

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JULY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

.....

“Faith Through Sunglasses” Seeing the world with God’s eyes ...  
through perspective, compassion, and grace.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of vision and love,  
Bless these gifts and the hearts that offer them.  
May they help open eyes, lift burdens, and build a world shaped by  
grace. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Come, people of God, bring your hearts, your hopes, your  
doubts, and your dreams.

**People:** We come to worship the One who sees us fully and loves us  
completely.

**Leader:** Let us put on the lens of grace, that we might see one another  
as God sees us.

**People:** With eyes of faith, hearts of compassion, and spirits of  
understanding,

**All:** Let us worship God together!

**2**

**OPENING HYMN:** #621 (Hymns for the Family of God) Turn Your  
Eyes upon Jesus

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?  
No light in the darkness you see?  
There’s light for a look at the Savior,  
And life more abundant and free!

**Refrain:**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

2. Thro' death into life everlasting,  
He passed, and we follow Him there;  
O’er us sin no more hath dominion--  
For more than conqu’rors we are! **R**

3. His Word shall not fail you--He promised;  
Believe Him, and all will be well:  
Then go to a world that is dying,  
His perfect salvation to tell! **R**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, You see far beyond appearances — you see our hearts.  
As we gather today, open our eyes to your vision. Help us to look at the  
world with your compassion, To see others not with judgment, but with  
grace. Let this time of worship shape how we see, think, and act,  
So we may reflect your love wherever we go. Amen.

**CHILDREN’S TIME:** "What Do Your Glasses Show You?"

**CHILDREN’S VIDEO**

**LITANY:** “Faith Through Sunglasses”

**Leader:** When we put on our sunglasses, we shield our eyes from the  
harshness of the sun, But today, we ask for a different kind of lens.

**People:** God, help us see the world through Your eyes ... full of grace,  
truth, and compassion.

**Leader:** Too often, we judge by appearances, quick to assume, quick to turn away.

**People:** But You, O God, look deeper into hearts, into stories, into potential.

**Leader:** Through the lens of faith, may we see beauty where others see brokenness, Hope where others see despair, And promise where others see problems.

**People:** Give us vision, Lord, not just for what is, but for what could be through Your love.

**Leader:** When we look at others, at neighbors, strangers, even enemies ...let our eyes reflect Your mercy.

**People:** When we look in the mirror, let us see not failure, but that we are your beloved child.

**Leader:** Let us see with clarity ... not the faults, but the fruit; Not the scars, but the strength; Not the fear, but the faith.

**People:** With hearts wide open and God-colored glasses, we walk by faith, not by sight.

**All Together:** Lord, help us to live and to see with *Faith Through Sunglasses*. Amen.

### CHORUS: #215 "OPEN OUR EYES"

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. (2 X)

### SCRIPTURE READINGS:

#### 1 Samuel 16:1-7

**16** The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." <sup>2</sup> But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

<sup>5</sup> Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

### Matthew 7:1–5 Do Not Judge

**7** "Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. <sup>3</sup> And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

### REFLECTION: "Faith Through Sunglasses"

Let me begin with a question: What kind of sunglasses do you wear? Some of us wear oversized shades to look stylish. Some of us wear them to protect our eyes from glare.

And some of us, if we're honest, wear metaphorical "sunglasses" that affect how we see everything and everyone.

Today, I want to talk about how we see the world, and how God invites us to see differently.

Jesus' words in Matthew 7 hit hard:

*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."*

Then he gives us that powerful image:

*"Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own?"*

We've all done it haven't we, made snap judgments about someone based on how they look, speak, or act.

We make assumptions, build stories in our heads, and respond not with compassion, but with criticism.

And just like that .... the sunglasses of judgment, bias, or pride go on.

But Jesus is clear: before you worry about someone else's flaws, check your own lenses. What are you really seeing? and why?

In 1 Samuel 16, God sends the prophet Samuel to anoint the next king. Samuel sees a tall, strong young man and thinks, "*Surely this is the one.*" But God says no.

*"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

This verse should shake us in a good way.

God sees beneath the surface. God sees potential, pain, and purpose.

God sees the whole story.

And that's how we're called to see too.

In God eyes the lenses we choose everyday matter...

Think about the lenses we use every day:

- The lens of impatience, example- when someone is slow or frustrating
- The lens of comparison, example - when someone seems more successful or put together
- The lens of fear, example -. when someone is different from us
- The lens of past hurt, example - when we can't move beyond old wounds

These lenses distort our vision. They keep us from seeing others and ourselves the way God does.

But what if we chose to put on the lenses of faith, grace, and compassion?

So that is where the idea of wearing sunglasses in church today came from because it's playful and symbolic.

Let's call them "Faith Sunglasses" because they give us a different vision.

But it's more than just fun it's a reminder:

When we wear *faith sunglasses*,

- We look beyond appearances
- We assume the best instead of the worst
- We see people not for who they are now, but for who they are becoming
- We give others the benefit of the doubt, because God does the same for us.

Think of a time when you judged someone, only to learn their story and feel your heart change.

Maybe it was a grumpy neighbor, a struggling parent, a teenager acting out, or a stranger on the street.

Suddenly, your "vision" shifted, and you saw a child of God instead of a problem.

That's the power of seeing with God's eyes.

It doesn't just change how we treat others ... it changes us.

So, let me ask again:

What are you wearing on your eyes today?

Faith calls us to take off the lenses of judgment...

... and put on the lenses of love.

To remove the plank from our own eye

... and look at the world the way Jesus did, with mercy, patience, and a hope-filled heart.

To end today, I would like to challenge you this week...

Whenever you put on your sunglasses, or even your regular glasses, ask yourself:

*"Am I seeing with love right now?"*

*"Am I judging the outside or looking for the heart?"*

And when it gets hard and it will, because that is life ...

Remember how God sees all of us .... Flawed, beloved, growing, forgiven, and full of possibility.

Let's go see the world through Our "Faith Sunglasses" and see how we see it! Amen.

### HYMN: #371 Open My Eyes that I May See

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee,  
ready my God, Thy will to see,  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,  
ready my God, Thy will to see,  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear,  
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
Love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
Ready my God, Thy will to see,  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Response:** *“God of grace, help us see as You see.”*

Loving God, We come before you, humbled by the reminder that we do not always see clearly. Help us remove the lenses of judgment, impatience, and pride.

**God of grace, help us see as You see.**

We pray for those who are misunderstood or overlooked —  
For those struggling silently, for those judged unfairly.

**God of grace, help us see as You see.**

We lift up those in leadership — in our country, our churches, our schools — Give them vision and wisdom to lead with compassion and courage.

**God of grace, help us see as You see.**

For our families and friends — May we see one another with fresh eyes, noticing the beauty, the hurt, and the potential within.

**God of grace, help us see as You see.**

We pray for those on our hearts today... (silence or spoken names)  
Surround them with healing, hope, and peace.

**God of grace, help us see as You see.**

In the name of Jesus — the one who truly saw each person he met — we pray. Amen.

### LORD’S PRAYER

### CLOSING HYMN: #376 Spirit of the Living God

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

### SENDING FORTH

Go now, wearing the lenses of grace and hope.  
See the world not as it is, but as God dreams it can be.  
Let love be your vision, compassion your guide, and faith your focus.  
Amen .... and don’t forget your sunglasses!

### CHORAL AMEN

### POSTLUDE

.....

## Announcements

**Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Coffee time at 9:30am. All are welcome!

**July 28<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>:** 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](mailto:info@hsupc.ca) with your child’s information.

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