

Order of Worship: Sunday, January 18, 2026

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: We hear the cries of many people and regularly, especially in the news. Which ones do we notice? Which touch us most deeply? Which ones are easier to ignore? Where is God in all of this? In our Genesis readings the focus is on Sarah and Hagar. In the larger stories both feel wronged for different reasons. Both are dealing with cultural prejudices and discrimination. How do we see God responding to them? How would we want God to respond to the cries of our day? How does God want us to respond?

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Scripture: Luke 4:22-30 (NIV) All spoke well of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from His lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to Me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell Me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him off the cliff. But He walked right through the crowd and went on His way.

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #355 HWB - Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-11 (NIV)

Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan

ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me.”

“Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And he said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. Then the angel of the LORD told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.” The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.” The angel of the LORD also said to her: “You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery.

Hymn: #491 HWB - Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling

Scripture: Genesis 21:14-21 (NIV) - Mary

Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob.

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Message: Who hears the cries? ~ Pastor Jim

Hymn of Response: #371 HWB - Let there be light, Lord God

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #428 HWB - Lord, let us now depart in peace

Benediction

Postlude

Please join us downstairs for congregation discussion/coffee time.

Announcements

Thank you for all the cards, gifts and encouraging words our family received over the Christmas season. We appreciate your support and generosity. Pastor Jim

Summer Camp Registration opens on January 28th @ 7am for all camps. Visit hiddenacres.ca to register. **Free Family Day Open House** - Join us on Feb 16th between 10-3:30 for a self guided day of snowshoeing, sledding, treasure hunts, crafts, pretzel making, games, puzzles and more. Bring a bagged lunch or pay \$6 for a hot lunch. View the poster at back or visit hiddenacres.ca to register.

Did you go to Rockway? Did you play on one of the girls' volleyball teams or always wished that you had? You're invited to Rockway on **Sunday, February 8 from 2 - 4 pm** to reconnect with peers during a friendly afternoon of volleyball. All skill levels are welcome. RSVP at rockway.ca/events.

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate invites you to their **Founders' Day Chapel, Thursday, February 12 at 9:15 am.** For more information and to RSVP, please visit rockway.ca/events.

Join us at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate on Friday, February 20 for our "new" event, Winter Warmup: February Feast & Alumni Sports Challenge. Proceeds from the February Feast (formerly Soup Supper) go towards May Trips Week. Stay tuned to rockway.ca/events for more information.

Tickets are on sale for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate's grade 7&8 production of *Humpty-Dumpty is missing!* They will make great last minute Christmas gifts!! Visit rockway.ca/events for a show synopsis and to buy your tickets for this comedy whodunit. Show dates: **March 5 & 6, 2026**

Upcoming Worship Services:

Jan 18 - Pastor Jim

Jan 25 - Pastor Jim

Feb 1 - Pastor Jim

Feb 8 - Steven Roy

Feb 15 - Pastor Jim -annual meeting after the service, followed by a potluck

Feb 22 - Pastor Jim

Mar 1 - Pastor Jim