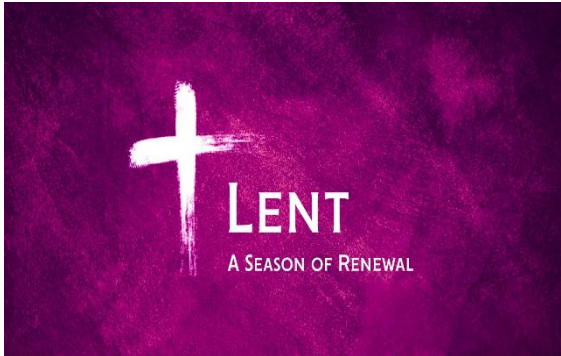


ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

"Elmvale Presbyterian Church is a Christian Community where everyone is welcome sharing God's love through worship, music, prayer, teaching and outreach."



Elmvale Presbyterian Church celebrates 165 Years of Christian Witness in our Community this year.

A Warm Welcome to any Newcomers or those Returning to our Church.

**Service: The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sunday March 15, 2026**

Minister: Rev. Thomas Mason M.Div

Please stand, if able, for the entry of the Bible

The Prayer of Preparation

Light of the world, your Word brings new vision and hope. Shine your Spirit on us as we listen to the Scriptures, to open our eyes on your Word at work in the world and show us the path we can follow. **Amen.**

Welcome & Announcements: Marlene Lambie, Clerk of Session

Call to Worship (Responsive) June Ritchie

One: The Lord is our Shepherd.

All: God leads us by still waters.

One: Christ restores our souls.

All: The Spirit leads us in right paths.

One: Let us worship God who is always with us.

All; We will praise our God, trusting in God's goodness and mercy!

Hymn #313 Oh Worship the King

Prayers of Approach, Confession, & Lord's Prayer (In Unison)

Gracious and loving God,

you are the Source of all that sustains us.

You are compassion, embracing us when we call for mercy.

You are mercy, guiding us through anxious times.

You are wisdom, revealing truth to challenge and renew us.

Holy One, ever three and ever one, you bless us with your presence day by day, so we turn to you in worship, as Creator,

Christ and Spirit, offering you our love and loyalty, our prayers and our praise. **Amen.**

One: In recalling all that you are and all that you have done, we remember who we are and what we have done. To begin again with you and one another we confess to you our sins:

The Prayer of Our Confession

God of life and love,

we confess that events around us shake our trust in your love.

When terror strikes and innocents fall, we wonder if love can

defeat violence. When truth is twisted by misleading claims, we

doubt love can prevail over lies. When we face trouble, we wonder if you love us at all.

Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in your love.

Have mercy upon us, O God, and guide us to live with more grace and generosity through Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day

our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, remember the words of the Apostle Paul: "Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Today, let us trust that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Family Hymn #705 God, Who Made the Earth

Family Time & Kids Church

Choir Anthem Bow The Knee

Scripture Readings June Ritchie

Psalm 23 (Hymn 11) – (Sung)

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 2:1-7

The New Testament Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God.

Message – "Here and Now" By Rev Tom

Hymn #324 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Prayers of the People Sandy Owen

Invitation to the Offering

As our Shepherd, God calms our fears and tends our needs. We offer our gifts in gratitude for God's goodness, trusting that we can share that goodness in a world often filled with fear and need.

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

God our Good Shepherd, receive these gifts and bless them with your love. Use them to bring light and healing to the world you love for the sake of Christ, your Son, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Hymn #689 Simply Trusting Every Day

Benediction and Blessing:

Throughout this Holy Lent may our lives and actions be lanterns of light where there is darkness.

May Our fasting and prayer be spaces for your presence. May Our almsgiving be the hands that extend your love.

From dust you called us into life. In these forty days, you call us from wondering to wonder and from the shadows into the light.

May God's loving kindness comfort you, the Holy Spirit encourage and inspire you, may Jesus walk beside you in humility and hope.

Amen.

May God's Blessings Surround You Each Day

Future Congregational Worship and Events

Sun March 15 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Mon March 16 – CE meeting at 7 pm

Wed March 18 – Quilting 1pm

Wed March 18 – Lenten Bible Study 7pm (See Below)

Thurs March 19 – Choir 7 pm & Cantata 8pm

Sun March 22 – 5th Sunday of Lent, Potluck Lunch & AGM

Lenten Bible Study: Sarah Covey is our Lenten Bible Study Leader (studying the book of John) on **Wed March 18, 25 April 1st at 7pm** in the parlour.

Lenten Project Feb 22-April 5th, 2026 - Our church family Lenten mission is supporting the redevelopment of IOOF Seniors' Home., Inc. which will add 130 new, modern, long-term care beds to the community. The mission will run from Sun, Feb. 22 to Sun, April 5th. Donations can be made through your usual method marking it **Lenten project.**

Worship and Nurture are hosting a **Maundy Thursday dinner and service** on **Thursday, April 2** with a ham and scalloped potato dinner **at 5:30 pm** with the service to follow. Elmvale and Knox Flos Members register by March 29. Dinner is free and is limited to our congregation and Knox Flos only. The service is open to anyone.

Chilly Luncheon - In order to help cut down the cost of making chili for the annual Chili lunch April 26th, we can all help by making donations of diced tomatoes, kidney beans, pork & beans and tomato soup which can be put in the container at the front of the church to be used by those making the required chili. Any excess will be given to the Food Bank.

Recipe Books – The second shipment of Recipe Books have arrived and are now available for purchase at \$15

W&N is looking for anyone interested in looking after the nursery as needed.

Barrie Presbytery are setting up funds to send children to camp. If you might be interested in making use of this fund please let Janice or Rev. Tom know. More information coming soon.

Willing Workers/WMS collecting used (cancelled) postal stamps. Either collect the envelope with the cancelled stamp intact or remove the stamp from envelope leaving a ¼ inch of paper around the stamp. Used to fundraise and support Christian Salvage Mission bringing Christian literature to the world.

Monetary Donations auto-deposit: donatetoepc@rogers.com
Please comment where to direct the donation; 1) General 2) Presbyterian Sharing 3) PWS&D 4) other missions such as – Food Bank, We Care etc.

Food Bank Needs: New list coming soon

Peace Be With You All

Sermon Notes



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Elmvale and Knox Flos Presbyterian Churches

Tel: 705-322-1411 Cell: 705-441-5525

Minister: Rev. Tom Mason

Church Office Open Sun to Wed 10:30am- 3pm

Clerk of Session: Marlene Lambie

Home: 705-322-1843

EPC Treasurer: Sharon Crozier

Home: 705-433-3422

Office Administrator: Deanna Nelson

705-322-1411 (Thurs and Fri)

This mornings Sermon Notes:

Psalm 23 This is a comforting, poetic expression of trust in God as a caring Shepherd and Provider, written by David. It highlights God's role in leading, protecting, and restoring His people through both peaceful times ("green pastures") and challenging, dangerous seasons ("the valley of the shadow of death").

The Psalmist leads us on a pathway towards hope and trust in God.

The Old Testament passage from the lectionary: **Deuteronomy 2:1-7:**

Key meanings and themes include:

- **Divine Direction and Providence:** God reminds Israel that throughout their long, difficult journey, He has been with them, and they have "lacked nothing".
- **Respect for Boundaries:** The Israelites are instructed not to provoke the Edomites (descendants of Esau) into war, showing that God's people must act with restraint and respect toward others.
- **Encouragement to Move Forward:** The passage acts as a "moving" command, signaling that the season of aimless wandering is over, and it is time to take action and possess what God has promised.
- **Trust in God's Provision:** Instead of taking what they wanted by force, they are instructed to pay for food and water, trusting that God will continue to provide for them

The New Testament Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul reminds the Ephesians of the radical transformation they've undergone, and the subsequent radical life that transformation demands. A Bright new Identity with hope and trust in God. To begin reading in verse 8 is to pick up in the midst of Paul's thought.