

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 27th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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“Blast Off with Jesus”

As we explore God's wonder-filled creation of stars, planets, galaxies
and that Jesus as the Light of the World guiding our journey in life on
this planet we call Earth.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Look up at the stars, each one placed by God.

People: We come to worship the Creator of the heavens!

Leader: The galaxies swirl, the moon glows, the planets spin.

People: God's power and beauty are everywhere!

Leader: Let us blast off with Jesus, our light, our guide, our Savior!

HYMN: #585 Jesus Bids Us Shine

- 1 Jesus bids us shine with pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world is darkness, so let us shine.
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

OPENING PRAYER

God of galaxies and fireflies,
You stretch out the heavens and fill them with stars.
You shaped our world and placed us in it with care and purpose.
Today we come, young and old, curious and hopeful,
Ready to blast off into faith with Jesus as our guide.
Shine your light upon us, stir our wonder,
And help us live with awe and trust in You.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY

Leader: God of stars and planets

People: We praise You for Your amazing creation!

Leader: God of moonlight and meteor showers

People: We thank You for beauty and mystery.

Leader: God of galaxies and gravity

People: You hold everything together, including us.

Leader: God of Jesus Christ, our Light

All: Shine in our hearts and lead us in love!

VIDEO CHORUS: Shine, Jesus, Shine

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:14–19 The fourth day of creation

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Psalm 8:1–4 ¹ LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory
in the heavens.

² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?^[e]

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

MESSAGE: “Out of This World Wonder”

When was the last time you were completely in awe?

Not just impressed, but stopped in your tracks, mouth open, heart
pounding awe?

Maybe you saw the northern lights ripple across the sky, or looked
through a telescope and saw the rings of Saturn, or stood on a dark
country road at night and saw thousands of stars. Stars that have been
shining for millions of years.

It’s in those moments that we often whisper things like,
“Wow.”

“Who am I in all of this?”

And maybe, “God... are You really there?”

From the very beginning of time, God has been igniting wonder in the
universe.

“And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the sky...’ And it was so.”
(Genesis 1)

God created the sun to warm the day, the moon to light the night, and
millions of stars to sparkle across the sky like glitter flung by a joyful
Artist.

Wonder wasn’t an afterthought. It was part of the plan.

Think about it in this way

God knew we would need it.

That we’d need things to stop us in our tracks,

To remind us how big God is,

And how deeply loved we are, even in our smallness.

In Psalm 8, the writer says: “When I look at your heavens, the moon
and the stars... what are human beings that You are mindful of them?”

That’s not just poetry. That’s a deep human question:

Do I really matter in a universe this big?

- Scientists estimate there are 100 billion galaxies in the universe.
- Our sun is one of 100 billion stars in the Milky Way alone.
- And yet, God knows *you*. Your name.
Your story. Your hopes and fears.

Out of this world wonder doesn’t make us feel small, it makes us feel
loved.

Because the same God who made the galaxies chose to be close.

And that brings us to Jesus.

In John 8:12, Jesus says:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness.”

That’s cosmic language. Jesus doesn’t say, “I’m the light of your
neighborhood” or “the light of your generation.”

Jesus says, “I am the light of the world.”

Just as God placed the sun and stars to light the skies, Jesus is the One
who lights up our lives.

He gives us direction when we’re lost,

Hope when we feel small,

Love when we feel forgotten.

To live in wonder is not just to gaze up at the stars...

It’s to follow the Light that leads us home.

This coming week in VBS, the children will be exploring stars and
planets, astronauts and rocket ships ... and they’ve also been discovering
Jesus.

They will be learning that:

- God made the entire universe and made them, too.
- That you can’t go too far for God’s love to reach you.
- That Jesus is like a bright, guiding star in life’s darkest sky.

Children live with wonder. They ask questions we forget to ask:

- “Why aren’t stars different colors?”

- “Where does God live?”
- “Can God hear me if I whisper?”

We need that wonder back. Because wonder fuels faith.

It reminds us that God isn’t just something we study ... think of it this way ... God is Someone we experience.

This week for all of us and the children, I want them to hear that ...to *blast off* with Jesus means to go on a journey:

A journey of discovery. Of trust. Of wonder.

It doesn’t mean you’ll have all the answers, but it means you’ll walk with the One who holds the universe in His hands.

And few things that I will be reminding the Children of

- You are part of a story that began with “Let there be light.”
- You are not an accident. You are a child of the Creator.
- You are invited to live a life of wonder, curiosity, and purpose.

So, on a clear quiet night this summer ... look up. Be amazed.

And let the Light of the World lead you.

Because the same God who made the stars... made you to shine, too.

Let us live with out-of-this-world wonder.

Let us follow Jesus, the Light of the world.

Let us blast off ... not only into space, but into a life filled with awe, trust, and joy.

Let us pray:

Creator God,

You set the stars in place and gave light to the universe.

And yet you know each of us by name.

Thank You for this amazing world,

For the wonder of space and the gift of Jesus, our Light.

Help us to follow where He leads,

To shine His love brightly,

And to walk in the joy of being part of Your creation.

In Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen.

HYMN: 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 anyone blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine.

Don’t let anyone blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine.

Don’t let anyone blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4 Let it shine in my hometown, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine in my hometown, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine in my hometown, I’m gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

5 See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces shine.

See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces shine.

See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of wonders,

We come before You with hearts full of awe and gratitude. When we look up at the stars, feel the warmth of the sun, or listen to the wind whisper through the trees, we are reminded of Your majesty and the beauty of all You have made. You are the Creator of galaxies and fireflies, oceans and oak trees—and You call us by name.

Thank You for the gift of curiosity, especially in the hearts of children. Their wide-eyed questions and boundless imaginations remind us to keep looking, asking, exploring, and trusting. May we learn from their sense of wonder and join them in discovering Your fingerprints all around us.

We thank You for this amazing creation that You’ve entrusted to our care—the skies above, the earth beneath our feet, the animals, the plants, and every living thing. Help us to love this world as You love it, to protect it with gentle hands and open hearts.

We place our trust in Jesus—our teacher, our Savior, our friend. When the world feels too big, too confusing, or too broken, remind us that we

are not alone. Jesus walks with us, lighting the path with love, guiding us with peace, and holding us close with grace.

Guide us through this great universe, Lord, with Jesus as our Light, our hope, and our forever friend. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #87 I Am the Light of the World verses 2,3 &4

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**
- 3 O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **R**
- 4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. **R**

SENDING FORTH

Leader: As you leave this space,
Look to the stars and remember ...God made them and made you.
Follow the Light of Jesus into the world with joy, wonder, and love.
All: We're blasting off with Jesus!

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Announcements

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.

Tuesday, August 5th: Coffee time at 9:30am. All are welcome!

August 10th: Decoration Day Service at Springvale Greenwood Cemetery at 3pm. Special music provided by Chad & Emilia Smith. In case of rain, we will meet at Springvale United Church. All donations welcome, made payable to "Springvale Greenwood Cemetery" to support lawn upkeep. Please bring lawn chairs.

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

