt offerings.
The sacrifice you accept, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise. R

John 12: 20 – 33

Responding to God

Message

Prayers of Concern & Thanks

Lord's Prayer

† Hymn # 317 VU “I Bind unto Myself Today”

1 I bind unto myself today
 the strong name of the Trinity,
 by invocation of the same,
 the three in one and one in three.

2 I bind this day to me forever,

by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan River,
his cross of death for my salvation,
 his bursting from the spiced tomb,
 his riding up the heavenly way,
 his coming at the day of doom,
I bind unto myself today.

3 I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's lifegiving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
 the flashing of the lightning free,
 the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea,
around the old eternal rocks.

4 I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to my need,
 the wisdom of my God to teach,
 his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the Word of God to give me speech,
his heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

5 I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the three in one and one in three,
 of whom all nature has creation,
 eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
salvation is of Christ the Lord!

Sharing our Gifts

Offering Prayer

† Hymn # 625 VU “I Feel the Winds of God”

- 1 I feel the winds of God today;
 today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
 and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
 and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
 and brave another cruise.

- 2 It is the wind of God that dries
 my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
 the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
 or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
 and I'll put back to sea.

- 3 If ever I forget your love
 and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
 it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
 you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
 today my sail I lift.

Blessing & Sending Forth

God be in your head, and in your understanding.
God be in your eyes, and in your looking.
God be in your mouth, and in your speaking.
God be in your heart, and in your loving.
God be at your end, and at your departing.

Postlude

***Projected and printed material used by permission, CCLI Lic. #11119818 and ONE LICENSE # A-625477.*