

**St. Mark's United Church  
Cannifton, Ontario  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

**Organist/Pianist: Mark Bond**

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

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**CHRIST CANDLE**

**† Hymn VU 374 “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”**

- 1    Come and find the quiet centre  
      in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
      find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
      clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
      be at peace, and simply be.
  
- 2    Silence is a friend who claims us,  
      cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
      knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking,

lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Siblings in Christ, today we recall:  
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**In baptism, our Creator claims us  
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

In baptism we are joined to Christ  
and we are joined together in unity, recalling

**"There is no longer Jew or Greek  
there is no longer slave or free  
there is no longer male or female  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."**

In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry  
and makes us signs of divine love.  
It is the mark of acceptance into the church  
and the beginning of our growth  
into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**Therefore on this day,  
the whole church, the Body of Christ,  
remembers and celebrates.**

† Hymn MV 142 “Oh a Song Must Rise”

**Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again  
Singing out God’s praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend,  
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.**

1 From the mountains to the valleys,  
from the desert to the sea,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the voices of our leaders,  
the voice of you and me,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descent. **R**

2 From poverty and riches,  
from the voice of young and old,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the free and the imprisoned,  
the timid and the bold  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. **R**

3 From every house of worship,  
in every faith and tongue,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the villages and cities  
a new song must be sung,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descent. **R**

**APPROCHING GOD THROUGH PRAYER**

**Read by: Ryan McNally**

## † Hymn VU 100 “When Jesus Comes to Be Baptised”

- 1 When Jesus comes to be baptized,  
he leaves the hidden years behind,  
the years of safety and of peace,  
to bear the sins of humankind.
- 2 The Spirit of the Lord comes down,  
anoints the Christ to suffering,  
to preach the word, to free the bound,  
and to the mourner, comfort bring.
- 3 He will not quench the dying flame,  
and what is bruised he will not break,  
but heal the wound injustice dealt,  
and out of death his triumph make.
- 4 O Spirit help us be like Christ:  
to live in love and charity,  
to walk in truth and justice now,  
and grow in Christian dignity.
- 5 We praise you, God, source of all life,  
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,  
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;  
your triune presence fills our world.

## WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE

Acts 8: 14 – 17  
Willams

Read by: Gary

Psalm 29 VU 756 “Glory, glory, glory to our God.”

Refrain: **Glory, glory, glory to our God.**

Ascribe to God, you powers of the heaven,  
ascribe to God all glory and strength!

**Ascribe due honour to God’s holy name,  
and worship in the beauty of holiness. R**

God’s voice is over the waters -  
God’s glory thundering across the great waters.

**God’s voice is power,  
God’s voice is full of majesty.**

God’s voice shatters the cedars,  
splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

**God’s voice makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
Mount Hermon stampede like a wild young bull.**

God’s voice forks into tongues of fire,  
God’s voice shakes the wilderness,  
sets trembling the wilderness of Kadesh.

**God’s voice causes the oaks to whirl,  
stripping the forest bare;  
and in the temple all cry: Glory! R**

God sits enthroned above the waters,  
**God is enthroned as sovereign forever.**

You give strength to your people, O God.

**Now give to your people the blessing of peace. R**

Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 – 22

## MESSAGE

## RESPONSE

## PRAYERS OF CONCERN & THANKS

## LORDS PRAYER

### † Hymn MV 161 “I Have Called You by Your Name”

- 1 I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true,  
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.
  
- 2 I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.
  
- 3 I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.
  
- 4 I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

### **WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

**Ephesians 2: 19 – 22**  
**Williams**

**Read by: Gary**

So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by the Holy Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus. By our baptism we are made members of Christ's church.

We exercise this membership in the denomination to which we belong, which for us is The United Church of Canada, and within the context of a local community of faith.

We are now to welcome into this congregation those who are already members of the church of Jesus Christ.

## **PRESENTATION**

On behalf of St. Mark's United Church, I present the following Elaine West and Roger West, whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith by transfer from St. Andrew's United, Blind River, Ontario.

## **COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS**

Elaine and Roger, will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

**I will, with God's help.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT**

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge these *persons* our support and care.

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ,**

**we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.**

**We pledge to you our love and our support.**

**With God's help, we will together live out**

**the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**



Together we profess our faith, using the words of the New Creed.

### **The New Creed**

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

*The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

## Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

All who are united in the covenant of baptism are the Body of Christ in the world. Go in peace.

**Amen.**

### **† Hymn VU 579 “The Church Is Wherever God’s People”**

- 1 The church is wherever God’s people are praising,  
singing God’s goodness for joy on this day.  
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus  
remember his story and walk in his way.
  
- 2 The church is wherever God’s people are helping,  
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.  
The church is wherever God’s people are sharing  
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.

## BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

Jesus came up out of the water of baptism and saw the heavens open and the Spirit descend upon him like a dove. As you leave, may you discover that the heavens have opened for you. May the presence of the Spirit light upon you and the world around you, so you might be both blessed and a part of God’s blessing for the world. Amen.

*Allan Warren, Appleby U.C., Burlington, Ont.  
Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2019. Used with permission.*