

ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

22 Queen St. E. Elmvale, ON, L0L 1P0



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

This year, Elmvale Presbyterian celebrates 165 Years of Christian Witness. A Warm Elmvale Welcome to

visitors and those returning.



Service: MISSION AWARENESS SUNDAY

Sunday April 19, 2026

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

Welcome & Announcements Marlene Lambie, Clerk of Session

Call To Worship (Responsive) Sylvia Tollar

One: Holy God, we come to you, knowing you accept all of us equally, regardless of what language we speak, the colour of our skin, our gender, age or ability.

All: For you have created each of us in your image.

One: You have called us to care for one another.

All: In this place we offer our unique gifts to you promising to follow you by becoming one with our brothers and sisters not only in Cuba but throughout the world.

One: In this place we pray for strength and courage to live out that promise.

Hymn #303 Holy, Holy, Holy (verse 1 only)

Prayer of Adoration, Confession & Lord's Prayer (unison)

Marlene Lambie

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for your steadfast love

and faithfulness. You promise to be with us always.

You have searched us and know us; you discern our thoughts; you are acquainted with all our ways. There is nowhere we can go from your presence.

Secure in the knowledge of your love and willingness to forgive our weaknesses, we come confessing how often we fail to love our neighbour, how often we criticize and belittle others in order to build ourselves up.

Secure in the knowledge that nothing we do remains unknown to you, we confess how often we fail to share, how often we promote division rather than possibilities for friendship.

Secure in the knowledge that you will never leave us, we confess how often we want to forget the world beyond our doors. We say it is too complicated to understand, that it disrupts the quiet we need, causing us to stand aside when our sisters and brothers experience racism, homophobia, misogyny, or the violence of war and destruction of their communities.

Forgive us, O God, show us a better way, a way through which we can begin to create new patterns for mission, tearing down walls and fences to become partners in giving and receiving hope and confidence and peace. In Jesus' name we 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

Without blame or shame, again and again you receive us and draw us closer to you and to each other. Thanks be to you, O God.

Family Hymn #587 Called As Partners In Christ's Service

Kid's Church

Choir Anthem

Scripture Psalm # 146 (responsive) Sylvia Tollar

One: Alleluia! Praise God, O my Soul!

All: I will praise you, O God, all my life; I will sing praise to you as long as I live.

One: Do not put your trust in rulers, in humans in whom there is no salvation. When their spirits depart, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

All: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob and Rachel, whose hope is in God, God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

One: God, you set captives free and give sight to the blind. You raise up those who were bowed down and love the just.

All: You protect strangers; the orphan and the widow you sustain, but the way of the wicked you thwart. God shall reign forever – your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.ⁱ

The New Testament Reading Matthew 15: 21-28

Hymn #635 Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

Message The Syrophenician Woman Janice Terry

Prayers of the People June Ritchie

Invitation to The Offering Mary Fleming

Matthew records these words of Jesus spoken as part of the Sermon on the Mount. These words reminded those who were present that day, and we who hear them centuries later, about priorities, about the ways in which our priorities follow our heart in giving of our time and money. Our offerings will now be received.

Offertory Praises Hymn # 759 In Loving Partnership (1 verse)

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, receive these gifts as a sign of our commitment to work for a world that is more just, more thoughtful and more loving. May the creation of new patterns for mission lead to a widening circle

in which hope and peace abound. Amen

Hymn #585 Christ, You Call Us All To Service

GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING Janice Terry

Sung Benediction #726 May The God Of Hope Go With Us Every Day

Peace be with you all

Today's service was written by: The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon (liturgy) and The Rev. Dora Arce Valentin (sermon)

The Rev. Dr. Dorcas J. Gordon served at the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto, from 1994-2020 in a number of roles. First, as Director of the Toronto School of Theology's Doctor of Ministry Program (1994-1999), then as Associate Professor of Biblical Interpretation and Preaching and as Principal of Knox College (1999-2017) and finally as Interim Director of the Toronto School of Theology (2018-2020). Presently, she is Principal Emerita of Knox College, Toronto.

The Rev. Dora Arce Valentin is the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba. She is also the minister of First Church, Havana. She was ordained by the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba following studies at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas. She has a Masters degree in theology from Matanzas and is completing work on a Ph.D. degree. She began her career as an engineer before switching to theology. She has served as a parish pastor and as a teacher at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology of Matanzas.

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Congregational Happenings and Events

Mon April 20 – Social Room Rental 6-8 pm

Mon April 20 –CE 7pm

Wed April 22 –Quilting 1pm

Thurs April 23 - Choir 7 pm

Sun April 26 – Polka Dot Sunday – wear Polka Dots to church and find out about the polka dot at church!

Gala Of Gratitude (Compassion Place)- Friday April 24, 2026 from 5:30-9pm @ Ste. Marie Among the Hurons (16164 Hwy 12 Midland)

Chilli Luncheon - Donations of diced tomatoes, kidney beans, pork & beans and tomato soup gladly accepted. Any excess will be given to the Food Bank.

Chilli Luncheon – Sat April 25 from 11-2. Sign-up sheets for Chili Luncheon, April 25th are in the social room with spots to fill in for 8 pots (to feed 20) of chili, 8 dozen tarts (no nuts) and 2- 9x13 pans of uncut rice Krispy squares. Also sections with slotted times for help and money takers.

OPP Chorus - Sunday April 26th at 7pm - the OPP Chorus, under the direction of Caroline Hill, will be at EPC to perform a Spring Concert. The chorus really enjoys coming to our church and asked if they could come and hold a mission concert for our Lenten Project. The Lenten mission (in support of the redevelopment of the Barrie IOOF) will be extended to include the free-will offering from this evening.

Sara Vista requests magazines, devotionals and current newspapers (not the Springwater News) for their residents to read.

Recipe Books –EPC Recipe Books are available for purchase at \$15

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

Barrie Presbytery If you are interested in helping a child go to camp, please let Janice Terry 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.

Daily Bread Devotionals: Box at back of church for used booklets to send overseas.

Food Bank Needs: canned mixed vegetables, canned creamed corn, hamburger helper, canned fruit, canned pasta, canned potatoes, rice and drinking boxes.

Peace Be With You All



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Elmvale and Knox Flos Presbyterian Churches

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