

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2024**

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Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Melrose

First Sunday of Lent "Pack your bags... we are going on a journey!"

OFFERING PRAYER

God, You are the giver of all good things, and your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from you. We ask that you accept these gifts and use them to your glory. May these gifts bring shelter to the homeless, comfort to the sick, rest to the weary, and hope to the hopeless. We pray that you would multiply these gifts, our offerings to you, and accomplish with them more than we could ask or imagine.

Amen

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The bags are packed and set for the journey. Are you ready?

P: Not really. We have so much still to do.

L: The Lord calls to us now. The Peace of God is at hand.

P: What will be required of us for this journey?

L: Open your hearts and spirits. Take the risk of discipleship.

P: Lord, help us to be ready. Calm our fears as we step forward in faith.

L: God is with you each step of the way...therefore be not afraid.

P: Let us begin this journey. Walking with God at our sides.

OPENING HYMN: #664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?

Jesus' strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage
there.

OPENING PRAYER

The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. AMEN.

ANTHEM

LITANY FOR THE JOURNEY

Leader: Are you ready for the Journey??

People: Shoes, sweaters, socks, slacks, warm gloves, a hat.....well, that's everything we need.

Leader: Is it?

People: What else would we need? we will be warm enough and ready for the trip.

Leader: Are you sure that you are ready?

People: Well, we have to admit, we don't really know where we're going and we're not sure what we will find.

Leader: How do you feel about that?

People: Not good. we would like to know what to expect so that we can truly be ready.

Leader: Place your whole trust in the Lord who will be your comfort, your guardian, and your guide.

People: Easier said than done!

Leader: What else do you need?

People: I guess that we need to know that this journey will lead somewhere.

Leader: It will. It leads to the cross and beyond.

People: now we are scared. We may not be ready for the cross.

Leader: Do not be afraid. The barrier of fear which prevents you from being ready is being destroyed by the love and presence of God. Come on the journey. Come with hope and peace. Come journey the road with Jesus.

LET US PRAY (UNISON)

We have lists of things to do, for all the areas of our lives. Our lives are so time bound and duty bound that we feel imprisoned in them. Now we are challenged by Christ to take a journey of discipleship. We don't feel ready for this journey. We need more time. And we complain and cry about how much we have to do. Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Reset our priorities so that we will be ready to commit our lives for this journey through the Lenten season once again. Amen.

VIDEO CHORUS

MESSAGE & SCRIPTURE READINGS: The Power of Music

Psalm 150:1-6

¹Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens ²Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, ⁵praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him

with resounding cymbals. ⁶Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

“I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live” (Psalm 104:33).

“Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them” (Isaiah 42:10).

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts” (Colossians 3:16).

“Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1–2)

THE POWER OF MUSIC

Music has an incredible power that many people are unaware of.

Discover the joy and encouragement that Godly music can add to your life!

Have you ever stopped to consider the power of music? Have you ever had an experience where you hear a song on the radio and then you find yourself remembering things from your life or even experiencing emotions from when you first heard the song? Couples commonly have a “song” which commemorates some part of their relationship (first date, anniversary, proposal, wedding etc.)

"I think music in itself is healing," American musician Billy Joel once said. "It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music." Most of us would wholeheartedly agree with this statement, and it is this universal bond with music that has led researchers across the globe to investigate its therapeutic potential.

Music is also a powerful method of delivering messages. Companies commonly use music to advertise their products. With all the technology available to us, one of the most effective advertising methods is still the good old-fashioned jingle.

Why? Because when people hear a catchy song, they remember it, along with the message or product that goes with it.

Almond Joy: "Sometimes you feel like a nut"

Meow Mix – commercial – Meow, meow, meow....

"Plop Plop, Fizz Fizz, Oh What a Relief it is."

"Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There"

Huggies: "I'm a big kid now"

Folgers Coffee: "The best part of waking up"

Oscar Meyer: "I'd love to be an Oscar Meyer wiener" and "My bologna has a first name"

I am Stuck on Band aid brand cause Band aid stuck on me

Coca-Cola: "I'd like to teach the world to sing"

NOW I HAVE THOSE STUCK IN YOUR HEAD...

And in the world of advertising, memorable equals successful.

Music can make us feel excited, scared, to think, to laugh, to breath and feel a presence around us.

So where does faith and music fit together...

Music and faith was right there in the beginning ...

Psalms 150:1-6 Praise the LORD!

1 Praise God in his heavenly dwelling; praise him in his mighty heaven!

2 Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness!

3 Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp!

4 Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes!

5 Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

6 Let everything that lives sing praises to the LORD! Praise the LORD!

Music and faith has brought people through times of trouble, times of war, times of being uprooted. That is why we have so many beautiful hymns of celebration.

But music's role as a social glue can also be seen in work songs sung by slaves, sea shanties among sailors, and soldiers' chants. People in prison. Music, it seems, really does bond us closely.

Lying at the heart of our relationships in this way, it makes sense that music would tug at the heartstrings, helping us to create an emotional connection. Each culture

may then build on this basic instinct, creating their own music of certain chords or ideas that come to be associated with particular feelings.

Whatever its early origins, today we can't help but associate certain music with the most important events in our lives. It is the soundtrack of conception, pregnancy, births, marriages, and funerals, and everything in between. No wonder we open ourselves to the array of feelings and memories whenever we hear our favorite tunes.

With all this being said and shared, the church is based on the celebration of God through Music.

Music helps the worshipful embody the full range of our spiritual experience, from gratitude and joy to humility and even to our sorrow over sin.

The great evangelist D.L. Moody said, "There is more to be said in the Bible about praise than prayer, and music and song have not only accompanied all scriptural revivals, but are essential in deepening spiritual life." Church music has great impact.

Worship is focused adoration and devotion to God. It requires the engagement of the mind and the heart to the Lord at the exclusion of all else. Singing can certainly lead us into worship. Psalm 66:4 says, "All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name." Good music can help seal off distractions, and get you prepared in mind and spirit to receive from the Lord. Certainly, we have great reason for music in our church services!

I would like to finish with this quote from John Denver

Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions. People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what color we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves: We are the same.

HYMN: #663 My Faith Looks up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away.

O let me from this day be wholly thine.

2 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide, bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away; nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

3 May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire. As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Loving, Creating God, you are in covenant with your people. You have pledged to be our God and ask us to be your people, trusting in you in all our ways. But we find many excuses to prevent us from really trusting you. We erect barriers before our faith journey even begins. Our time, obligations, energy, all become part of the bricks and mortar which fashion this barrier. We can give lip service to the journey; we can daydream about what it would be like to truly place our hands in yours and follow you. But when it comes to actually making the journey, our time constraints and weak commitments loom largely before us. Help us to tear down this barrier. Make us ready for the journey by replacing the fear in our hearts with a sense of joy and challenge of self-discovery and discipleship. Remind us that in service to you, helping others, we will also find ourselves made more fully whole. As we have spoken the names of our friends, and family members, and others situations in which healing and comfort are needed, let us remember that we, too, stand in need of prayer and healing. Make us ready to receive your good news and then to be witnesses to your love to all your people.

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #638 God, Take My Hand

- 1. God, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favour I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour, and lead the way.
- 2. God, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.

3. God, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
and nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

SENDING FORTH

The first step on the journey, that of readiness, is one of the hardest. We keep thinking that we have forgotten something. God has called you by name, to this journey. You will have all that you need. Go in peace, and know that God is going with you. AMEN.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, February 20th: Coffee Time at 9:30am at Springvale. All are welcome!

Friday, February 23rd: Soup Lunch at Hagersville from 11:30am-1pm. Tickets are \$10/person. Soup options include chicken noodle, hamburger, potato chowder & minestrone. Please call Susan at 905-768-3729 by Feb. 22nd at 6pm to get your orders in.

Sunday, February 25th: Hagersville Annual Meeting after worship with potluck lunch to start.

Wednesday, March 6th: Official Board meeting at 10:30am at Springvale.

Please bring in paper products for the
Hagersville Food Bank!

