

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 6th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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What is doing our best in God's eyes?

It's not about perfection or achievement, it's about faithfulness.
Doing our best in God's eyes means showing up with a willing heart,
offering love even when it's hard, and trusting God even when we feel
unsure. It's in the quiet acts of kindness, the gentle patience we extend,
and the courage to keep going, even when the road is steep.

God doesn't measure us by success but by sincerity.

In God's eyes, our best is simply giving what we can,
with love, honesty, and hope.

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, we offer these gifts, not out of abundance, but out of gratitude.
May they bless those in need, strengthen this community, and share your
hope with the world. Bless our best, O God. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are tired and worn out.

Come, all who feel the weight of the world.

Come, all who whisper, "Lord, I'm doing the best that I can."

People: We come with open hearts and honest prayers.

We come to rest, to reflect, and to be renewed.

We come, trusting that God meets us where we are.

2

OPENING HYMN: #508 Just As I Am

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, Sometimes life is heavy. We carry worries,
responsibilities, griefs, and doubts. And yet, we keep going.
We show up, even with shaky faith. We serve, even with tired hands.
We love, even with hurting hearts. Lord, we offer you our best, not
perfection, but our effort, our hope, and our faith. Bless this time of
worship. Remind us that you see us, you love us, and you are with us.
Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord, we come to you, not as perfect people, but as people in process.

People: We confess that sometimes, our best doesn't feel like enough.

Leader: When we lose patience,

People: Lord, we're doing the best that we can.

Leader: When we feel overwhelmed by the demands of life,

People: Lord, we're doing the best that we can.

Leader: When our faith feels thin and our strength feels small,

People: Lord, we're doing the best that we can.

Leader: And still, we believe you are with us.

People: Thank you, God, for grace that meets us in our messiness and loves us anyway. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved, hear the Good News: God does not ask for perfection—God asks for your heart. You are seen. You are known. You are deeply loved. In Christ, we are forgiven, strengthened, and renewed. Thanks be to God.

*CHORUS: #113 "IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE"

In moments like these, I sing out a song,

I sing out a love song to Jesus.

In moments like these, I lift up my hands,

I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing, I love You, Lord. Singing I love You, Lord.

Singing I love You, Lord, I love You.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Luke 22:39-44

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.^[a]

MESSAGE: "Lord, I Am Doing the Best That I Can"

Let's just say it out loud: life is hard sometimes.

We get tired. We try to keep up with everything, family, work, health, relationships, finances, responsibilities, worries, headlines, and we're left thinking, "*Lord, I'm doing the best that I can.*"

It's not always eloquent or poetic. It's not always triumphant or victorious. But it is deeply honest. And I believe that's the kind of prayer God hears most clearly.

We Are a Tired People:

Look around at our society today, burnout, anxiety, stress, exhaustion, loneliness. We are bombarded with messages to "do more, be more, achieve more," and if you can't keep up? Well, there's often shame attached to that.

People are parenting while exhausted. Working multiple jobs. Struggling with health. Holding families together. Caring for aging parents. Wrestling with depression. Trying to live with grief. Trying to pay bills. Trying to stay hopeful. Trying to be faithful.

And so often, we whisper the only prayer we can:

"Lord, I am doing the best that I can."

It may not be polished. It may not be perfect. But it is *real*. And God *honours* that kind of honesty.

I want to share with you that even Jesus Struggled....

It's easy to imagine that Jesus always had it all together. But Scripture tells us something even more powerful, Jesus struggled too.

We see it clearly in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He was weary. He was in agony. He sweat drops of blood. He cried out to God:

"If there's another way, please... but not my will, yours be done."

Jesus, a man of faith, of purpose, of divine connection, still had moments of anguish. He knew the crushing weight of expectation. He knew what it was to be overwhelmed.

And yet, he still trusted. He still loved. He still gave what he could, even when the cost was great.

You know that God does know when we are doing what we can. There is such grace in these words from 2 Corinthians 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

In our culture, weakness is something to hide. But in God's kingdom, weakness is holy ground. It's where God meets us, not in our pretending, but in our *authenticity*.

When we say, "Lord, I am doing the best that I can," we are not making excuses. We are telling the truth. And God honors truth.

You don't have to fake being okay.

You don't have to keep it all together.

You don't have to run faster or shine brighter.

God loves the real you, even when your tired, stumbling, or feel like your losing faith. Jesus invites us.... *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

(Matthew 11:28)

Jesus didn't say:

- Come to me when you have it figured out.
- Come to me when your house is clean and your smile is polished.
- Come to me when your to-do list is done.

No. He said: *Come as you are*.

With your tired body. Your anxious thoughts. Your imperfect faith.

Your heavy heart.

Jesus doesn't expect us to carry the world on our shoulders.

He simply says, "Come. Rest. Let me carry you for a while."

Therefore, remember this ... If you're showing up, at home, at work, in worship, in prayer

If you're loving people the best you can

If you're putting one foot in front of the other ... Then you doing the best that you can.

Your best, whatever it looks like today, is holy in God's sight.

I leave you today with this image...

Imagine a child handing a crayon drawing to a parent. It's crooked. It's messy. The colors are outside the lines. But the parent doesn't critique it, they treasure it.

Why? Because it came from love. It came from effort. And it came from the heart.

That's what your life, your faith, your prayers are like to God.

Not perfect, but precious. Not polished, but deeply beloved.

So, let's be gentle with ourselves.

Let's be gracious with each other.

And let's trust that when we say, "Lord, I am doing the best that I can," God says back, "I know. And I'm right here with you." Amen.

HYMN: #87 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (Hymns of the Family of God)

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

CHORUS - Leaning, leaning

Safe and secure from all harms

Leaning, leaning

Leaning on the everlasting arms

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way

Leaning on the everlasting arms

Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day

Leaning on the everlasting arms **CHORUS**

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 **CHORUS**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Pause after each petition for reflection)

Loving God,

We lift before you all who are tired, discouraged, or stretched thin.

We pray for those silently whispering, "I can't do this anymore."

Bring comfort, strength, and a reminder that they are not alone.

We pray for our church—those present and those absent today.

May we be a community of grace for one another.

We pray for our world—for leaders who carry heavy responsibilities, for the vulnerable, for the sick, and for those who mourn.

We pray for those we name in our hearts now... *(pause)*

Wrap them in your love, and remind them they are enough.

And we pray for ourselves, God. When we're weary, lift us up.

When we're afraid, calm us.

When we're doing our best, remind us—you see it, and you are proud.

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus, who walks with us every step. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #664 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?

Jesus' strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage
there.

SENDING FORTH

Go now, not with the pressure to be perfect,

but with the peace that you are loved just as you are.

Go, knowing that your best is enough,

because God's grace fills in every gap.

Go in peace, go with courage, and go with God.

Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, July 8th: 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! 😊**