

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd, 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

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Today is the First Day of Summer
Did Jesus Take Holidays?

*“This summer, whether you find yourself on a beach, in the garden, or
just sitting on your porch with a cold drink ... remember: Jesus
understands the need for rest. It’s not just okay to pause ... it’s holy.”*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of generosity,
As sunflowers turn toward the light, may we turn toward your love.
Receive these gifts—our offerings of gratitude and service—
and use them to bring light, rest, and joy to your world.
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are weary, worn out, and sun-soaked from life’s busyness.

People: We come to be refreshed in God’s presence.

Leader: Summer is a time to pause, to breathe, to play, and to rest.

People: Even Jesus took time away. Let us learn from him.

Leader: Let this hour be a holy pause, a sacred retreat.

People: We open our hearts to joy, laughter, renewal, and the Spirit’s quiet whisper.

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OPENING HYMN: #374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we’re shrinking,
Finding scope for faith begun.
- 3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other’s pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there’s a place for deepest dreaming,
there’s a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit’s lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, In this season of sunshine and vacations, may our hearts find rest in you. Teach us the holy rhythm of work and play, of doing and being, as Jesus himself modeled when he stepped away to pray, walked by the sea, shared a meal, or watched the lilies grow. Let today be a gentle reminder that rest is sacred, and joy is holy. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN’S TIME: “Jesus’ Summer Survival Kit”

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: “God of Sun and Shade”

Leader: In the warmth of summer, when the sun shines and the days stretch long

People: We give thanks to God for sandals and sunscreen, for lemonade and laughter.

Leader: For campfires at night, cool dips in the lake, and naps in the hammock

People: We praise the One who gives us rest and renewal.

Leader: For the beauty of God’s creation, the hum of bees, the rustle of trees, the stars on clear summer nights

People: We celebrate the Artist who paints the skies and waters with joy.

Leader: And when the heat gets to us, when the weeds keep growing, and the bugs won’t quit—

People: We still give thanks—for shady trees, bug spray, and a good sense of humor.

Leader: Even Jesus took time away—to pray, to walk, to be still.

People: So let us also make space to pause, to breathe, to be.

Leader: This season, may we find Sabbath in sandcastles, peace in porch swings, and joy in melted ice cream.

People: Thanks be to God for summer blessings, holy rest, and the chance to slow down.

All together: Amen!

CHORUS: #41 In His Time

In His time, in His time,
He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord, please show me ev’ry day,
As You’re teaching me Your way,
That You do just what You say, in Your time.

In Your time, in Your time,
You make all things beautiful in Your time.
Lord, my life to You I bring,
May each song I have to sing
Be to You a lovely thing, in Your time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 6:30-32

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

³² So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

Matthew 14:13 – Jesus withdrew to a deserted place after hearing hard news.

Luke 5:16 – Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

MESSAGE: “Did Jesus Take Vacations?”

Summer is here. I heard that different times this week when the temperatures were hitting the high 20’s....yes today is the first day of summer!!

The kids are almost out of school, soon the roads are full of RVs and campers and well it’s vacation season. A time for hammocks, flip-flops, lakeside sunsets, and maybe, for the lucky among us, a few days away from emails, responsibilities, and cooking dinner.

Which leads us to the question I want us to think about today: Did Jesus take vacations?

It may sound a little silly at first. We don’t often imagine Jesus in sandals with a beach towel over his shoulder, sipping lemonade under a palm tree. But the deeper question is worth asking:

Did Jesus take time to rest? And if he did ... what does that mean for us?

Jesus Needed Rest too, our scriptures this morning paint a clear picture:

- In **Mark 6**, after the disciples returned from a busy mission, Jesus said: “*Come away to a quiet place and rest awhile.*”
- In **Matthew 14**, Jesus withdrew after hearing the heartbreaking news of John the Baptist’s death.
- And in **Luke 5**, we read that “*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*”

In other words, yes Jesus took time away.

Now, he may not have booked a resort or flown south for the winter, but he did intentionally step back. He paused, he rested, he breathed, and he reconnected with God.

Even the Son of God needed space to recharge. That’s powerful.

In today's society, we often treat rest as a reward, something you earn after a long stretch of productivity. But in the life of Jesus, rest wasn't a luxury. It was a rhythm. A holy rhythm.

Jesus didn't wait until everything was perfect to pull away. He often stepped aside when the crowds were still needy, when the disciples still had questions, when there was still more work to be done.

He knew what we so often forget: we need to rest and recharge.

You don't have to finish everything before you take a break.

God is still God, even when you're napping.

In fact, the very first thing God did after creating the world was rest.

The seventh day, Sabbath...is not a suggestion. It's part of the divine rhythm.

I love that many of Jesus' most meaningful moments happen in slow, restful settings.

He walked by the water. He climbed a hill. He sat at tables. He told stories. He went boating ... granted, the disciples probably hoped it was more of a cruise and less of a storm survival situation.

Even his miracles weren't rushed. Jesus moved at the pace of love.

Not hustle. Not pressure. Love.

So, What About Us?

If Jesus needed rest, if he took time to retreat, refresh, and renew, then surely, we can too.

Summer invites us into a slower pace.

To open the windows. To listen to birdsong. To taste a ripe tomato.

To laugh with our kids or grandkids. To go fishing, walking, berry-picking, or just sit on the back deck and do nothing without guilt.

And in doing these things, we are not wasting time, we are honoring God.

As writer Wayne Muller puts it:

"If we do not allow for a rhythm of rest in our overly busy lives, illness becomes our Sabbath—our pneumonia, our heart attack, our accidents."

God does not ask us to run ourselves into the ground in the name of faith.

God invites us to breathe, play, rest, and be present.

So, we come to the answer to our question ... Did Jesus take a vacation??

No, Jesus didn't take a vacation to the cottage or go to Disney.

But yes, he *absolutely* took time away to rest and recharge.

He shows us that rest isn't selfish.

It's sacred.

It's part of how we live a full and faithful life.

This summer, take your rest seriously, whether that's a week away, or just sitting on deck, sharing a bonfire with family and friends, looking at a summer night sky, full of stars, Watching a thunder storm on your porch, or five quiet minutes with a cup of tea.

And as you do, may you remember:

You're following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Even when those footsteps are leading to a hammock.

Amen.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious and Loving God, in this season of sunshine and stillness, we give you thanks: For warm breezes and blooming gardens, For the chance to slow down, to breathe deeply, to remember that every moment is a gift from you. We pray for our church family, those here and those away, may this be a season of renewal and reconnection.

Bless the ministries we share, the worship we offer, and the love we carry into the world. Help us be a place of welcome, wisdom, and hope. We pray for our community, for neighbors, local leaders, farmers, small businesses, summer camps, and caregivers.

May this season bring safety, joy, and opportunities to support one another in new ways. We pray for the world, for places scorched by heat or shaken by conflict. We lift up those without clean water, those without shelter, those whose summer holds more hardship than rest. May peace grow like wildflowers, even in the hardest soil.

We remember all who are in need: Those who are sick, at home, in hospital, or in care. Those who are lonely, grieving, or far from loved ones. Those who are anxious, carrying burdens unseen.

(Silent pause)

In the stillness of this season, may they feel your comfort. In the long light of evening, may they know your love. In the breeze through the trees, may your Spirit whisper peace. And for ourselves, O God, Give us eyes to see your beauty, Hearts to hold your grace, And the wisdom to rest when we are tired, trusting that you are God, even when we pause. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, who rested, prayed, walked, and loved, and who walks with us still. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: pg. 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy 2x

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

SENDING FORTH

Go now into the summer days ahead: With joy in your step, sunscreen on your skin, and God's peace in your soul. May you find rest like Jesus did, May you laugh like children do, And may you know that even on vacation, God walks with you.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, June 24th: Please note—there will be *no coffee time* at Springvale this week due to the Strawberry Supper!

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.

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

Summer Chuckles

1. **Why didn't Jesus ever get sunburned?**
Because he always walked in the light of God!
2. **What did the disciples pack for their fishing trip?**
Loaves, fish... and maybe some extra snacks just in case Jesus multiplied them again!
3. **Why did Noah never go on summer vacation?**
Because he already spent 40 days on a cruise!
4. **How do we know Jesus liked picnics?**
He fed 5,000 people with bread and fish ... classic outdoor potluck!
5. **Why do church musicians love summer?**
Because even the organ pipes need time to chill!
6. **What do you call a sermon at the beach?**
A message in a bottle!
7. **Why was Peter such a good swimmer?**
He practiced walking on water, even when it didn't go well the first time!
8. **Why don't churches host pool parties?**
Too many people trying to walk on water!