

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 1st, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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Celebration of 100 Years of the United Church

On June 10th, 1925, the inaugural service of the United Church of Canada was held. Today, we join with others across the church to give thanks, mark and witness to the church that we are and the church that we are becoming by the grace of the Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
From prairie settlements to busy city streets,
from quiet rural churches to bold justice marches,
you have used our gifts to do your work.
Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude and our hope.
Bless them and us, as we follow your call into tomorrow. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in gratitude for 100 years of ministry—a church born from vision, sustained by Spirit, shaped by challenge, and sent in hope.

People: We give thanks for the people who dreamed, who served, who dared. We remember those who walked before us, and we welcome those who walk with us now.

Leader: In joy and reverence, let us worship the God who has called, equipped, and transformed us for a century—and still does.

All: Thanks be to God!

INTROIT: #315 Holy, Holy, Holy (verse 1)

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

OPENING PRAYER

(As based on the original Opening Prayer of the Inaugural worship service of The United Church of Canada)

Gracious God, on Pentecost, you gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to an expectant and united church. And by your Spirit, you bring us to this time and place to lift our hearts, minds, and bodies to worship you. Grant us the hope of the same Spirit in our life and worship. Help us to expect great things from you, and attempt great things for you! We are diverse in many ways, but our hearts are one in you. May we show the world the love we experience in Jesus, and the power we find in the Spirit as we seek to honour your dream. To your glory be our worship and witness. Amen

ANTHEM: Hymn Of Promise by Natalie Sleeth

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Adapted from A Song of Faith, United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

HYMN: #651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah verses 1&2

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 feed me till I want no more,
 feed me till I want no more.

- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
 whence the healing stream doth flow;
 let the fire and cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield,
 be thou still my strength and shield.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:15-19

- ¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One,
 Israel's Creator, your King."
¹⁶ This is what the LORD says—
 he who made a way through the sea,
 a path through the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
 the army and reinforcements together,
 and they lay there, never to rise again,
 extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
¹⁸ "Forget the former things;
 do not dwell on the past.
¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
 Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
 I am making a way in the wilderness
 and streams in the wasteland.

John 15:1-5

The Vine and the Branches

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

MESSAGE: "Rooted in Faith, Renewed by Spirit"

Introduction

One hundred years ago, a bold vision took root in this land: a union of faith communities. Methodist, Congregationalist, and the Presbyterian churches, who believed they could serve Christ better together than apart. It was a radical act of unity, a declaration of hope that in a divided world, the church could be a sign of healing and wholeness. And so, on June 10, 1925, the United Church of Canada was born.

Today, we gather not just to remember that moment, but to reflect on the movement it sparked, a century of ministry, service, justice, and transformation. One hundred years of worship and witness, challenge and change. And we gather to ask: where has God been in these hundred years? And where is God calling us next?

"Do Not Dwell on the Former Things" (Isaiah 43:18–19)

The prophet Isaiah speaks to a people weary from exile, yearning for the past, but God has a word for them and for us: "*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing...*"

This is not a call to forget our history. In fact, today we honour it. We honour the courageous decision to unite. We honour those who preached, prayed, organized potlucks, marched for justice, held hands at hospital bedsides, taught Sunday school, and sang hymns that nourished our spirits. We honour the indigenous elders and leaders who have both challenged and embraced the church, calling us toward deeper reconciliation and right relationship. We honour the members and ministers who called us to be a church of inclusion and affirmation. But the prophet Isaiah reminds us: God is not only the God of our past ... God is the God of our future.

Yes, we are shaped by memory, but we are led by motion.

The same Holy Spirit that stirred hearts and united churches in 1925 is not finished yet. That Spirit is still at work, disrupting where we are comfortable, calling us beyond what is familiar, and opening doors to ministries we never imagined.

God is always doing a new thing, breathing life into dry bones, bringing together communities across boundaries, and awakening us to new ways of being the Church.

This is the same Spirit poured out at Pentecost, the same Spirit that birthed the early Church in a rush of wind and fire, gathering people of different languages, cultures, and places into one body of Christ. So too today, that same Spirit is calling the United Church to keep evolving, keep listening, keep moving toward justice, healing, and hope. **“I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches”**

Jesus' words in John 15 remind us what has sustained us for these 100 years. We are not here because we've always gotten it right. We are here because we have remained, however imperfectly, connected to Christ, the true vine. Our strength does not come from our size, our structures, or even our history. It comes from our abiding relationship with Jesus. And just like a vine grows and branches change with the seasons, so too has the church changed. Some branches have been pruned. New growth has come in unexpected places. But our life ... our hope ... remains in Christ.

This rootedness is what has empowered us to bear fruit:

- Fruit in our public witness for justice.
- Fruit in ministries of care and compassion.
- Fruit in rural churches and urban congregations, in youth gatherings and refugee sponsorships.
- Fruit in hard conversations, apologies, and the slow, faithful work of reconciliation.

As we step into the next 100 years, we do so in a time of great change. Fewer people are in our pews. Church buildings are aging. Culture is shifting rapidly. But none of this means the church is dying. It means the church is being invited, again to trust in resurrection.

This is not the first time the United Church has had to adapt. We have wrestled with questions of who belongs, how we worship, how we lead. We have faced decline, conflict, and renewal. And through it all, God has remained faithful.

This anniversary is not a finish line. It's a milestone on a continuing journey. A time to recommit to the call of Christ in our day.

So, what does God require of us now?

To walk humbly, knowing that our story is part of a greater story.

To act justly, following Christ's radical call to stand with the vulnerable.

To love mercy, offering grace to one another and to ourselves.

To abide in the vine, and bear fruit that will last.

May the next 100 years be shaped by courage, creativity, compassion, and deep, abiding faith. The church may not look the same, but the Spirit remains. And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom, and hope, and life.

Thanks be to God for the first 100 years.

Thanks be to God for the years still to come. Amen.

HYMN: #459 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face Verses 1,2&3

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 here would I touch and handle things unseen,
 here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
 and all my weariness upon you lean.
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
 here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
 here would I lay aside each earthly load,
 here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
- 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
 this is the heavenly table for me spread;
 here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
 the fellowship of living wine and bread.

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: This table is not ours. It is not the table of this congregation, or even this denomination. This is the table of Jesus Christ. And it is Christ who invites all who seek to love and follow him, who hunger for hope and thirst for justice, who long for renewal and healing.

Here we remember our roots— in the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational traditions— and in the far deeper root of our faith: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

Come, not because you must, but because you may.

Come, not because you are perfect, but because you are loved.

Come and be nourished for the journey still unfolding.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: May God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy One, you have walked with us through a hundred years: in gathering and scattering, in witness and in waiting, in the breaking of bread and the building of communities. You spoke light into darkness, love into fear, life into the tomb. Through prophets and poets, preachers and peacemakers, you have called your people into covenant and mission. And when we have failed, you have never given up on us. We praise you for Jesus, your Word made flesh, our companion on the way. He taught and healed, welcomed the stranger, challenged injustice, and embodied your grace. He was crucified, but you raised him to life. And still he offers us peace. And so, with all your people past and present—with choirs of saints and clouds of witnesses—we lift our voices in praise:

All: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: On the night before he gave himself up, Jesus gathered with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, saying: *“This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat in remembrance of me.”*

In the same way, he took the cup, saying: *“This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, remember me.”* So now, remembering his life, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Come and bless this bread and this cup—simple gifts, signs of your extravagant grace. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that we, nourished and renewed, may become Christ’s body in the world. Root us again in your love, that we may bear

fruit in justice, mercy, and joy. Unite us with all who share this feast—across generations and geography, across differences and denominations, until every table is one, and every child of God is fed. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER: Sung #960 at the back of the Hymn book

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Leader: The bread of life—for all who hunger.

The cup of blessing—for all who thirst.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Shared in Unison)

God of abundance and grace, we give you thanks for this holy meal—a table where your love has been poured out for generations, where tears and laughter, bread and hope, have been shared by your people across a century. We remember with gratitude the countless souls who have gathered at this table before us, pioneers of faith, builders of churches, seekers of justice, children and elders, saints and strangers, all united in your love. We give thanks for the stories that ground us, for the Spirit that renews us, and for the faith that has carried your Church through challenge and change, through wilderness and wonder. As we rise from this table of remembrance and renewal, send us out with hearts stirred and hands ready, to speak love, seek justice, and walk humbly with you. Make us, in this next century of the United Church, your living witnesses, rooted in Christ, nourished by community, and bearing fruit in a world still hungry for grace. In the name of Christ, our Companion at the table, our Hope on the journey, our Joy forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #481 Sent Forth by God’s Blessings

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

- 2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go out rejoicing, rooted in a rich and courageous past, renewed by the Spirit's wind blowing fresh upon us, and ready to walk the road ahead...with love in our hearts, justice in our hands, and Christ at the center.

People: Because our story is not just one of where we've been, it's a story of where God is still leading us.

Leader: Go in peace, go with purpose. Go as the church united in hope.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Tuesday, June 10th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Wednesday, June 18th: Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

Friday, June 20th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the afternoon.

Tuesday, June 24th: Annual Strawberry Supper at Springvale from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are limited and this is a takeout only event. To reserve your ticket please call 905-768-3910 or 905-537-4188.

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.

