

**St. Mark's United Church  
Cannifton, Ontario  
April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

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**Organist/Pianist: Mark Bond**

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***Fourth Sunday of Easter and Earth Sunday***

***Gathering to Worship God***

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**Prelude**

**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**

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**

Whether we live near mountains or in the prairies—  
**We are one in Christ.**

Whether our winters are balmy or our summers are cool—  
**We are one in Christ.**

Whether we live near the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Ocean or somewhere in the middle—

**We are one in Christ.**

Whether we live in urban dwellings, nestled in the suburbs, or surrounded by a rural landscape—

**We are one in Christ.**

In a spirit of unity, caring for each other and the whole of creation—

**We are one in Christ.**

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## **Approaching God through Prayer**

### **† Hymn # 520 VU      "We Plough the Fields"**

- 1      We plough the fields and scatter  
         the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
         by your almighty hand;  
you send the snow in winter,  
         the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
         and soft refreshing rain.  
         **All good gifts around us  
         are sent from heaven above;  
         we thank you, God, O holy God,  
         for all your love.**
  
- 2      You only are the maker  
         of all things near and far;  
you paint the wayside flower,  
         you light the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey you,  
         by you the birds are fed;  
much more to us, your children,  
         you give us daily bread. **R**
  
- 3      We thank you then, O Maker,  
         for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
         our life, our health, our food;  
accept the gifts we offer

for all your love imparts,  
and, what from us you long for,  
our humble, thankful hearts. R

## **Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace**

### **Hymn # 30 MV “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker”**

- 1 It’s a song of praise to the Maker,  
the thrush sings high in the tree.  
It’s a song of praise to the Maker,  
the gray whale sings in the sea,  
And by the Spirit you and I can join  
our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.
  
- 2 It’s a call of life to the Giver  
when waves and waterfalls roar.  
It’s a call of life to Giver  
when tides break on the shore,  
And by the Spirit you and I can join  
our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.
  
- 3 It’s a hymn of love to the Lover;  
the bumblebees hum along.  
It’s a hymn of love to the Lover,  
the summer breeze joins the song.  
And by the Spirit you and I can join  
our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.
  
- 4 It’s the chorus of all creation;  
it’s sung by all living things.  
It’s the chorus of all creation;  
a song the universe sings,  
And by the Spirit you and I can join  
our voice to the holy cry  
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

### **Theme Time**

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He includes a video recording on his website.*

Hymn # 126 MV      “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

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

**Scripture**

Acts 4: 5 - 12

Read by: Alfreda Rupert

Responsive Psalm # 23

Page 749  
Led by: Alfreda Rupert

**Refrain 2: The God of love my shepherd is;  
what can I want or need.**

God is my shepherd,  
      **there is nothing I shall lack.**  
You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,  
      **you lead me beside peaceful waters;**  
you revive my spirit,  
      **you guide me in right pathways**  
      **for your name's sake.    R**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
you are with me,  
**your rod and your staff are my comfort.**  
You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;  
**you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.**  
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
**and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R**

John 10: 11 – 21

## ***Responding to God***

### **Message**

### **Prayers of Concern & Thanks**

### **Lord's Prayer**

† Hymn # 135 MV      “Called by Earth and Sky”

**Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.**

- 1    Precious these waters, endless seas,  
      deep ocean's dream,  
      waters of healing, rivers of rain,  
      the wash of love again.    **R**
  
- 2    Precious this gift, the air we breathe;  
      wind born and free.  
      Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,  
      our gathering and our grace.    **R**
  
- 3    Precious these mountains, ancient sands;  
      vast fragile land.  
      Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,  
      Creation's faithful song.    **R**

- 4 Precious the fire that lights our way,  
bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,  
our faith and justice one. **R**

**Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky,  
called by earth and sky.**

## Sharing our Gifts

### Video

## Offering Prayer

### † Hymn # 510 VU “We Have This Ministry”

- 1 We have this ministry  
and we are not discouraged;  
it is by God’s own power  
that we may live and serve.  
Openly we share God’s word,  
speaking truth as we believe,  
praying that the shadowed world  
may healing light receive.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our living.
- 2 O Christ, the tree of life,  
our end and our beginning,  
we grow to fullest flower  
when rooted in your love.  
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay,  
called to service by your grace,  
different cultures, different gifts,  
the young and old a place.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our giving.
- 3 The yoke of Christ is ours,  
the whole world is our parish:  
we daily take the cross,

the burden and the joy.  
Bearing hurts of those we serve,  
wounded, bruised and bowed with pain,  
Holy Spirit, bread and wine,  
we die and rise again.  
We have this ministry, O God, receive our loving.

### **Blessing & Sending Forth**

As we experience each tree, each flower, each bird, each bee, and each human, let us feel our God reflected in creation.

**As we look upon God's world, let us share the love of Christ.**

As we love one another, may your Spirit give us the strength we need to care for each and every part of creation.

**As we look upon God's world, let us share the love of Christ.**

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### **Postlude**

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