

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

2

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Pastor Peggy Bartlett  
Cell: 905-317-5275      Email: info@hsupc.ca  
Website: www.hsupc.ca  
Church: Hagersville- 905-768-5863 Springvale- 905-768-1501

.....  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE**

Port Nelson

*“I Have Called You by Your Name...You are Mine, God.”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear your Word ...  
Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice ...  
Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises ....  
Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love ...  
you offer us. Receive these offerings as we receive all the gifts and  
opportunities you have given us. Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our God is a God of power and strength!  
**God has created each of us with tender care.**  
Our God is a God of majesty and awe!  
**God walks with each of us every step of the way.**  
Our God is a God of glory and wonder!  
**God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.**  
Our God calls us each by name.  
**God's love permeates even the deepest darkness.**  
The light of God shines on us with new hope.  
**God calls each of us to unite in worship together!**

**OPENING HYMN: #87 I am the Light of the World**

**'I am the light of the world!**

**You people come and follow me!'**

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.**

- 1      When the song of the angels is stilled,  
         when the star in the sky is gone,  
         when the kings and the shepherds have found  
                         their way home,  
         the work of Christmas is begun: **R**
- 2      To find the lost and lonely one,  
         to heal the broken soul with love,  
         to feed the hungry children with warmth  
                         and good food,  
         to feel the earth below, the sky above! **R**
- 3      To free the prisoner from all chains,  
         to make the powerful care,  
         to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
         to see God's children everywhere! **R**
- 4      To bring hope to every task you do,  
         to dance at a baby's new birth,  
         to make music in an old person's heart,  
         and sing to the colours of the earth! **R**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name.  
We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength  
to answer your call. As we open our ears  
to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also,  
that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth  
in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship,  
that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children.  
We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S TIME****CHILDREN'S VIDEO****LITANY**

L: The Lord knows you and loves you. Let God's light shine in the darkness so that others may see the good works and glorify God.

**P: This little light of mine.....I'm gonna let it shine.**

L: Jesus has seen you, waiting for the call to ministry and mission. He calls you now to open your hearts to those around you; to people in need, to those who sorrow, to those who just need someone to talk with.

**P: This little light of mine.....I'm gonna let it shine.**

L: Just as God called the boy Samuel, God is reaching out to you to be a witness to God's awesome love and power.

**P: This little light of mine.....I'm gonna let it shine., Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!**

L: You won't hide it under a dark cover, will you?

**P: No, I'm gonna let it shine!**

L: You won't extinguish it because you're afraid and feel unworthy, will you?

**P: No, I'm gonna let it shine!**

L: Will you let God's light shine through your life?

**P: Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine!**

L: Will you brave the deepest darkness with God's light in your life?

**P: All through the darkness, I'm gonna let it shine.**

L: Then, beloved of God, let that Light shine on you, in you and through you always.

**P: Praise be to God. AMEN.**

**SING:** This Little Light of Mine

1 This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

2 Hide it under a bushel no I'm gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel no I'm gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel no I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

3 Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine  
Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine  
Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); John 1:43-51

**The LORD Calls Samuel**

<sup>3</sup> The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

<sup>2</sup> One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. <sup>3</sup> The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup> Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

**John 1:43-51****Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael**

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

<sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the

one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

<sup>46</sup> “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

<sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

<sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said, “You believe<sup>[a]</sup> because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” <sup>51</sup> He then added, “Very truly I tell you,<sup>[b]</sup> you<sup>[c]</sup> will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’<sup>[d]</sup> the Son of Man.”

#### **MESSAGE:** Come and See

Fred Craddock has observed that the “biblical word central to the Season of Epiphany is ‘revelation’, for this is the time we celebrate the revealing of the Son of God. But the companion word to revelation is ‘witness’, for revelation in the biblical sense is never open and obvious to everyone, interested or not, believer or not.”

These words seem especially relevant to the text for the day, Philip’s witness to Nathanael. Philip is unable to prove what he believed he had found in Jesus, but he is able to say at least, “Come and see.” What Philip sees moves him to help others to see Jesus .... to want to help them, anyway, whether they do or do not see.

The season of Epiphany is the “moment” of God’s self-revelation to the world, the season following Christmas, prompts us to ask... How will we witness? How will we reveal that which has been revealed to us?

Therefore, we ask the question .... So how does God want us to witness? Will we hear his call ? Will it be clear like Samuel? And when we do, with, what kind of style do we spread the faith?

Remember ... Witness Is Not Technique, but Touch

In our denominations these days there is much discussion about church growth. Much of the discussion is framed in such a way that we need to draw people in with gimmicks and promotions; but I must confess that most often it sounds more like marketing. In society today, there are

many new ways of worship in alternative forms, almost like a theater production ... I think you know what I mean. And it may be great stuff, really, for this age in which we live ... BUT

My fear is the word of God, the message of faith being lost in the performance. Some will say, No, but I have been questioned about this and I am wondering how you hear the still small voice of God, calling, speaking, asking Come and See.

Yes, the music and the performance can move you, but like any performance does the real message come through? You know saving souls is a long and laborious process. For Jesus it took miracles, telling parables and most of all being an example (Christ like) to others. For us it takes reading and listening to the bible, understanding what is expected of us from Jesus. Most of all loving, sharing, caring, showing grace and reaching out.

My suspicion is that when the excitement over this latest trend of techniques fades, we will be left with the time-honored and tested example we have before us today. If we really want to be disciples of Jesus, if we want to be real evangelists, we may need to do it the old fashion way ..... find a friend or stranger, and say, “Come and see.”

Also witness Is Faithfulness

Looking at today’s, new testament reading....Who is Nathanael that Philip, or Jesus, wants to have him along? After all, he seems somewhat prejudiced, ready to condemn Jesus on account of his address and accent. So, what’s the purpose of this story?

Perhaps it is an example ... a “go and do thou likewise” kind of story.

Perhaps it is encouragement to those of us who are believers to begin witnessing: not by pressuring or arguing, ridiculing or belittling. Rather, as Philip was called and then went calling, the text is a summons to us to witness, to invite, to speak the truth of our faith’s experience even to those for whom the invitation may sound strange. If we are faithful as Philip was faithful, God can claim the disbelieving, even as Nathanael was claimed.

And perhaps it is a reminder, too, that even we who now believe once did not, that at one time we were no better off than Nathanael. But as he heard and believed, so others have heard and believed through him. So too will our faith be shared with others if we hear and believe.

Remember, Jesus called Philip, and Philip responded by witnessing to Nathanael. When we hear the faithful word of God, and God’s summons

us to discipleship, we will want to take others with us. But, we need to hear that call, to each of you that call has been and will be different. When we have heard the word, then we will be not only like Philip, but also like Peter, James, and John, who in Acts 4:20 say, “we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.” When people ask us, “What’s going on with you people at the church?” we can answer, “Come and see.”

**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**

Patient and Wise God, you have called this church into being to serve you in this world by helping others. We rejoice in the many ways we are able to be of help. We offer our prayers for each other, for those near and dear to us, for the situations of difficulty and strife in community and world. You hear our voices cry out and with your eternal compassion you respond in loving care to each of us. We gather here this day, meeting and greeting each other, celebrating fellowship and friendship, welcoming each other in your name. You remind us that you are with us always. What have we to fear? But we fear far too often the unknown tasks that lie ahead of us. We always want to be assured of the happy out come of our efforts. Help us to trust your guidance and presence, Lord. Help us remember that there is no time in which we are out of your care. Enable us to be in serving ministry and mission with joy and confidence. Heal our wounds, bind up our bruises and broken spirits. Put us on a pathway of peace. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN: #508** Just As I Am

### **SENDING FORTH**

You are each precious in God's sight.  
**We go from this place,**  
**claiming our identity as children of God.**  
God has called you by name.  
**We go into the world**  
**to answer God's call. Alleluia!**

### **CHORAL AMEN**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **Announcements**

**Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:** Chili Lunch at Hagersville from 11:30am-1pm. Tickets are \$10/person. Takeout Only. Call Susan at 905-768-3729 to order ahead.

**Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:** Scrapbooking Setup in the afternoon/evening at Hagersville.

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline to have your reports to the office for Annual Reports.

**Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>:** Pancake Supper at Hagersville from 4:30-6:30pm. 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.

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>:** Springvale Annual Meeting after 9:30am worship.

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:** Hagersville Annual Meeting after worship with potluck lunch to start.

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>:** Office Board meeting at 10:30am at Springvale.

\*\*\*

There will be short Church Council Meeting in the Parlour at Hagersville following worship.

**Please bring in your paper products for the  
Hagersville Food Bank 😊**



www.comics.com

4/27

© 2011 Jeff Stahler/ Dist. by UFS, Inc..