

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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God always gives Us something to look forward to!

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you give us so much to look forward to, your provision, your promises, and your eternal love. Today, we offer back to You a portion of what You have given us. Use these gifts to bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the weary, and your light to the world. Bless them, multiply them, and guide us to use them for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: God is faithful, and His promises are true.

People: He gives us hope and a future to look forward to!

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who fills our hearts with anticipation and joy.

All: We come to praise His name and trust in His plans for our lives.

OPENING HYMN: #238 How Great Thou Art

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.

2

**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**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come before You today with hearts full of gratitude and expectation. Thank You for always giving us hope, for the small joys of today, and the great promises of tomorrow. As we worship You, remind us of Your faithfulness and guide us to trust in Your plans. Fill this time with Your presence and open our hearts to receive Your Word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Jesus, Are You Sure?"

Leader: Lord, you have called us to follow You, to trust in Your love, and to walk by faith...

People: *But are You sure, Jesus?*

Leader: You promise that Your love never fails, that You have plans for us, and that You will guide our steps...

People: *But what if Your plans don't match our plans?*

Leader: *God promises that he is always with us.*

People: Even if we'd rather just take a nap!

Leader: God promises to walk with us every step of the way.

People: Even when we're not sure where the path leads!

Leader: He surprises us with blessings we didn't expect.

People: Like finding the last cookie in the jar!

Leader: He gives us new mornings filled with new mercies.

People: Even if we're still waiting on that second cup of coffee!

Leader: God sends us reminders of His love through friends and family.

People: And sometimes through kind strangers, too.

Leader: He fills our hearts with joy, even in difficult seasons.

People: Like the peace that comes when we sing His praises.

Leader: God's plans are good, and His love never fails.

All: So, we look forward to all He has in store for us. Amen!

***CHORUS: #91 "GREAT ARE YOU, LORD"**

Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, you alone are worthy of my praise,

O Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, with all of my heart I sing:

Great are You, Lord, worthy of praise;

Holy and true, great are You, Lord, Most Holy Lord. (X 2)

MESSAGE: "God Always Gives Us Something to Look Forward To!"
based on 1 verse from Jeremiah 29:11.

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 is one of the most quoted verses in Scripture because it speaks to a deep truth: God's plans for us are good. But let's consider the context. These words were spoken to the Israelites while they were in exile, far from home and surrounded by uncertainty. God's promise wasn't an instant fix. Instead, He reminded them of a hope-filled future He was preparing for them.

Sometimes we, too, feel like we're in exile, stuck in seasons of waiting or uncertainty. But even then, God whispers, "I have plans for you. Trust Me." Just as He gave the Israelites a vision of restoration, He gives us hope to carry us forward, no matter how difficult today may feel.

Think about creation: every sunrise, every blooming flower, every changing season. These are reminders that God's mercies are new every morning. He's not a God who leaves us stagnant or stuck. Instead, He constantly invites us into something new.

Faith doesn't mean that life will be easy or that troubles will magically disappear. It means trusting in God's love, His presence, and His faithfulness, even when everything seems uncertain. Keep looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and remember that.... ***"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33).**

We are not alone. God is with us, and His love will never fail. We can continue to walk in faith, knowing that the challenges of today will one day be outweighed by the glory of tomorrow. In saying that, I am sure each of you are looking forward something? Is it an answer to prayer, a breakthrough in a tough situation, or simply the peace of God's presence? Whatever it is, remember this: God always gives us something to look forward to. He is faithful, His plans are good, and His promises never fail.

In a world full of uncertainty, it can sometimes feel hard to trust that God truly gives us something to look forward to. The challenges, unexpected turns, and losses we experience can cloud our vision of hope. However, there are several ways we can hold onto the truth that God, in His love and faithfulness, always provides us with something to look forward to, even in the most uncertain times.

Remember, God is with us, and He's always working in our lives, even when we can't see it. The future may be uncertain, but we can rest in the fact that God has great things planned for us, and the best is yet to come. Amen

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.

[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]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God, we come before You today with hearts full of gratitude, knowing that You are a God who is always working in our lives. Even when we can't see what's ahead, you promise to be with us every step of the way. You fill our days with hope, and You always give us something to look forward to.

Thank You, Lord, for the small blessings we often overlook—the laughter of friends, the warmth of family, and the beauty of the world around us. Even in moments of uncertainty, you remind us that Your plans for us are good. You fill our hearts with joy and anticipation, knowing that You are faithful to provide what we need.

Help us, God, to look forward with confidence, trusting that You have good things in store for us. When the days feel long or the road seems unclear, remind us of Your promises—Your faithfulness, Your love, and your unending grace. May we be a people who eagerly await all the blessings You have planned for us, with hearts open to whatever You bring.

We thank You for the future, for the hope You give us, and for the assurance that no matter what comes, we can trust that You are leading us toward good things.

Pause and now loving and faithful God, we bring to You the joys and concerns of our hearts:

- For those feeling weary, grant them rest and renewal.
- For those waiting for answers, remind them of Your perfect timing.
- For those celebrating new opportunities, may their joy bring glory to You.
- For those who are sick or grieving, wrap them in Your comfort and peace.
- For our community, guide us to share Your hope and love with those around us.

We lift up these prayers, both spoken and unspoken, trusting in Your goodness and care, as we share the prayer that your Son Jesus taught us to pray

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: "Standing on the Promises"

1. Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
 Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
 Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
 Standing on the promises of God.

**R: Standing, standing,
 Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
 Standing, standing,
 I'm standing on the promises of God.**

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail.
 When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
 By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
 Standing on the promises of God. **R**

3. Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
 Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
 Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
 Standing on the promises of God. **R**

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
 List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
 Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
 Standing on the promises of God. **R**

SENDING FORTH

Go into the week with hearts full of hope and eyes fixed on God's promises. May you trust in His plans, walk in His grace, and look forward to the amazing things He has in store for you.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, February 18th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

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

Tuesday, March 4th: Pancake Supper at Hagersville from 4-7pm. There will be pancakes, ham, sausage, baked beans & a fruit cup. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 6-12, under 5 are free. Or take advantage of the family deal (2 adults, 2 children) for \$30. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Wednesday, March 5th: Official Board meeting at Springvale at 1:30pm.

Please bring paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank! 😊



"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn't open his bill."