

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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What Does it Really Mean to Have Faith in Today's Society?

Offering Prayer

Faithful God,
We bring these gifts as signs of our trust in You.
Use them to build up Your church,
to spread hope, and to share love in a world in need.
Bless our giving and our living,
that both may reflect our faith in You. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world full of questions,
People: We come to seek God's truth.
Leader: In a society that often trusts only what can be seen,
People: We come to trust the One who is unseen, yet ever present.
Leader: In a time of fear and uncertainty,
People: We come to live by faith.
All: Let us worship God, who is faithful yesterday, today, and forever.

HYMN: #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

2

[Refrain:] Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **[Refrain]**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. **[Refrain]**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, We come before You today with open hearts,
seeking to understand what it means to live by faith in this time and
place. In a world that is busy, demanding, and often filled with doubt,
teach us to trust You more deeply, to see You at work in the everyday,
and to live as people of hope. Fill this time of worship with Your Spirit,
that our faith may be strengthened and our courage renewed. Through
Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

God of mercy,
we confess that too often we place our faith in ourselves,
in wealth, in success, or in what the world tells us will give us security.
We forget to trust in You.
Forgive us when fear overwhelms our faith,
when cynicism hardens our hearts,
and when we forget to live with hope and love.
Restore us, O God. Strengthen our faith,
and help us to walk in trust and grace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is new every morning.
In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and set free to live by faith.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: Living Faith Today

Leader: What does it mean to have faith today?

People: To trust in God's promises when the world says otherwise.

Leader: What does it mean to have faith today?

People: To believe in love when hate seems stronger.

Leader: What does it mean to have faith today?

People: To hold onto hope when despair surrounds us.

Leader: What does it mean to have faith today?

People: To live as Christ's hands and heart in the world.

All: We will live by faith, trusting God, loving our neighbour, and walking in hope.

*CHORUS: #108 "His Name Is Wonderful"

His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful,

His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.

He is my mighty King, Master of everything,

His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

He's the Great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,
Almighty God is He.

Bow down before Him, Love and adore Him,

His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord. X2

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 11:1-3 - Faith in Action

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Hebrews 11:8-16

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she^[a] considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Matthew 17:20

²⁰ He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

MESSAGE: "What Does it Really Mean to Have Faith"

Faith. A five-letter word with a whole lot of meaning. The word appears time and time again throughout Scripture, referencing a relationship between man and God. There's faith that we have as an individual and faith we share as a community.

When Christians learn about the church in the Bible, we often refer to this group as the "early church." They provide an example of what faith looked like at the time. Since the beginning of the early church, today, the church has grown and expanded to innumerable denominations. While Christ may not have desired for the church to grow into so many variations, the common denominator between each of us is faith. But what exactly is faith? We could simply say that according to Scripture,

faith is a belief in God, a conviction in someone we know to be real, though He is not seen.

“For we walk by faith, not by sight,” Paul proclaims (2 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus spoke to Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (John 20:29).

If faith is merely a belief in God, then that would not explain everyday expressions like, “I have faith in you,” or “I have faith things will work out.” Neither references our relationship with God. Faith is then a belief in anything not seen by the physical senses. This explains faith in the general sense, but when studying Scripture, we need to keep both ideas in mind.

Sometimes characters have faith in God directly. Sometimes people place faith in God regarding their circumstances. In either scenario, faith leads them to belief in a positive outcome because of God’s character. This is the way the early church viewed faith, and this is the same way we understand the concept today. As Christians, the word faith is instilled with religious meaning no matter the context.

A question remains, however. What does it really mean to have faith? Anyone can claim to have faith in God, in a person, in a situation, but how would evidence of that faith appear?

In today’s society, faith can also feel countercultural. We are taught to depend on ourselves, to have everything under control, to always know the answers. But faith says it’s about believing in something, better yet, Someone, beyond what we can see. Hebrews 11 reminds us that “*faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*” That doesn’t mean faith is blind. It means faith is courageous. It means daring to lean on God’s promises even when the evidence around us feels shaky.

Faith also means believing in each other. It means choosing hope when the world says be cynical. It means trusting that love is stronger than hate, that compassion still matters, that God is still working through ordinary people like us to bring light into dark places.

And faith means believing in yourself, not because of ego, but because you are created by God with value and purpose. In a world that often tells us we are not enough, faith reminds us: *You are enough, because you belong to God.*

But perhaps the most important thing is this: faith is not just something we think or feel, it’s something we *live*. Faith shows up in the way we love our neighbour, the way we stand for justice, the way we share kindness in a culture that is often impatient and harsh.

To have faith in today’s society is to resist despair. It is to look beyond the headlines and say, “God is still here. God is still working. God is not finished with us yet.”

So may we be a people of faith ... not naïve, not blind, but courageous. Faith that trusts God’s presence, faith that chooses hope, faith that lives out love. Because in a world longing for stability and peace, people of faith can become living reminders that God is with us ... yesterday, today, and forever.

In short: *To have faith in today’s society is to live with trust, hope, and courage ... anchored in God, then extended to others, and practiced daily in small and large ways.*

HYMN: #580 Faith of Our Fathers

Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene’er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God’s word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression’s might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, O call us yet,
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. R
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. R
- 4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' R

BENEDICTION

Go now as people of faith. Trust God's presence in every moment,
believe in the power of love, and live with hope that does not disappoint.
And may the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you and with all whom you love, this day and
always. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Saturday, September 6th: Hagersville's 150th Anniversary Railway
Show from 10am-3pm at Hagersville United Church. Featuring a layout
of Hagersville in 1845+, memorabilia, Lionel Railroad Cars from the
era, continuous video & story panel displays. Admission is free. Lunch
can be purchased from the Hagersville Catering Committee.

Wednesday, September 10th: Church Council meeting at Hagersville at
6:30pm.

Thursday, September 25th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the
evening. All help is appreciated.

Sunday, September 28th: Springvale Anniversary. Joint service. More
details to come.

Tuesday, September 30th: Turkey Supper at Springvale. More details
to come.

Sunday, October 19th: Hagersville United 156th Anniversary service &
the town of Hagersville 150th special service at 2pm with guest speaker
Rev. Douglas Mitchell. More details to come.

**Please bring your paper products for the
Hagersville Food Bank!**

