

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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*Celebrating our Nation ... Canada ... with Grateful Hearts, Faithful
Lives and all the Blessing's God has given us in Canada*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of generosity, Receive these gifts and use them to heal, to teach, to build, and to bless. May our giving reflect our gratitude for all we have.
In Christ's name. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From sea to sea, from the Rockies to the Maritimes, from the Prairies to the North,
People: We gather to give thanks for this land we call home.
Leader: God has blessed Canada with beauty, diversity, and freedom.
People: We praise God for the gift of creation and the people who live here.
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who knits us together as one people,
People: With grateful hearts and faithful lives!

OPENING HYMN: "O Canada"

O Canada! our home and native land! *
True patriot-love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

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The True North strong and free!
And stand on guard, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.

*Chorus: O Canada, glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

O Canada! where pines and maples grow,
Great prairies spread, and lordly rivers flow.
How dear to us thy broad domain,
From East to Western sea.
The land of hope for all who toil,
The True North strong and free! (*Chorus*)

O Canada! beneath our shining skies,
May stalwart sons, and gentle maidens rise.
To keep thee steadfast through the years,
From east to western sea,
Our own beloved native land,
Our true north strong and free! (*Chorus*)

Ruler Supreme! who hearest humble prayer,
Hold thy Dominion in thy loving care;
Help us to find, Oh God, in thee,
A lasting rich reward.
As waiting for the Better Day,
We ever stand on guard. (*Chorus*)

OPENING PRAYER

God of all nations, On this Canada Day weekend, we give you thanks for our country. For the freedom we enjoy, the peace we know, and the beauty around us.
Yet we do not forget our responsibilities—to care for the land, seek justice for all people, and walk in reconciliation.
Bless our worship today. Bless this nation and make us ever more aware of our role in your kingdom work. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

CELEBRATION OF A NEW MEMBER - HAGERSVILLE

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: “We the People... of Canada!”

Leader: O God, we give thanks for this wide, beautiful country—where winter sometimes lasts six months and we apologize when someone bumps *into us*.

People: We give thanks for Canada—land of lakes and loons, poutine and politeness, hockey and humility.

Leader: For every snow-shoveler, Tim Hortons lover, canoe paddler, toque-wearer, and peacekeeper...

People: We thank you, God, for the many faces of Canada—and for the kindness that runs deep like our maple syrup.

Leader: For bilingual signs, multicultural cities, quiet farms, and northern lights...

People: We praise you for the beauty and diversity that make this land home.

Leader: For our history—both the proud and the painful—and for the growing work of truth, justice, and reconciliation...

People: We ask your guidance, O God, to be humble, honest, and hopeful citizens.

Leader: For those who hold doors open, wave at four-way stops, and say "sorry" more times than necessary...

People: We celebrate the spirit of generosity and grace you've planted in Canadian hearts.

Leader: May we be a people of peace, of laughter, of compassion, and of courage.

People: Make us proud to be Canadian—and even more proud to be your people. Together, let us live with gratitude, serve with joy, and love without borders.

All: Amen!

VIDEO

READING THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 72:1-8

72 Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.² He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.³ The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.⁴ He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.⁵ They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.⁷ In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.⁸ He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

Micah 6:6-8

⁶ What can we bring to the LORD? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves? ⁷ Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins? ⁸ No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 5:1-12

The Sermon on the Mount

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,^[a] for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. ⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. ⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,^[b] for they will be satisfied. ⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. ⁹ God blesses those who work for

peace, for they will be called the children of God.¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

MESSAGE: “A Faithful Vision for Canada”

On this Canada Day weekend, many of us will wave flags, light fireworks, share a barbecue, or take a quiet moment to appreciate the peace and beauty around us. And rightly so, Canada is a remarkable country. From the majestic Rockies to the quiet lakes of Ontario, from bustling cities to remote northern communities, we are surrounded by the evidence of God’s creative handiwork.

But, in the church, we are always called to look deeper. We’re not just citizens of a country, we are citizens of God’s kingdom. And that dual identity, Canadian and Christian, gives us both a reason to celebrate and a reason to reflect.

Psalms 72 offers a prayer for a just and wise ruler, “May he defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.” That prayer isn’t just for kings and leaders it’s a hope for the kind of society we want to live in.

And truly, we have much to be grateful for in this country.

- We are free to worship and speak and vote.
- We have access to health care, education, and an abundance of natural resources.
- We enjoy relative peace, something many in the world long for.

But we also know, as Christians, that gratitude should never make us blind. We can love our country and be honest about its flaws. As Mi’kmaq Elder Albert Marshall says: “Gratitude without accountability is hollow.”

Our reading from Micah gives us a powerful reminder of our shared calling:

“What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”

This is the kind of citizen God calls us to be, not only in the church, but in our neighbourhoods, our country, and our world. Canada has often

been known for politeness, peacekeeping, and multiculturalism. But those surface virtues must go deeper if we are to truly live into Micah’s vision.

To do justice means addressing inequalities, not just noticing them. It means advocating for clean water in Indigenous communities. It means welcoming refugees. It means naming racism when we see it, even when it’s uncomfortable.

To love kindness... means fostering compassion in a world often defined by competition and division. It means listening across political lines, building community, and caring for the lonely and vulnerable.

To walk humbly means knowing that we didn’t earn this land, it is a gift. And in truth, it was a gift first given to Indigenous peoples.

Walking humbly means recognizing that our history includes colonization, residential schools, and broken treaties. And that healing and reconciliation are not optional, they are sacred work.

And then the Beatitudes teaching us to live a better way. In Matthew 5, Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount, a portrait of what life in God’s kingdom looks like. These are not national slogans or patriotic chants, they are radical, upside-down truths.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit... the meek... the peacemakers... those who hunger for justice.
- These are the values of the kingdom, not flags and fireworks, but humility, mercy, and hunger for righteousness.

So, we ask: What would Canada look like if we truly lived the Beatitudes?

What would our churches look like? Our schools? Our Parliament?

That’s a challenge worth rising to. Isn’t it?

As people of faith, we know that blessings are never meant to be hoarded. They’re meant to be shared.

We have been richly blessed in this country. But those blessings come with responsibility:

- To be stewards of the land
- To be neighbours to the stranger
- To be voices for the voiceless
- To be builders of peace
- To be repairers of broken relationships

Canada is not perfect, and neither are we. But through God's grace, we can live into a better story. One that honors our Creator, loves our neighbors, and helps heal our nation.

So today, wave the flag. Give thanks. Eat the cake. Celebrate. But also take a moment to ask: "How can I be a blessing to this country that has blessed me?" And then, with God's help, go out and live the answer. Amen.

HYMN: #676 God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

- 1 God, make us servants of your peace;
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.
- 2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.
- 3 Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.
- 4 May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly.
For in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.
- 5 Dying, we live and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
God, make us servants of your peace
to wake at last in heaven's light.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all peoples and places, We thank you for Canada—for its mountains and prairies, lakes and forests. For communities that care, for diversity that enriches, and for peace that prevails. We pray for our leaders—federal, provincial, and local. Grant them wisdom, courage, and compassion.

We pray for those who struggle—for the unhoused, the unemployed, and those facing discrimination. We pray for truth and reconciliation in our relationship with Indigenous peoples. May justice flow like a river in this land. We lift up those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in need of hope. May your comfort surround them. And finally, we pray for your church in Canada—may we be salt and light in this place we call home. In the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying....

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #599 Living Christ, Bring Us Love

- 1 Living Christ, bring us love,
love for every stranger;
Living Christ, bring us love,
love from cross and manger.
- 2 Living Christ, bring us joy,
joy of earth and heaven;
Living Christ, bring us joy,
joy of sin forgiven.
- 3 Living Christ, bring us peace,
peace with God and neighbour;
Living Christ, bring us peace,
peace in all our labour.
- 4 Living Christ, bring us love,
love shared at your table;
Living Christ, bring us love,
love from cross and stable.
- 5 Living Christ, lead us out,
out to tell the story;
Living Christ, lead us out,
out to show your glory.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go forth with grateful hearts for the land we live in, the freedoms we enjoy, and the calling we share.

People: We go to walk humbly, love mercy, and act justly.

Leader: Go knowing you are part of God's dream, not just for Canada, but for the whole world.

All: Thanks be to God!

“GO NOW IN PEACE” SUNG TOGETHER

Go now in peace...never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love...Amen, Amen, 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! ☺**

Did You Know?

Today, the maple leaf is instantly recognized as *the* symbol of Canada. But it wasn't always the case! In fact, thanks to the expanding fur trade 400 years ago, the first popular Canadian symbol was... the beaver!

Interesting facts about the Maple Leaf

- The maple tree with its vibrant autumn colours has always been a prominent feature of the landscape in the eastern parts of Canada. The Indigenous peoples living in these areas valued the maple tree for its sweet sap and the goods derived from it. While this remarkable tree made a distinct impression on early settlers, it wasn't until the 19th century that the maple leaf itself emerged as a symbol of national identity. From that time onwards, the leaf appeared more and more frequently, becoming the well-loved symbol of Canada it is today.
- Canadian pennies feature maple leaves starting in the 1850s and, from 1876 to 1901, the maple leaf appears on all Canadian coins. The design of the 1¢ coin remains unchanged from 1937 until it is taken out of circulation in 2012.
- In 1867, Canadian poet and songwriter Alexander Muir composes the patriotic song The Maple Leaf Forever to commemorate Confederation. It was widely used as an unofficial national song for decades afterwards and remains popular in many English-speaking parts of Canada until the official adoption of O Canada as our national anthem in 1980, although being used unofficially since 1939.
- IN 1868, The maple leaf is included on the shields of the coats of arms granted by Queen Victoria for both Quebec and Ontario.
- In 1870 - The Governor General's flag is formally adopted and features a wreath of maple leaves. The current Governor General's flag shows the crest of the coat of arms of Canada: a crowned golden lion holding a red maple leaf.
- In 1899-1902 - Canadian soldiers fighting for Britain in the Boer War in South Africa wear a maple leaf badge on their helmets.

- In 1908 - Beginning with the London games in 1908, the maple leaf is featured on all Canadian Olympic uniforms. These first uniforms feature a single red maple leaf on a white background.
- 1914-1918 First World War - Canadian military personnel wear maple leaf badges and also display the maple leaf on their equipment.
- From 1910 to 1913 the Montréal Canadiens hockey jersey featured a maple leaf design.
- In 1927 - The Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team adopts the maple leaf as its logo.
- 1939- 1945 Second World War - Many Canadian military units display the maple leaf on their badges and equipment. During the war, the Canadian Army also publishes a newspaper for its troops, called the Maple Leaf.
- In 1964 - The Great Flag Debate. Most of the thousands of flag concepts submitted by Canadians feature a maple leaf.
- In 1965 - The iconic maple leaf becomes the centerpiece of Canada's new National Flag, raised for the first time on February 15, 1965.

