

Order of Worship: Sunday, March 9, 2025

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: God's people spent a lot of time in the wilderness through the Bible.

At times we might feel that we, or our family, or our country, or our world are living in wilderness times. Wilderness times can be discouraging, fearful, hopeless and challenge our faith. How do we cope or get through those kinds of times? We can if we believe there is a plan and that we are a part of it.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship: John 1:1-14 (NIV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that Light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light. The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #46 HWB - I Sing the mighty power of God

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: **Romans 8:18-25 (NIV)** *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Hymn: #154 HWB - This is my Father's world

Scripture: **Genesis 1:26 -30 (NIV)** Gail - *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.*

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Genesis 3:22-24 (NIV) *And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of Us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Message: *There is a plan ~ Pastor Jim*

Hymn of Response: #614 HWB - In the bulb there is a flower

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #831 VT - Best be the tie that binds

Benediction

Postlude

*Please join us downstairs for a joint potluck

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**Announcements**

**Help support Rockway's Student Tuition Assistance program** by becoming a golfer in [Rockway's 30th Annual Golf Classic](#) and/or by contacting Chris Ainsworth, Director of Advancement ([advancement@rockway.ca](mailto:advancement@rockway.ca)), to discuss how to become a golf sponsor.

**Rockway's Founders' Day Chapel, Soup Supper Fundraiser** and Alumni Sports Challenge originally scheduled for Friday, February 14 has been postponed to Friday, May 2. Please visit [www.rockway.ca/events](http://www.rockway.ca/events) for more information. We thank you for your continued prayers as our school continues to heal from the tragic loss experienced in our community. Thank you so much for your understanding and support, Jen on behalf of Rockway Admin - *Should you have questions, comments or suggestions about any of these, please feel free to reach out via email [jenhb@rockway.ca](mailto:jenhb@rockway.ca) or phone 519.743.5209 x3547*

**Spirit and screen.** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of Apple, Insta and Google.... *Canadian Mennonite* magazine invites you to do a digital detox experiment this Lent. Starting March 5, cut screens back in some way and fill the gap with something holy. Then be in touch. We'll bring detoxers together by teleconference during Lent and report stories in our June issue. If intrigued, see [canadianmennonite.org/detox](http://canadianmennonite.org/detox).

**Grandparent & Grandchild Day at Hidden Acres** - Looking for something to do with your grandkids during March Break? On Thursday March 13th join guest speaker Wanda Mann for a day of connecting with God through creativity and music. The theme for the day is *GOD... GRAND'S... G'KIDS...* *Connecting the Dots*. Cost is \$25/person and includes lunch. For more information or to register go to [hiddenacres.ca/programs/grandparent-child-days](http://hiddenacres.ca/programs/grandparent-child-days)

**On March 27, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** is hosting an event for parents called "Understanding Anxiety". The evening will focus on supporting parents and giving them the tools they need to support their child. Learn more and RSVP at: [rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events)

**The Nith Valley EcoBoosters and Reep Green Solutions** are co-hosting a free webinar, **Getting Off Gas – Electrify Your Home** on Tuesday, April 1st from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. EDT. For more info see poster at back.

**Seniors Retreat at Hidden Acres** - On April 14, 2025 seniors are invited to Hidden Acres for *Exploring Beginnings: The New Testament and the Anabaptist Bible* with guest speakers Alicia Batten and Mollee Moua. Cost is \$55 and includes lunch. For more information or to register go to [hiddenacres.ca/programs/seniors-retreat](http://hiddenacres.ca/programs/seniors-retreat)

**Do you have a child in grades 6 - 11?** Are you looking for a new school experience? Join us on Tuesday, April 15 at 7 pm and discover why Rockway Mennonite Collegiate may be the right fit for your family. RSVP at [rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events)

#### **Upcoming Worship Services:**

Mar 9: Pastor Jim - joint potluck to follow the service

Mar 16: Pastor Jim

Mar 23: Pastor Jim

Mar 30: Dave Rogalsky

April 6: Pastor Jim

April 13: Pastor Jim

April 18: Pastor Jim

April 20: Pastor Jim

#### **Future events**

\*Thanks to all who helped in the spring cleaning of the foyer, office and sanctuary!

The basement cleaning is on hold until construction of the ramp is completed.