



ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Events for this week

Mid-week devotional
"A Word of Hope" emailed
every Wednesday @ 7 am

St. Mark's Prayer Fellowship
every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm

August 29th, Sunday
Online Service @ 11 am
Livestreamed through YouTube
and Zoom

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Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

The purpose of this message is to let you know about the re-opening plan at St. Mark's Church in Malton, Canada. Previously, the Ontario Government had a colour-coded system. That system has been changed. Our new re-opening plan is in line with the Government's updated rollout. Under the new guidelines churches will be allowed to reopen to full capacity of their building providing that people remain 6 feet or 2 metres apart.

The St. Mark's Re-opening Committee that was formed in 2020 is once again tasked to work on a specific re-opening plan that will guide us in a safe manner as we get back together as a church family. Below is what is planned for 'Opening Up' St. Mark's Presbyterian Church for in person worship. Keep in mind that this is new for everyone, and we should anticipate that changes may be required. Session has approved the following plan to emphasize safety while focussing on God's plan for our Church:



Worship Services:

1. Live-Streamed Services: Live- Streamed Worship services, will continue for members of St. Mark's Church Family who estimate that they are not yet ready for in person worship. Live streaming will be done through Zoom and YouTube and will continue for the future.

2. Getting back in-person: On September 5, 2021, we will re-open the worship space at 7366 Darcel Ave, for Worship Service to full capacity of our building with worshippers remaining 6 feet or 2 metres apart. Members from the same household will be asked to sit together which will enable us to maximise our building's capacity. With 6 feet physical distancing our building's full capacity is approximately 50 persons. The following measures will be implemented in order to ensure the safety of individuals attending worship.

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

Preparation and maintenance:

1. Deep Cleaning:

As we prepare to re-open, the re-opening committee and volunteers will carry out an extensive cleaning of the premises to ensure that it meets the provincial standards.

2. Maintaining Cleanliness:

We will clean and disinfect areas and surfaces that are most likely to become contaminated before and after every worship service. Surfaces most likely to

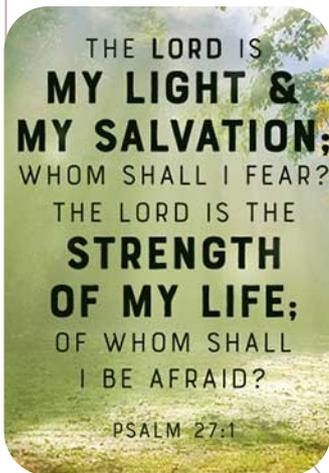
become contaminated include, but are not limited to, doorknobs, railings, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, ceremonial objects, electronic devices, and tabletops.

3. **Read the Signs:** Adequate signage will be posted throughout the building to help individuals maintain safety while worshipping at St. Mark's. Volunteers will also be on hand to give directions should the need arise.

ST. MARK'S



OUT OF MANY NATIONS,
WE ARE ONE FAMILY



Worship Activities and Measures:

Singing During Worship:

Limited singing will be permitted in worship services at St. Mark's. Members of our Choir who will be wearing "Singer's Masks" will lead the singing. We are encouraging everyone to sing softly as we worship together.

Communion:

We will continue with communion services on the first Sunday of each month using pre-packaged communion cups with a wafer on top. These pre-packaged communion cups will be handed to worshippers after they have been seated. Those who are worshipping virtually will share in communion in the same way we have been doing over the past months. (in person communion video will follow) ([Celebration of Communion at Home | St. Mark's Presbyterian Church stmarksmalton.ca](https://www.stmarkschurch.ca))

Giving of Tithes and Offerings:

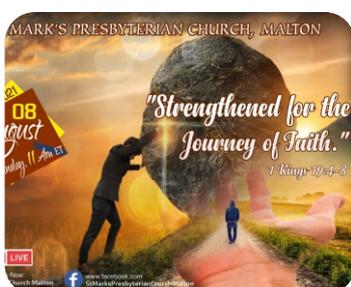
Offering plates will be placed in the narthex for each individual to drop their offering. An Elder will guide this process each Sunday.

Seating and Sunday School:

We encourage families to attend church together as we will ensure that families sit together. No nursery care or Sunday School will be provided at the Church building until we can be sure that the children will be safe. We will take the first month or so to see how things are going as we re-open and then adjust as we go along. A Youth message will be shared during worship and printed Sunday School material will be made available for families to take up for their children to use during service.

Entrance, Exit and Fellowship:

In order to manage the flow of individuals and to prevent crowding we ask worshippers to avoid socializing inside the building. **EXIT THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SERVICE.** You may socialize in the parking lot while observing physical distancing guidelines.





Safety Measures:

Masks:

Wearing a mask is mandatory for all indoor spaces in the Province of Ontario. Individuals and families are encouraged to wear a mask or adequate face covering when attending worship at St. Mark's.

Physical Distancing:

We ask everyone attending worship services to maintain physical distancing (2 meters /6 feet apart) before, during and after the service. Clear markings will be made on floors or furniture to promote physical distancing. We kindly ask that worshippers sit at the places marked with green masking tape.

Washrooms:

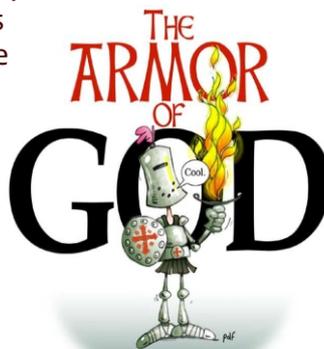
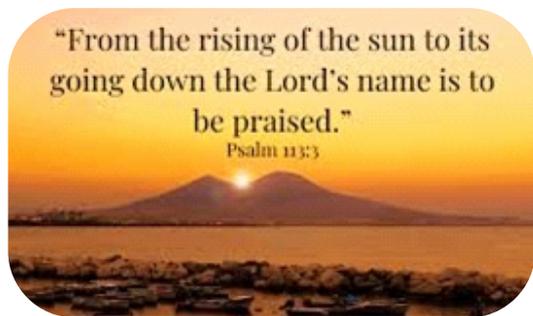
Washroom Access is only available for 1 person at a time. Individuals using washrooms are encouraged to follow the before and after cleaning protocols that will be posted for everyone's safety.

Hand Sanitizing:

Alcohol based hand sanitiser will be placed at the entrance to the place of worship and every room, and all individuals will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene.

Follow Volunteer Advice:

Volunteers from the re-opening Committee will guide us as we enter the building until we exit. Please adhere to the guidance been given by them so that everything will flow smoothly. "Out of Many Nations we are one Family in Christ!"



Screening Activities:

- 1. Screening upon entry:**
All individuals including children will be screened upon entry to worship. This screening will entail a temperature check done by trained personnel from within our church family. Families can appoint one member of the family to answer the screening questions for everyone in the family.
- 2. Register for Worship:**
All individuals who intend to attend worship will be asked to RSVP by completing a pre-screening form which will be submitted online to our congregation's email address which is administered by our Minister. The pre-screening form will also include information that will help us with contact tracing if the need arises. (Everyone on our congregation's emailing list will receive the pre-screening form after worship on August 22). (Individuals without an email address will be pre-screened by telephone before each worship service)



St. Mark's launches Facebook page

As we worship and witness in this our 49th year in the Malton community we seek to know Jesus and also make him known through our church's ministry. In order to help us share the message of redeeming grace we have launched a Facebook page. This is in addition to our YouTube channel through which we live stream our weekly worship services.

We invite you to search for the following links and share our Facebook page with your friends on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

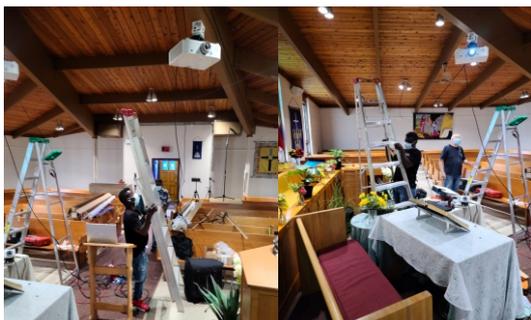
Go to www.YouTube.com and search for: **St Mark's Church Malton (Subscribe)**

Go to www.Facebook.com and search for : **StMarksPresbyterian ChurchMalton (Share)**

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

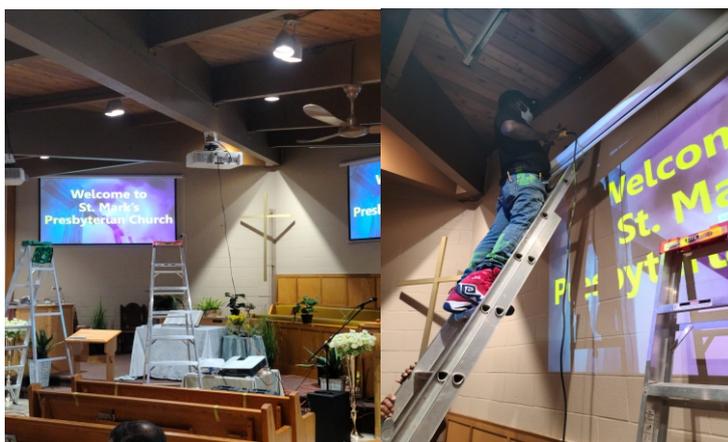
Technological Installations at St. Mark's

My sisters and brothers, when the pandemic was declared in March of 2020 faith communities and places of worship were forced to think and function differently. As we look back today there are many congregations that have changed drastically both in their numerical makeup and also how they offer ministry. The state of many congregations today is as a direct result of how they responded during the lockdowns and what kind of ministry they have been able to provide during subsequent lockdowns imposed by provincial Governments to stem the spread of the coronavirus.



At St. Mark's, we found innovative ways to worship and witness. As a result, we now look to move forward and build on what we have already started. Since March 8, 2020, we have worshipped virtually every week by way of YouTube and Zoom. Added to weekly worship we have also been spiritually nourish by weekly devotionals sent to our emails prepared by our Minister, Rev. Germaine. One of the hallmarks of this time is the fact that we have met in the St. Marks Prayer Fellowship hosted on Zoom every week since this pandemic started.

The Innovation fund was launched to help us acquire the necessary Technological equipment to outfit our sanctuary so we can continue to worship God. This will also help us to live stream our worship service for those who may remain at home. Thanks to the generosity of our church family the Innovation fund grew



to more than \$ 36,000. our fund grew to more than \$ 38,000 due to a \$ 2,000 grant received from, the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

In July of this year at a joint meeting of the Board of Managers and Session the Technology Committee was given the go ahead to ask Century Audio Visual and Ackland Visual Presentations to begin the technological installations at St. Mark's. On July 28 the first phase of these installations began and have been ongoing throughout the summer. In the first phase of the installations Ackland Visual Presentations installed two high efficiency projectors and two motorized screens which will aid in the projection of hymns and scriptures during our worship services. This technology is necessary as the Government of Ontario is asking places of worship planning to re-open to refrain from handing out printed literature, bulletins, hymnals, and bibles.

In the second phase of installations, new cameras will be installed as well as a new public address system including speaker boxes, microphones, and worship streaming software and equipment. Most of this equipment is coming from other countries and will take some weeks to get here and be installed. Please bear with us as we work assiduously to get everything in place for the smooth flow of worship at St. Mark's. My sisters and brothers in Christ, We all share a deep love for our church and have been worshipping comfortable for many years within our sanctuary at St. Mark's. Our comfort and familiarity with our church has been disrupted for the past year and a half. As leaders we have had to think of ways to keep St. Mark's alive and active in ministry even as may things change around us. The use of technology to provide worship is a necessity at this time and calls for some changes to be made

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to the physical layout of our sanctuary at 7366 Darcel Ave. In been obedient to the will of God we are using every means necessary to share the Gospel with our church family and with others. Whenever we gather for worship, be it in person or virtually on Zoom or YouTube, we are gathering to glorify God. We are also gathering as God's children in God's House at St. Mark's to represent Jesus Christ and to share the love of Jesus with every person who worships with us. I cannot begin to tell you how many people have called or written to say how blessed they felt through worship services and how the Lord spoke to them while they shared in worship with us on Zoom and YouTube. I know that worshipping virtually is not what we are accustomed to and many of us do not enjoy worshipping in this way. The fact is though, every time we have gathered as the church of Jesus Christ at St. Mark's souls have been blessed and the life changing message of the Gospel is shared with listeners. There are many Sundays where people in India, The Philippines, The United States and The Caribbean tune in to our worship services. As we look forward to gathering again at St. Mark's there will be changes to the physical infrastructure of our church as we make way for the technology to be installed. I know this may take some time for us to adapt to, but with God all things are possible. We are invited in Ephesians 4:2-3 to, **“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”** Hearing this, I urge us to bear with each other and let us journey together in faith as we worship in our loving, close knitted church family.

Although we have had to make changes, St. Mark's is still your church and your are still gathering with your church family to glorify God together. We may be doing so a little differently, but we are still worshipping God through the grace of Jesus Christ. God has been so good to us in that He has helped us through this difficult time. Let us focus on God's mercies and that we are together as a church family and with God's help we will get to where God has in store for us together. Even though changes are taking place I pray that we will see that these are God led changes and God has cleared the way for the advancement of His work here at St. Mark's. If you are alive and reading this message, you are an integral part of what God is doing among us at this time.

On behalf of Session,

I want to extend sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the Innovation Fund so far. All this has been made possible through your kindness. We want to also thank everyone who has given their time and energy to the ongoing work of the Technology Committee and the installation of equipment in our church. May the Lord continue to bless your family and all that you do now and always.

Crisis in Haiti

In the early morning of August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the southern peninsula of Haiti. Felt across the entire country, the earthquake destroyed homes, schools, churches, and businesses. Access to food, water, electricity, communication, and transportation is critically difficult.



Please click on the link below to see how you can help Haiti:

<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/haiti-crisis/>

We invite you to search for the following links and share our Facebook page with your friends on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

Go to www.YouTube.com and search for: **St Mark's Church Malton (Subscribe)**

Go to www.Facebook.com and search for : **StMarksPresbyterian ChurchMalton (Share)**

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *50th Anniversary Committee Kickoff*

In 2022 St. Mark's will celebrate her 50 the Anniversary of Christian witness to the Malton community. Throughout the year we will celebrate in different ways as we highlight the work of St. Mark's from it inception to its life today. Our congregation has been blessed over the years with many dedicated servants of God and it is through their dedication that we have come this far and are where we are today.

Throughout the Bible, the Lord reminds people to tell all generations of their LORD'S wonderful works. Part of what that means for us as churches is that we must preserve the memory of how God has worked in our lives. A church that has a strong sense of its history will have a better sense of identity to build on for the future. As we celebrate, we will take a look back to rediscover how our church came into being, what its early ministry was like, and how it has grown and changed over the years.

At our congregational meeting in March 2021 the Session asked the congregation to form a 50th Anniversary Committee whose job it will be to plan and coordinate all the elements of the celebration. The congregation chose 9 members of our church family who with our Minister will form the 50th Anniversary Committee. They have been blessed with the abilities and interests in worship, writing, publicity, finance, and organization that will make our 50th Anniversary year a tremendous success.

The 50th Anniversary Committee we will clarify the goals for the celebration, decide how the history should be recorded, choose which kinds of special activities we will plan in connection with the anniversary, and set a budget. As the main committee we will along the way call on many members of our church family for help as focus on researching, writing, and recording the history; planning special events, fundraising, and organizing publicity; and planning the worship.

On Thursday August 19, 2021, the 50th Anniversary Committee started its work with their first meeting held on Zoom. As we kicked things off there was much excitement among us as so many ideas began to flow as to what our anniversary year should look like. It promises to be a blast and we look forward



to sharing the plans for our year of celebration with the entire church family later this year. We crave your prayers as we do this very important work of our church.

48th Anniversary Celebration



In Conclusion

We realize these are anxious times for everyone, especially when the COVID-19 pandemic has brought stress and uncertainty to our lives. We encourage everyone to be prayerful, diligent, and mindful of the well-being of every member of our church family and community. Even as we re-open for worship the Elders will re-evaluate as we go along to see how we are coping with re-opening and managing safety standards. We are very blessed that we can also continue to worship with the live-streamed service, support one another in various ways, and access online resources like the mid week devotionals. We will be calling Church members periodically to check in to see how things are going. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Germaine or any member of Session.

Reaching Malton for Christ



Reaching Malton for Christ

When we had our worship service on the first Sunday in March 2020, we were two weeks short of going to Malton Village to lead our by-monthly Sunday evening service. We would normally go over after worship at St. Mark's and meet with 35-40 residents of that Long Term Care Home. We would sing hymns, read scriptures and pray together. These residents come from many different denominations and religious persuasions, but they come for the fellowship and to hear God's word. They also come to pray for themselves and their families as they are no longer able to go to church.

The members of St. Mark's who would normally accompany me for this heartfelt time of praise and reflection have missed been able to share in this way. Recently we got the call from Malton Village that they

were looking forward to having us come and share in worship beginning on August 15. Due to the fact that there are new measures put in place due to the pandemic I could not be accompanied by church members, so I was asked to begin coming alone until the measure allow for more people to attend. It was my first service in 18 months in a Long-Term Care Facility, and I could feel the spirit of the Lord moving among us. For 40 minutes we sang hymns, read scripture, shared thoughts from the scriptures and prayed for residents, their families, and staff of Malton Village. We give God thanks that we have been able to share the ministry of St. Mark's in this blessed way. We also thank God for the fact that we can now minister to the spiritual needs of people who are not able to attend worship in their churches. We look forward to future service and all that God will do through us at Malton Village. May God continue to empower the staff as the attend to those who are most Elderly.

