

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 20th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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One life. One death. One victory. One world changed forever.
Celebrate today – He is Risen!

“...He is not here, He has risen, just as He said...” Matthew 28:6

OFFERING PRAYER

Living God,
Your resurrection power has filled the world with new life!
Let our gifts be signs of that life at work in the world—
bringing comfort, spreading joy, and offering hope.
Use these offerings to lift up the lowly, strengthen the weary,
and proclaim that love is stronger than death.
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

WORDS OF CELEBRATION

The darkness is gone! Bright light floods into this new day of hope.
Those who went to the tomb received good news.
Christ was not there! Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!
Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN: #157 Christ the Lord has Risen Today

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

2

- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!
- 3 But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made—

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty.

People: Death has been defeated. Love has won.

All: Come, let us worship the Risen Lord with joy!

OPENING PRAYER

God of Resurrection, On this morning of joy, we lift our hearts to You.
You have turned our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into singing,
our doubt into faith. Roll away the stones that keep us from seeing the
fullness of Your glory.
Call us by name and fill us with Your resurrection power.
May this time of worship overflow with hallelujahs!
In Jesus' name, Amen.

ANTHEM: Sing A Joyous Alleluia by Linda Spevacek

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

BAPTISM AT HAGERSVILLE (FOLLOW INSERT)

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:1–18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON: “From the Garden to Glory”

He Is Risen!

Such incredible, miraculous, life-changing words.

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said...” Matthew 28:6

His power could not be contained in a grave. His love could not be conquered by death. His truth could never be buried and forgotten.

Jesus Christ rose again, He is Victorious!

Let us step back for a moment to Mary

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark. That detail is important—it tells us not just about the time of day, but about the state of her soul. She carried grief, confusion, fear. She had watched Jesus die, and now even His body was gone.

Her reaction is human—she weeps. She doesn’t recognize the angels. She doesn’t recognize Jesus. Sometimes, our pain can blind us to the presence of God.

But everything changes when Jesus says her name: “*Mary.*”

That single word changes her world. It is the voice of love, the voice of recognition, the voice of life. The resurrection isn’t just about Jesus rising—it’s about us being raised to new hope, new understanding, new purpose.

Notice what Jesus tells her: “*Go and tell.*” The resurrection always comes with a mission. Mary becomes the first preacher of the risen Christ.

And what about us? We, too, may come to Easter with burdens. Maybe we are living in that same “before sunrise” place of doubt or grief. But Christ is alive. He speaks our names too. And when He does, He lifts us from shadows to light, from sorrow to joy.

This is the heart of Easter: God’s love is stronger than death.

The tomb could not hold Him.

Our sin cannot stop Him.

No stone is too heavy, no night too dark.

And He makes all things new.

The very purpose of this Easter weekend reminds us, that no matter what we’ve been through in the past, what we might be facing today, or

what uncertainties tomorrow may hold, Christ alone is our Hope. He conquered death, He rose from the grave, He is all Powerful.

He breathes new life, so that we can live...free.

We have so much to celebrate today, for He has risen!

He has risen indeed!

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. And because of that, we are never alone, never without hope, never beyond new life.

So go, like Mary. Go and tell. The world needs to hear this joy.

Amen

HYMN: #166 Joy Comes with the Dawn

Joy comes with the dawn;

joy comes with the morning sun;

joy springs from the tomb

and scatters the night with her song,

joy comes with the dawn.

1 Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**

2 Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. **R**

3 We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Risen Christ, on this day of joy, we come to You in prayer ...

We begin this prayer by saying thank you that you make all things new.

Thank you for the Victory and Power in your Name. Thank you that you hold the keys over death, and that by your might, Christ was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to live free. Thank you that you had plan, thank you that you made a way.

We praise you for your great strength, we praise you for your lavish love. We praise you for you are Conqueror, Victor, Redeemer, and

Friend. We praise you that you alone are our Deliverer, you are Worthy, you are our everlasting Father, our great and awesome God.

On this day of celebration, we pause and pray for the church around the world, That we may live as people of the resurrection, boldly proclaiming Your victory. For the world, That peace may rise in places of conflict and healing in places of hurt. For all who mourn, That the light of Easter may shine into every heart shadowed by grief. For our community, That joy may overflow into our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and hearts.

For those in need—the hungry, the homeless, the sick, and the lonely—May the power of resurrection bring new life. For all those who lift up in prayer today, named and silently pray in our hearts....

(Moment of silent prayer...)

We offer these prayers in the name of the Risen Christ, our Savior, our Hope, and our Joy. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #299 He Lives (from Hymns for the Family of God)

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near

Chorus - He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way

He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart

In all the world around me I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last

Chorus

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!

The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind

Chorus

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go now as Easter people—

People of joy, people of peace, people of purpose!

May the risen Christ go before you, walk beside you, and live within
you.

And may your life proclaim with every breath:

All: Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, April 29th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at
9:30am. All are welcome!

Friday, May 9th: Scrapbooking setup in the afternoon/evening. Please
see Susan if you are interested in helping.

Wednesday, May 21st: Official Board meeting at 1:30pm at Springvale.

Saturday, May 24th: High Tea celebrating Hagersville's 150th.

**Please bring in paper products for the Hagersville
Food Bank! ☺**

Easter Humour

The pastor's family was invited Easter dinner at the Wilson home. Mrs. Wilson was widely known for her amazing contributions to church potlucks. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for the eyes, the nose, and the palate.

When the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Peter, wait until we say grace,' insisted his embarrassed father.

'I don't have to,' the five-year-old replied.

'Of course, you do, Peter,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Peter explained, 'but this is Mrs. Wilson's house, and she knows how to cook.'