

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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In today's world, we love having a guide ... Google Maps, GPS, or that one friend who somehow always knows the way. When Jesus told His disciples, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6), He was giving them the ultimate travel guide, not just for a road trip, but for life itself. Today we're going to look at what it means to have Jesus as our travel guide, and how He directs us through the journey of life.

OFFERING PRAYER

Just as travelers share provisions for the journey, so we share what we have, that together we may continue God's work. God of the journey,
We give these gifts as signs of our gratitude.
Bless them to guide others toward love, hope, and peace.
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come today as travelers on life's road.
People: Some of us are weary, some are eager, some are lost, and some are searching.
Leader: Wherever we are on the journey, Jesus is our guide.
People: He shows us the way, the truth, and the life.
All: Let us worship with open hearts, ready to walk with Him.

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OPENING HYMN: #567 Will You Come and Follow Me

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

OPENING PRAYER

God of the road and the destination,
You meet us where we are and call us forward.
Be our compass when we lose direction,
Our rest stop when we grow weary,
And our guide as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: A Travel Guide to Jesus

Leader: We are travelers on the road of faith.

People: Jesus is our map, our compass, and our guide!

Leader: Sometimes the road is smooth, and we rejoice.

People: Sometimes the road is bumpy, and we hold on tight.

Leader: When we lose our way...

People: Jesus says, "Recalculating ... follow me."

Leader: When we are tired...

People: Jesus offers us a rest stop of peace.

Leader: When we are joyful...

People: Jesus shares our laughter and leads us onward.

Leader: When we are uncertain...

People: Jesus is our true north, pointing us to God's love.

Leader: So let us set out on this journey together!

People: With open hearts, ready to live, love, and follow Jesus.

CHORUS: #607 Where He Leads Me (from Hymns of the Family of God)

I Can Hear My Savior Calling,

I Can Hear My Savior Calling,

I Can Hear My Savior Calling,

"Take Thy Cross And Follow, Follow Me."

Refrain: Where He Leads Me I Will Follow,

Where He Leads Me I Will Follow,

Where He Leads Me I Will Follow,

I'll Go With Him, With Him All The Way.

He Will Give Me Grace And Glory,

He Will Give Me Grace And Glory,

He Will Give Me Grace And Glory,

And Go With Me, With Me All The Way. **R**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 25:4-5 Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

John 14:1-6

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus the Way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

MESSAGE: A Travel Guide to Jesus

Have you ever tried to take a trip without a map, a GPS, or even directions scribbled on a napkin? It doesn't usually go well. You miss turns, end up on bumpy back roads, or discover you're heading the wrong way altogether. You know every trip needs a map.

A good trip starts with a map. Without it, we wander.

For us as Christians, Scripture is the map. It gives us stories, wisdom, and guidance. It shows us the big picture of where we're going, toward God's love and eternal life.

Let's think about this a map on its own doesn't really help much, you've got to know where you are first. It's the same with Scripture, we need to understand what it means and the direction it will take us. It is the same with a map can tell us the roads, but sometimes the roads get confusing, and you literally start turning the map in different directions (whether it helps or not). It is the same with scripture, Jesus doesn't just hand us a rulebook, the bible and say, "Good luck out there." He says: *Follow me. Walk with me. I am the way.*

That means we're not alone. He is not just showing us the path; He is the path. When we get lost, He is the voice saying, "*This is the way ... walk in it.*"

Then the best way to describe what it means to have Jesus walking the journey with us is this.... every journey needs or has companion, because, no one wants to travel alone. Road trips are better with friends, hikes are easier with company, and life is richer when shared.

That's why Jesus gives us the church, the community of fellow travelers. We need each other when we get tired, when we lose our way, or when we just need someone to laugh with on the road.

The disciples traveled together, and so do we. Companions help us keep going when the road feels too long. They even lift us up and carry us when we are tired. Then I started thinking about this journey we are on, this journey of life, and I thought to myself every journey has detours....

Let's be honest: no trip goes exactly as planned. There are construction zones, wrong turns, flat tires, and the occasional "I thought you said to turn left!" moments.

Life is the same. There are illnesses, losses, broken relationships, or times when we feel far from God.

But here's the good news: Jesus knows how to guide us through the detours. Even when we think we're far off course, He can re-route us and bring us back to the path of grace.

But, sometimes the detours are where we discover the most important lessons of faith. What I call the awe-ha moments. Isn't that so true in life, roads that we never expected to travel take us to places where we discover something beautiful and then pause I find our way back on the right road.

And then there is the destination. The destination matters in life as much as the journey we go on. Remember this though at the end of John 14, Jesus assures His disciples that He is preparing a place for them. The destination is God's promise for them, eternal life, love without end. But along the way, He reminds them not to be troubled. Don't rush past the journey. Because every step with Jesus, every act of kindness, every moment of grace, every laugh shared is, part of the joy of the road.

The Christian life isn't just about where we're going; it's about who we are becoming as we travel with Jesus.

So, as Christian's who are always travelling, what's in your "*Travel Guide to Jesus*"? For me

- A map → God's Word.
- A guide → Jesus Himself.
- Companions → the community of faith.
- Detours → opportunities for trust and growth.
- A destination → life with God, both now and forever.

Friends, as we set out on the road ahead, whether it's smooth or rocky, long or short, let's remember that we don't walk alone, we have a travel guide in Jesus and with Jesus on our journey, every step matters. And remember as we journey with Jesus as our guide, pack light, hold onto hope, and don't forget to enjoy the view. Amen.

HYMN: #605 Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold

- 1 Jesus, teacher, brave and bold,
let us serve you, young and old.
Let us faith-filled workers be,
all around, your wisdom see.
Let us play and dance and sing,
your goodness find in everything.
- 2 Jesus, friend, so strong and true,
show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend,
all things broken help us mend.
Free our minds and stretch our care,
teach us to serve you everywhere.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join our hearts together in prayer. Gracious God,
You are our map and our compass, our traveling companion and our guide. As we set out on the road of life, we bring before You the prayers of our hearts.

When the road is smooth,

we thank You for the joys of life—
for laughter, for friendship, for family, for moments of rest and delight.
Keep our hearts open to gratitude for each good mile.

When the road is rough,

we pray for those who are struggling—
for the sick, the grieving, the lonely, and the weary.
Be for them a shelter along the way,
a rest stop of peace,
a gentle voice of encouragement.

When the road is confusing,

we pray for guidance for our world—
for leaders and communities,
for places torn by violence or divided by fear.

Show us the signs of Your way:
the path of justice, compassion, and peace.

When the road feels long,

we pray for strength and patience,
for courage to keep walking,
and for companions who lift us up when we stumble.

Remind us that we never travel alone—

You walk beside us, and Your Spirit lights the way.

When the road leads us forward,

help us to step out in faith,
to trust the map of Your Word,
and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus,
who taught us to pray, saying together:

LORD'S PRAYER**CLOSING HYMN: #595 We Are Pilgrims on a Journey**

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: The road ahead is unknown, but we do not travel alone.

People: Jesus is our guide, our companion, and our strength.

Leader: Go now, walking in His way, living in His truth, and sharing
His life.

CHORAL AMEN**POSTLUDE**

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Announcements

Tuesday, September 2nd: Worship Committee at Hagersville will meet at 7pm in the parlour.

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 from 4pm-6pm. Takeout only. Adults are \$25, ages 12 and under are \$10. For tickets call Barb at 905-768-3910 or Betty at 905-537-4188.

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!**

