

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 13th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Music has always been a sacred language. In the Bible, people sang to celebrate victories, to mourn losses, to cry out in lament, and to rejoice in God's presence. From David's Psalms to Paul's encouragement in Colossians 3, we are reminded that music shapes our faith and expresses what words sometimes can't. God speaks through melody and lyrics ... touching hearts, healing wounds, and reminding us we are not alone. Let the songs we sing today live in us through the week.

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, You have given us voices to sing and hearts to praise.
Receive these gifts as part of our joyful song to you.
May they be used to bring harmony and hope to others. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song!

People: For God has done marvelous things!

Leader: Let the music of our hearts rise like incense.

People: We come with songs of praise, stories of hope, and the rhythm of God's grace.

All: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

OPENING HYMN: #642 Be Thou My Vision

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and Singing God,
You created the world with rhythm and breath —with birdsong and thunder, heartbeat and breeze. You placed a song in every soul, and called us to lift our voices in joy and in sorrow, in praise and in prayer. As we gather today, may our worship rise like a hymn to Your glory. Let the words we sing and the silence between the notes draw us nearer to You. Tune our hearts, O God, to hear Your melody. Fill us with the Spirit's harmony. And let all that we are sing to You. In the name of Christ, the Song of our Souls, we pray. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

CHILDREN TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Let Every Heart Sing"

Leader: When words fail us,

People: Let every heart sing.

Leader: When joy overflows,

People: Let every heart sing.

Leader: In sorrow and silence,

People: Let every heart sing.

Leader: When we remember God's faithfulness,

People: Let every heart sing.

Leader: When we don't know the way forward,

People: Let every heart sing.

Leader: For songs that carry truth, for hymns that hold memory,
for music that brings healing.

People: We give You thanks, O God.

Leader: With voices young and old, strong and soft,
with every breath and every beat,

People: We will sing to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures
forever!

All: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN: #337 Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **R**

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. **R**

SELECTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... with
gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Psalms 95:1-2 (NIV)

*"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of
our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him
with music and song."*

Ephesians 5:19-20 (NIV)

*"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing
and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks..."*

Psalms 100:1-2 (KJV)

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with
gladness: come before his presence with singing."*

MESSAGE: "Songs of the Soul"

We all have moments in life when words don't quite say enough. Joy so
deep it can't be explained. Grief so heavy it can't be spoken. Hope so
fragile it trembles. And then, a song plays. A line of a hymn rises up in
our memory. A melody moves through the air. And suddenly... our soul
finds its voice.

God gave us the gift of music, not just for entertainment, but for
expression, healing, and praise. In Colossians, Paul encourages the early
church to let the message of Christ dwell in them richly, and to sing!
Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Music was never just a decoration
in worship. It was how people worshipped
Today we've sung hymns that didn't come from people who had it all
together, they came from people who leaned on God through it all.

“It Is Well with My Soul” wasn’t written in a happy time. Horatio Spafford lost his daughters at sea. But even in heartbreak, he found faith, not in pretending everything was fine, but in trusting that God held him still. *“When sorrows like sea billows roll... it is well with my soul.”* That’s not just a hymn. That’s a testimony. That’s soul-singing. Also, remember that Songs that shape us. Think for a moment, is there a song or hymn that always brings tears to your eyes? One that takes you back to your childhood? A funeral? A wedding? A mountaintop moment?

For some, it’s “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” For others, “Here I Am, Lord” or “Blessed Assurance.” These songs become part of us. They remind us who we are, and who God is.

When we can't pray, we can hum. When we can't explain what we're feeling, we can sing.

The Bible is one big, beautiful songbook.

- David wrote Psalms in caves, in palaces, in exile.
- Miriam danced and sang after crossing the Red Sea.
- Paul and Silas sang hymns in prison ... and the walls shook.
- Even Jesus, before going to the cross, sang a hymn with His disciples at the Last Supper. “When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives”. Mark 14:26.

Music was never just filler. It was faith.

Music has a way of sneaking past our defenses and straight into our hearts. God still speaks through a chorus, a refrain, a melody.

- Sometimes it's comfort.
- Sometimes it's courage.
- Sometimes it's a call.

“Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?”

“Take my life and let it be...”

“How great Thou art!”

These aren’t just lyrics. They are prayers.

I say to each of you Let Your Life Be a Song

Friends, we are each writing our own soul-song, through how we live, how we love, and how we trust. May we keep singing, not just in church, but in the car, in the kitchen, in the hospital room, on the trail, and at the bedside.

Let the song of God's love echo in your life this week. Let your soul sing ... even if it’s out of tune.

Because God hears the heart. And every note of trust is music to God.
Amen

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.

**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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us come before God in prayer, the One who hears our songs, our sighs, and our silent cries. Loving God, Thank You for the gift of music, for hymns that shape our faith, for songs that bring us peace, for melodies that stir our souls. We thank You for the voices that sing around us and within us. We pray for those today who cannot find their song, those grieving, weary, lonely, or afraid. May they hear the echo of Your love in our care. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer. We pray for those whose voices have been silenced, by oppression, by fear, by illness. May their spirits be lifted by Your truth and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer. We pray for our children and youth,
that their hearts may always be tuned to joy and wonder.

We pray for our elders, who carry the songs of faith through the
generations. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer. We pray for our world, for peace to reign,
for creation to be cherished, for kindness to rise louder than hatred.

Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer. We pray now for those who pray silently in
hearts for.....may they feel your healing hand and loving spirit
surrounding them. Now, with one voice and one hope, we join together
in the words Jesus taught us, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #495 It Is Well with My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll—

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

It is well with my soul;

It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin—oh, the joy of this glorious thought!—

My sin, not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul. **R**

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

The clouds be rolled back like a scroll.

The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;

Even so, it is well with my soul. **R**

SENDING FORTH

Go now with a song in your heart.

Let the music of your soul remind you that God is near.

May your life be a hymn of gratitude, courage, and love.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, July 22nd: Coffee time at 9:30am. All are welcome!

July 28th-August 1st: VBS at Springvale from 9am-12pm. Theme this
year is “Blast Off With Jesus”. Lots of fun to be had with games, crafts,
songs & snacks. To register please email info@hsupc.ca with your
child's information.

**Please bring in paper products for the Hagersville
Food Bank! ☺**