

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 28th, 2024**

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Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

St. Paul's Oakville

“Celebrating V.B.S. Jesus is the Sheriff of Our Town”

COWBOY OFFERING PRAYER

Dear Lord, as we gather here today, we come before You with grateful hearts, much like cowboys returning home after a long day's ride. We thank You for the bounty of blessings You have bestowed upon us—the land we work, the animals we care for, and the community we cherish.

Today, we offer up to You the fruits of our labour. Just as a cowboy gives his best effort to tend the herd and cultivate the land, we bring our gifts to You with open hearts and willing hands. May these offerings be used to further Your kingdom, bringing hope and help to those in need. Let our giving reflect the honesty, integrity, and generosity that define the cowboy way of life. Bless these gifts, Lord, and bless those who give. May our offerings be like seeds sown in fertile soil, growing and multiplying to bring forth a harvest of good works in Your name. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and our Trail Boss. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Howdy, folks! As the sun rises over the plains and the hills echo with the call of the wild, we gather here, like cowboys on the open range, ready to lift our hearts and voices to the Lord.

Congregation: Yeehaw! We come together to praise and worship!

Leader: Just as the cowboy trusts his horse and rides through rugged terrain, we trust in God, who guides us through life's challenges. Let's saddle up our faith and ride strong in His love.

Congregation: We trust in the Lord, our guide and protector!

Leader: As the cowboy finds peace under the vast, starry sky, so we find peace in the presence of our Creator. Let's open our hearts wide, like the open prairie, to receive His grace and mercy.

Congregation: We open our hearts to you, Lord!

Leader: The trail may be tough and the journey long, but with God as our trail boss, we know we'll make it home. Let's spur each other on to love and good deeds, and ride together in faith.

Congregation: With God as our trail boss, we ride together in faith!

Leader: So, let's give a hearty shout to the Lord, the One who made the mountains, the valleys, and the open range. Let's worship with all we've got, like a cowboy rides with all his heart.

Congregation: Yeehaw! Praise the Lord!

Hymn: #337 "Blessed Assurance" - A hymn of confidence and trust in God's promises, echoing the cowboy's need for assurance and guidance on the trail.

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
 - o **Refrain:**
**This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior 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 Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. **R**

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God ... it has been a fun filled week here a Vacation Bible School. There have been demands and pressures also this past week. We come celebrating the children and youth that we shared our week with. We come, O Lord, seeking rest and renewal. We come thanking you for all the gifts that you have given us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S TIME**CHILDREN'S SONG****LITANY OF THE RESPECTFUL COWBOY**

Leader: Lord, as we gather in Your presence, we remember the life of the cowboy, a life of honor, respect, and steadfast faith. We ask You to guide us in embodying these virtues.

Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the cowboy's respect for the land, who tends it with care and leaves it better than he found it, we pray.

Congregation: Help us to be stewards of Your creation, respecting and caring for the earth You have given us.

Leader: For the cowboy's respect for his horse, a faithful companion on the trail, we pray.

Congregation: Teach us to treat all of Your creatures with kindness and compassion.

Leader: For the cowboy's respect for his fellow cowhands, working together through thick and thin, we pray.

Congregation: Help us to honor and support one another, building a community of trust and friendship.

Leader: For the cowboy's respect for the open range, embracing the freedom and challenges it brings, we pray.

Congregation: Grant us the courage to face life's challenges with faith, knowing You are our constant guide.

Leader: For the cowboy's respect for the Code of the West, living by principles of honesty, integrity, and fairness, we pray.

Congregation: Lead us to live with integrity, always seeking to do what is right in Your eyes.

Leader: For the cowboy's respect for the end of the day, giving thanks for the day's work and resting under Your stars, we pray.

Congregation: Teach us to be grateful for Your blessings and to find rest and peace in Your presence.

Leader: Lord, may we ride through life with the heart of a cowboy, respecting You, Your creation, and all people we meet along the way.

Congregation: Amen.

VBS SONG**REFLECTION ON BIBLE SCHOOL**

HYMN: #266 "Amazing Grace" - A timeless hymn that resonates with many, including cowboys, who understand the need for grace and redemption in their rugged lives.

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE- COWBOY'S PRAYER

Lord, I reckon I'm not much by myself;
I fail to do a lot of things I ought to do.

But, Lord, when trails are steep and passes high,
 Help me to ride it straight the whole way through.
 And in the falling dusk, when I get weary,
 And I feel that I'm all alone,
 Just knowing you're with me keeps me going,
 For I know that I'm never alone.
 Thank you, Lord, for the sunshine and rain,
 And for the horses that I ride.
 For the strength and skill to work the land,
 And for the friends who ride by my side.
 When my time on earth is over,
 And my final trail is run,
 May I be found upright and honest,
 A cowboy through and through, under the setting sun.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" - This hymn speaks to the cowboy's reliance on God's strength and guidance, much like a cowboy leans on his horse and fellow cowhands.

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
 O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. **[Refrain]**

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. **[Refrain]**

COWBOY BLESSING

May the trail rise up to meet you, and may the wind always be at your back. As you ride out into the wide-open spaces of your life, may you carry the spirit of the cowboy with you—strong, faithful, and true. May your heart be as vast as the prairie, filled with the love and grace of our Lord. May your days be full of honest work and good companionship, and may you always find shelter under the stars of His mercy.
 May God bless you with the courage to face every challenge, the wisdom to know the right path, and the strength to ride it well. And until we meet again, may the Good Lord hold you in the palm of His hand. Go in peace, ride with faith, and let your life be a testament to the love and grace of God.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, July 30th: Coffee time at Springvale at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, August 25th: Summer's End Potluck at Hagersville following the service. Please bring a salad or dessert. Hotdogs will be provided.