

**St. Mark's United Church
Cannifton, Ontario
April 28th, 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 of Easter and Camp Sunday

Gathering to Worship God

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Today we celebrate Camping Sunday, a reminder of the over 60 United Church camps and other outdoor ministries that operate from coast to coast to cast. Together we give thanks for the many camping ministries of the United Church of Canada.

Camp Song: Fire's Burning

Fire's burning, fire's burning!
Draw nearer, draw nearer!
In the glowing, in the glowing,
Come sing and be merry! X 3

Approaching God through Prayer

Each new day we give thanks to the circle of life.¹

(Face the east) From the east, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

(Face the south) From the south comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

¹ Adapted with permission from a prayer gifted to Camp Big Canoe by the Very Reverend Stanley John McKay.

(Face the west) From the west comes the rains, purifying waters to sustain all living things.

We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

(Face the north) From the north comes the cold and mighty winds, white snows giving us strength and endurance.

We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

(Look downwards) From the earth we come and to the earth we shall return.

We give thanks for these gifts, oh God!

(Look upwards) From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of our breath, and messages from our winged creatures.

We give thanks for your creation, oh God!

† Hymn # 289 VU “It Only Takes a Spark”

- 1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

- 2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming,
that's how it is with God's love,
 once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

- 3 I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found-
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
 I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

United Church Camps: The Training Grounds for a Revolution

By Vicki Nelson Community of Faith Stewardship Support

Read by: Alfreda Rupert

† Hymn # 577 VU “I’ve Got Peace like a River”

- 1 I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river,
 I’ve got peace like a river in-a my soul.
I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river,
 I’ve got peace like a river in-a my soul.
- 2 I’ve got joy like a fountain,
I’ve got joy like a fountain,
 I’ve got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
I’ve got joy like a fountain,
I’ve got joy like a fountain,
 I’ve got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
- 3 I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean,
 I’ve got love like an ocean in-a my soul.
I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean,
 I’ve got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

Scripture

Acts 8: 26 - 40

Read by: Betty Beer

Hymn # 167 VU “Christ Is Risen from the Dead”

Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!
Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!

Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah! X2

Campfire Conversation

Hymn # 18 MV “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy tried and true;
With thanksgiving,

I'll be a living sanctuary for you. X3

Prayers of Concerns & Thanks

Hymn # 18 MV “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy tried and true;
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you. X3

Sharing Our Gifts

Camp Video

“Heaven among the Stars”

Offering Prayer

Community News

† Hymn # 144 MV “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.

Blessing & Sending Forth

Go into the world, knowing you help make camping ministries possible.
Go into the world, knowing there are places for young and old alike, to be shaped as
followers of Jesus.
Go into the world, and find the places where you will be shaped.

We go into the world, seeking and finding, sharing and listening.

God, Creator, Christ, and Comforter be your guide, this day and always. Amen.

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Postlude

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