

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God

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Today we are exploring God's servant, Jeremiah who was called by God, and questioned can I do this. It provides a profound reflection on God's sovereignty, purpose, and the role of those called to carry out His will. Can we carry out what God calls us to do?

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you have called us to a mission greater than ourselves, but you have also promised to be with us and to provide all we need. As we bring these gifts to you, we trust that you will multiply them for your purposes. Use them to build up what is broken, plant seeds of hope, and bring life where there is despair. And as we give, remind us that we are offering not just money but our very lives to your service. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Before you were born, God knew you.

People: Before we drew our first breath, God set us apart.

Leader: God has plans for us, big plans, to bring hope and healing to the world.

People: But we're so young, so ordinary!

Leader: Don't be afraid, for God is with you. God's Spirit will give you strength.

People: We are here to worship the God who calls us, equips us, and sends us out!

Leader: Come, let us worship and trust the One who has big plans for us all!

OPENING HYMN: #415 God, We Praise You for the Morning

God we praise you for the morning;
Hope springs for with each new day,
New beginning, prayer and promise,
Joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,
Mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
In your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,
All the loving that you show;
Human touching, tears, and laughter,
Help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
Restless searcher, gentle teacher,
Strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,
Come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!

OPENING PRAYER

God of all creation, you have known us and loved us since before we were born. You call us to do great things, even when we feel small, unprepared, or unsure. Today, as we worship you, fill us with confidence in your plans and your power. Help us hear your voice, trust

your guidance, and embrace the mission you've given us to build up your kingdom. We give you this time and our hearts, knowing you are faithful to lead us. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

ANTHEM: "I Sing Praises"

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY

Leader: Lord, sometimes we feel too small for big tasks.

People: But You remind us: You've got big plans for us!

Leader: When the world tells us we're not ready, how do we respond?

People: We trust that You will make us ready!

Leader: We think, "I'm too young, too old, or too ordinary."

People: But You say, "Don't worry, I'll be with you!"

Leader: When we feel unsure of our words, what do we do?

People: We remember You will give us the words to speak!

Leader: When the road ahead looks scary and we feel afraid, what should we do?

People: We remember you say, "Do not be afraid!"

Leader: When we doubt ourselves, what can we do?

People: We turn to You, knowing You called us for a purpose!

Leader: When we feel unworthy or think we're not enough, what does Your Word say?

People: You remind us that You chose us before we even knew You!

Leader: When we feel like we're just too ordinary to make a difference, how should we respond?

People: We remember that You use ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Leader: When we look at the brokenness in the world, what is our call?

People: We go with You, ready to build up, plant, and bring hope!

Leader: Lord, You have called us to a mission greater than ourselves. What will we do?

People: Here we are, God! We're ready to follow You wherever You lead!

***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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 71:1-6; Jeremiah 1:1-10

Jeremiah 1:1-10

New International Version

¹ The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. ² The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, ³ and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

The Call of Jeremiah

⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart;

I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

⁶ "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁹ Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

² In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;

turn your ear to me and save me.

³ Be my rock of refuge,

to which I can always go;

give the command to save me,

for you are my rock and my fortress.

⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,

from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

⁵ For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD,

my confidence since my youth.

⁶ From birth I have relied on you;

you brought me forth from my mother's womb.

I will ever praise you.

MESSAGE: "God's Got Big Plans for You!"

Imagine you're a teenager, just trying to figure out life, and one day God shows up and says, "I've got a job for you." That's exactly what happened to Jeremiah. He was young—probably a teenager—when God told him, "Before you were even born, I had a plan for your life. I made you to do something important: to tell people what I want them to hear." Jeremiah didn't feel ready at all. He said, "But God, I'm too young! I don't know how to speak like that." And God basically replied, "Don't worry about that. I'll give you the words to say. You don't have to be afraid of anyone, because I'm going to be with you every step of the way."

Then God did something really cool—He touched Jeremiah's mouth. This was God's way of saying, "Now my words will be your words." God told Jeremiah,

God reassures Jeremiah that his age, inexperience, or fear will not hinder the mission. The promise "*I am with you*" echoes throughout Scripture (e.g., Moses, Joshua, and Jesus' Great Commission). It emphasizes that God's presence is what enables success, not human capability.

"You're going to have a tough job. Sometimes you'll have to tell people things they don't want to hear—things that will tear down their pride or their bad habits. But you'll also tell them about the good things I want to build in their lives."

God not only calls Jeremiah but also empowers him, symbolized by the touching of his mouth. Jeremiah's words will carry divine authority. In

verse 10, God declares Jeremiah's mission: to uproot and tear down what is corrupt while planting and building what is good. This reflects both judgment and restoration, key themes of Jeremiah's prophetic ministry.

So what does this passage mean for us today....in 2025

Well, God has a purpose for you, Just like Jeremiah, you're not here by accident. God made you with a plan in mind, even if you don't see it yet. And you have to be perfect, Jeremiah thought he wasn't good enough because he was young and inexperienced. But God doesn't choose people because they're perfect; He chooses people who are willing, and then He helps them do the job.

You know life can be scary no matter what age we are, and a call from God to do his work, can even add to what expectations God has for you. Think about when you were young, especially when you felt like you're not ready for something big. Like you going to work for the first time, going to college or university, moving away from home, sharing your faith with others. But in all of that, God promises to be with us, to give us strength and courage.

As Jeremiah grew as a servant of God, he had to say tough things, but they were important for helping people grow and turn back to God. It is the same way in life, speaking the truth, especially about what's right, might not always make you popular, but it can make a real difference. God told Jeremiah he would "tear down" before he could "build up." That's how life works too, sometimes we have to let go of bad habits or unhealthy ways of thinking to make room for something better.

I truly believe that God knows and chooses us with a purpose, even before we understand it ourselves.

Sometimes, I know that all of us feel that we are just human or inadequate to do the job, but this is no obstacle for God's power. Jeremiah's age and inexperience are irrelevant because God is the one working through him.

The assurance "*I am with you*" reminds us that we never go alone in fulfilling our calling. Jeremiah's ministry would involve confronting sin, calling for repentance, and bringing hope for renewal.

Just as Jeremiah was chosen for a specific role, God has a plan for each of us. When God calls us, He equips us and walks with us, giving us courage to step into the unknown, to overcome fear.

Still uncertain about where God is calling you?

Think About It This Way:

Imagine a coach who sees a kid with a lot of potential. The kid might say, "I'm not ready for this!" but the coach says, "I see something in you that you don't see in yourself yet. Trust me, I'll help you every step of the way." That's what God was saying to Jeremiah, and that's what God says to us.

HYMN: #644 I was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

- 1 I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
- 2 I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.
- 3 When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
- 4 If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.
- 5 In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
- 6 When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.
- 7 I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let open our hearts and bring our prayers before the God who has known us since before we were born.

- For those who feel lost, unsure, or unworthy, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
- For the young, the old, and everyone in between, who wonder if they're enough, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
- For courage to follow Your calling, even when it feels overwhelming, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
- For strength to speak truth in love, even when it's hard, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
- For healing and restoration in our broken world, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
- For our church, that we may be bold in following Your plans, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
- For the silent prayers of our hearts, known to You alone, Lord, in Your mercy...
People: Hear our prayer.
Loving God, thank You for hearing our prayers. Help us to trust You more, to serve You faithfully, and to go where You send us.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #657 He Leadth Me

- 1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. **Refrain**

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **Refrain**

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
even death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. **Refrain**

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go now, remembering that God has known you since before you were born.

People: We go, trusting that God has big plans for us!

Leader: When you feel too small or unsure, know that God goes with you.

People: We go, confident that God will give us strength and words to speak.

Leader: May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit guide you today and always.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, February 4th: Coffee Tuesday & breakfast! Everyone is invited to join us for coffee, breakfast & great conversation beginning at 9am.

Sunday, February 16th: Springvale Annual Meeting immediately following worship. Lunch details to follow.

Sunday, February 16th: Peggy will be at Springvale's annual meeting. Peter & Jo-Ann will be leading the service that Peggy has prepared.

Sunday, February 23rd: Hagersville's Annual Meeting immediately following worship. Potluck lunch to follow, please bring main course or dessert.

Please bring paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank! 😊

1. **What is a groundhog's favorite color?** Ma-hog-any.
2. **Why did the groundhog become a weather reporter?**
Because he was always throwing *shade*!
3. **What do you call a groundhog in the middle of a tennis court?** Annette.
4. **How does the groundhog know when to look for his shadow?** They tell him to *gopher* it.
5. **What did the French groundhog see when he woke up?** His *château*.