

Order of Worship: Sunday, February 22, 2026

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: Once again we enter into the season of Lent, the weeks leading up to the horror of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday. In preparation for this we will spend time looking more closely at the book of Leviticus. This mostly ignored book is given to God's people to answer the questions: If God is coming to live among us, how should we prepare, how should we live? We also want to better understand the purpose and meaning behind all the sacrifices, and whether this matches our assumptions about Jesus as a sacrifice.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-3 (NIV) In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'"

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #151 HWB - Marvelous grace of our loving Lord

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20 (NIV) "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Hymn: #528 HWB - I stand amazed in the presence

Scripture: Leviticus 9 (NIV) 1-6. 15-24 Brenda - On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. He said to Aaron, "Take a bull calf for your sin [or *cleansing*] offering and a ram for your burnt offering, both without defect, and present them before the LORD. Then say to the Israelites: 'Take a male goat for a sin [or *cleansing*] offering, a calf and a lamb —both a year old and without defect—for a burnt offering, and an ox and a ram for a fellowship offering to sacrifice before the LORD, together with a grain offering mixed with olive oil. **For today the LORD will appear to you.** '"

They took the things Moses commanded to the front of the tent of meeting, and the entire assembly came near and stood before the LORD. Then Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the LORD may appear to you."

15-24 Aaron then brought the offering that was for the people. He took the goat for the people's sin [or *cleansing*] offering and slaughtered it and offered it for a sin [or *cleansing*] offering as he did with the first one. He brought the burnt offering and offered it in the prescribed way. He also brought the grain offering, took a handful of it and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning's burnt offering. He slaughtered the ox and the ram as the fellowship offering for the people. His sons handed him the blood, and he splashed it against the sides of the altar. But the fat portions of the ox and the ram—the fat tail, the layer of fat, the kidneys and the long lobe of the liver— these they laid on the breasts, and then Aaron burned the fat on the altar. Aaron waved the breasts and the right thigh before the LORD as a wave offering, as Moses commanded.

Then Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin [or *cleansing*] offering, the burnt offering and the fellowship offering, he stepped down. Moses and Aaron then went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, **they shouted for joy and fell facedown.**

Message: what can we learn from these texts? ~ Pastor Jim

Hymn of Response: #526 HWB - In the rifted Rock I'm resting

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #538 HWB - Lead me, Lord

Benediction

Postlude

**Please join us downstairs for congregation discussion/coffee time

Announcements

*****For the season of Lent** I'm planning a series on the book of Leviticus. So I encourage you to work at reading it over the next weeks. If you look deeply into it, it just might surprise you! Pastor Jim

The Gospel of John will be the focus of the Lenten journey this year with the 2026 Narrative Lectionary scripture readings. You are invited to participate in a Wilmot Ignited Bible Study, led by pastors Kathryn, Kevin and Greg. This will be an in-depth study of John's gospel, starting **Thurs, Feb 26** and running weekly for 5 sessions. We will meet at **Hillcrest Mennonite Church** from 7:00-8:30 pm. For more information, please contact kathryn@hillcrestmc.ca or pastor@nithvalleymennonite.com

Open House February 28, 2026. 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Tri-County Mennonite Homes. Nithview Community, 200 Boullee St, New Hamburg, 519-662-2280. retirement@tcmhomes.com www.tcmhomes.com See poster at back for more info.

Friday, March 6 at 2pm. World Day of Prayer worship service held at Hillcrest Mennonite Church.

Join us as we focus on the global theme "I Will Give You Rest: Come." Refreshments will be served following the service. See poster at back for more info.

Grade 7&8 students of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate invite you to their upcoming performance *Humpty Dumpty is Missing!* on **March 5 & 6**. Full of fairytale characters, this comical mystery is fun for the whole family! To learn more and buy tickets, visit rockway.ca/events.

Grade 9-12 students of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate invite you to their performance of *The Day the Internet Died*. Can you live without your computer? Your tablet? Your PHONE!?! Join us on **Tuesday, March 10** as this hilarious show explores how inept we are at everyday activities and basic human interactions when we don't have a screen to look at. To learn more and buy tickets, visit rockway.ca/events.

Are you a grandparent looking for ways to make meaningful memories with your grandkids Grades 1-6 during March Break? Grandparent & Grandchild Day @ **Hidden Acres** is a great opportunity to spend time together playing, singing, creating, laughing, eating and worshipping together! Join us **March 16th 2026** to experience majestic and exotic birds from around the world with Wings Over The Rainforest. Cost is \$30/person and includes lunch. For more information or to register click [here](#).

On Mon April 20, 2026 seniors (55+) are invited to spend the day at **Hidden Acres**. Our theme is *Consider the Birds: Practicing Hope In A Worrisome World*. Cost is \$55 and includes lunch. For more information or to register click [here](#).

Calling golfers of all levels. [Rockway's 31st Annual Golf Classic](#) is happening **Monday, May 25** at Grey Silo. For more information about the day, the flight categories or how to become a golf sponsor, visit rockway.ca/golf. All proceeds go to Student Tuition Assistance.

Upcoming Worship Services:

Feb 22 - Pastor Jim

Mar 1 - Pastor Jim

Mar 8 - Pastor Jim

Mar 15 - Charlene JH

Mar 22 - Pastor Jim

Mar 29 - Rebecca Riek, First Mennonite