

Elmvale Presbyterian Church 165 Years of Christian Love and Caring.



Worship Service: Sunday May 31, 2026



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Minister: Rev Tom Mason

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

Moment of Quiet Reflection to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

God of wisdom, send your Holy Spirit to us as we listen for your Word. Inspire us through what we hear to act with the courage and compassion we meet in Jesus Christ, your Living Word. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements Mary Fleming

We Enter into God's Presence

Responsive Call to Worship Janice Terry

One: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: We see God's wondrous works all around us,

All: so we come to praise God's holy name.

One: Open wide your hearts in this time of worship!

All: We lift our hearts to God with thanks and praise.

Hymn Come In, Come In and Sit Down

Prayer of Adoration (Unison)

Father, Spirit, Son, we gather in wonder this day,
astonished by the complexity of all you have made,
acknowledging how small each of us is in the midst of your world.
Yet your love gives us significance.

When we are overcome by forces beyond our control, you speak
words of peace. When trouble or sorrow sets in, you give us
strength to persevere.

Our God, Saviour and Spirit of life, we offer you praise and honour,
love and loyalty, with our lips and with our lives, now and always.

Amen

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, our hope and our help,

You call us to serve in the footsteps of Jesus, but we confess we
look to our own interests first. You ask us to love our neighbours,
but we are good at finding fault in others. You call us to do justice
for the vulnerable, but we hesitate to take a stand.

Forgive us. Open our hearts to anyone in need, and help us trust in
your mercy – for them and for us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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 (Unison)

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Give thanks for God's generosity and share it with your neighbours. **Amen.**

Hymn #715 Love The Lord Your God

#225 A New Commandment

Family Time Words...

Solo by David Graham

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:37-40 (Unison) Janice Terry

All: ³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.

⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The Gospel Reading Luke 10:29-37

The New Testament Reading Romans 12:4-18 (within sermon)

This is the Word of God **Thanks be to God.**

Message "Pastoral Care" By Rev Tom

Hymn #635 Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

The Prayers of the People Sandy Owen

Invitation to the Offering

Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our being. In the company of the upright, let us honor God for the blessings and goodness that we have received.

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, grateful for your patience with us as your purposes unfold. Bless these gifts to accomplish your purposes throughout the world you love in the name of Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn #472 We Are God's People

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen**

Go Now In Peace

Congregational Happenings and Events

**Sunday, June 14th - The Annual General meeting
will reconvene after morning worship. Lunch
(sandwiches) after service**

Thurs June 04 - Choir 7 pm

**Sat June 6 - Barrie Presbytery Workshop at EPC –
See insert**

**Sun June 07 – Anniversary Sunday for Knox Flos
11 am**

Ecclesiastes Bible Study – Starting Mon June 15 at 2 pm

**WW/ WMS and Compassion Place Baby Bottle Campaign
running from May 10th to June 21st. Spare change or bills
into the baby bottle or donate online.**

**EPC is hosting the Rainforest Falls VBS Aug 10-14 from 9-
noon - JK through to Gr. 5. Registration forms at the church
and Public Library. Youth leaders- Gr 6 and up and Adult
leaders needed for programming and decorating. Contact
Elizabeth if you can help.**

W&N – Looking for helpers for 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.

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: Pancake syrup, Hamburg helper, Pudding Mixes, Canned Vegetables – mixed, cream corn, peas, beans, Canned Potatoes, Canned Fruit & Deodorant

Fire Safety – Please make sure all the doors to rooms are closed when you are leaving the church

Dollie Moulden's Library – Dollie's collection of books have been gifted to the church. On display downstairs are her recipe books, please help yourself.

Peace Be With You All

Sermon Notes



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Elmvale and Knox Flos Presbyterian Churches

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The Essence of Pastoral Care may be summed up:

In **Matthew 22:37–40**, Jesus is asked by a religious scholar to name the single greatest commandment in the law. Jesus responds by giving two, stating that the second is "*like it*":

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

When Jesus commands us to "love others" in this passage, he isn't talking about a fleeting emotional feeling or simply being polite. He is demanding a radical, active shift in how we treat the people around us.

1. It is Rooted in "Agapé" Love

In the original Greek text of the New Testament, the word used for love here is **agapé**. Unlike romantic love or brotherly affection, *agapé* is a deliberate choice. It is a selfless, sacrificial love that cares for the well-being of another person regardless of whether they deserve it, or whether they love you back.

2. The Standard is "As Yourself"

Jesus uses our own natural instinct for self-preservation as the baseline for how we should treat others.

- When you are hungry, you feed yourself.
- When you are cold, you look for shelter.
- When you are misunderstood, you want people to give you the benefit of the doubt.

To love others "as yourself" means you look out for their dignity, comfort, and well-being with the exact same urgency and care that you naturally give to your own.

3. It Includes Everyone (Even Enemies)

While the religious leaders of the day often debated who qualified as a "neighbor" (usually narrowing it down to mean only fellow Jewish people or friends), Jesus consistently expanded the definition. As he demonstrated in other teachings like the Parable of the Good Samaritan, your neighbor is **anyone in front of you who needs help**, including strangers, outsiders, and even your enemies.

4. It Summarizes the Entire Bible

Jesus closes this teaching with a powerful statement: "*On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.*" He is saying that if you truly master loving God and loving your neighbor, you don't need a massive checklist of religious rules. Every other moral command in the Bible—such as not stealing, not lying, and protecting the vulnerable—naturally flows out of loving people. If you love someone, you won't harm them.