

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 2023**

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Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Pastor Peggy Bartlett
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Cooksville

Jesus is here, calling us to become his disciples.
Jesus is here, calling us to leave our nets.
Jesus is here, calling us to be fishers of God's children.
We will follow the Lord of life ... or run away?"

OFFERING PRAYER

God is our refuge and our strength.
God is the rock of our salvation.
God is our certain hope in times of trial.
May these offering that we give today be the strength, salvation and
hope for others and our church ... not only here but in the world. In
Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Christ is calling you as disciples
P: Lord Jesus, let us follow you faithfully.
L: You will be led into fields of mission and service.
P: Lord Jesus, where you lead us, we will go.
L: Listen for Christ's call to you.
P: Let us respond to God's call.
All: **We are ready to serve the Lord.**

OPENING HYMN: #223 Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing
Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise:
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;
your servants proclaim the renown of your name
who rules over all and is ever the same.

Again we rejoice in the world you have made,
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,
we thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.

We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,
the might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we
have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear
the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus
on whatever path he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach
us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY OF INVITATION

L: Jesus is calling you to follow him.
**P: We'd really like to but we have too much to do right now. Check
back later, OK?**
L: Jesus sees your labours and knows your gifts
**P: Flattery will not work on us. We have bills to pay and work to
do.**
L: Jesus is ready for you to come.
**P: Look, the stories are nice and all, but they really don't work for
us.**

L: Have faith, place your trust in Jesus.

P: Well, everyone else seems to let us down. How can we be sure he won't do the same?

L: He will prove his love to you with his life.

P: We didn't ask for that.

L: What will it take for you to trust in him?

P: We don't know. Trust is risky.

L: Then take the risk. Place your lives in his hands. He can handle all your problems.

P: Will he really guide us?

L: Absolutely, through bright days and dark nights, everywhere, all the time.

P: Can we rely on him?

L: Yes. He will not abandon you.

P: Perhaps we can try.

L: Don't just try. Go ahead. Follow Jesus. You won't regret it.

P: Jesus, help our unbelief. Where we are weak, give us strength; where we falter and hold back, gently bring us forward; where we fail, please forgive us. AMEN

***CHORUS: "MAKE ME A SERVANT"**

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
 Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,
 And may the pray'r of my heart always be:
 Make me a servant, make me a servant,
 Make me a servant today. X 2

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10, Mark 1:14-20

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A

fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.⁶ When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

MESSAGE: Gone Fishing ...

There once was a fishing village on the shore of a great lake stocked full of fish. The fishermen of the village diligently debated and discussed what fishing is, how best to do it, which equipment to use. They invested thousands and thousands of dollars in boats and gear and a fishing headquarters, hired a staff, and sent representatives around the world to research for techniques that work the best to catch fish.... One day, a little child stood up in their meeting and asked, “You all claim to be great fishermen—how come you've never caught a fish?”

Indeed, no one in the village had ever actually caught one. They had never even been fishing.

Sadly, many Christians go for years without bringing a single soul to Christ. We are not called to be keepers of the aquarium ... Jesus calls us to be “fishers of people,” to catch folk up in God’s grace, love, and salvation.

We are not the first to have had reluctance to share our faith with strangers. The book of Jonah, one of the oldest books in the Bible, tells the familiar story of a reluctant evangelist. Rather than heeding God’s call to reach out to the strangers in Nineveh, Jonah fled in the other direction. Ironically, in his reluctance to be a “fisherman” for God, he became fish bait! Even after the great fish spewed Jonah back onto shore, even after Jonah went and converted the people of Nineveh, he still had no compassion for them.

I hope our problem is not a lack of compassion or a lack of desire. Maybe we truly want to be “fishers” for Jesus but need some specific direction for the task.

Perhaps the lessons my father taught me about actual fishing can be applied to spreading of Christianity: Foremost, fishing requires patience. As a child, I had little patience. If I failed to get a nibble immediately, I would pull my bait out of the water ...no fish....then I would cast to another spot. It had to be a quick fish to get on my hook!

The unconverted may have no experience of God’s love or may even have had a negative experience with religion. They may be highly resistant to an invitation to hear the gospel. Great patience is required to convey Christ’s love to a person whose only exposure to church were fire and brimstone sermons.

There is a right time to fish. There are certain times of the day when the tides and temperatures are conducive to fishing. Likewise, there are right and wrong times to evangelize...to try to hook someone on Jesus. Right now, is not always an appropriate time to talk about our faith with others. If we listen, people will give us hints about when the time is right. They may ask our advice about a problem or for our opinion about world events, after some discussion then if we feel the time is right..... we can then say, “You know, my belief in God gives me strength in facing that sort of thing.”

There is a right place to fish. You cannot catch fish in a baptismal font. You must leave the church building and go where the fish are. Jesus did.

He didn’t hide out in the synagogue. Jesus went into the streets and marketplace, into the villages and homes of the common people. Likewise, we must develop friendships with those who are not Christians. We must reach out to people in need wherever they are. Just as fishing requires the right lure, so does fishing for believers. My dad didn’t have a whole tackle box full of shiny colored lures. He was always quick to tell me that nothing beats the real thing: a worm. The world offers all kinds of glitzy lures, but they are often artificial. People are sometimes lured by money, success, and popularity, or by the pleasures of drugs and alcohol. Addiction to drugs is appropriately referred to as “being hooked.” It is easy to get hooked by attractive artificial lures. To show others what true faith iscan be as simple as being who you really are, and sharing your faith and inviting them to some and see.

Authentic faith is what the world is hungry for, and this is what we need to offer others. If you know God as a real and genuine power in your life, share that with others. In a world full of artificial, deceit and dishonesty, people respond to a sincere word about your experience with God.

Finally, serious fishermen mourn over the loss of a fish. They regret having one get away. But even if they come home without fish, the true fishermen are glad they tried. Moreover, they will try again. They will get one the next time.

People really do want to hear about salvation and hope, about life and love given through Jesus. We need not be timid with our valuable message. The most selfish thing in the world is to discover the joy and peace of God’s love and then refuse to share it with others. Not always will we be successful and catch someone, but if we make an effort, we will be glad that we tried and then we will try again.

Sharing the good news of God’s love means offering a word of hope, a word of forgiveness, a word of love, a gospel of grace to folk beyond our church walls. We must cast beyond the radius of our own boat. When Jesus called his disciples, they had to leave their jobs, and journey to new places. When God called Jonah, he had to reach out to strangers in Nineveh.

Today I ask you this.....Where is God calling you to cast your net?

HYMN: #562 Jesus Calls Us

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'
- 2 Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'
- 5 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore, looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones. You only ask me to follow humbly. ..[Jesus, You Have come to the Lakeshore]. The words from this lovely hymn paint pictures of hard-working people, going about their daily tasks when they are confronted by Jesus. This same Jesus, who long ago called to those first disciples, calls to us each today. Our "lakeshores" are different. They are the places where we work and where we live. Yet in this song, Jesus is coming for each one of us, just as we are and inviting us to follow him humbly. We have lifted the names of loved ones today in prayerful petition for God's healing love. We have uttered in our hearts names and situations that it would break our hearts to speak. And God hears all our cries and responds in love. This is one of the faithful works of the church; the work of prayer, asking for God's healing mercy and

blessings. As we have offered our prayers, let us also offer our lives, trusting in God's love and call to us, responding with confidence. For it is in Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER**HYMN: #560 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

- 1 O Master, let me walk with Thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me Thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.
- 4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only Thou canst give,
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

SENDING FORTH

Christ is calling us forth.

**We walk in the footsteps of the disciples
who went before us.**

Christ is calling us forth.

**We go with the blessings of God
who leads us into life.**

Go in peace and may God's peace go with you.

CHORAL AMEN**POSTLUDE**

Announcements

Tuesday, January 23rd: Coffee Time at 9:30am at Springvale. All are welcome!

Friday, January 26th: Coffee time at Hagersville at 10am.

Sunday, January 28th: Deadline to have your reports to the office for Annual Reports.

Tuesday, February 13th: 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 18th: Springvale Annual Meeting after 9:30am worship.

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

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

NEW WINTER SPORTS



ICE HATING



NO-MOBILING



SNOW SHOO-ING



CROSS-COUNTRY
FLEEING