

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 16th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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**Second Sunday of Lent – “The Road of Transformation –
Abiding in Christ”**

"The road of transformation begins by abiding in Christ—remaining in His presence, trusting His pruning, and bearing the fruit of His Spirit."

OFFERING PRAYER

God of transformation, as You shape us into Your likeness, we offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to follow You. Use them to bring light to those in darkness and hope to those in need. May our giving reflect the transformation You are working within us. In Jesus' name,
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus says, *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me will bear much fruit."*

People: We come to remain in Christ, to dwell in His presence, to be nourished by His love.

Leader: Apart from Him, we can do nothing, but in Him, we are transformed.

People: Lord, teach us to abide in You, that our lives may reflect Your grace and truth.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who shapes us, prunes us, and calls us to grow in Him!

People: We worship with open hearts, ready to be transformed by Your Spirit.

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OPENING HYMN: #642 Be Thou My Vision

- 1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, You are the true vine, and we are Your branches. In this sacred time of worship, help us to abide in You. Teach us to trust in Your pruning, to rest in Your presence, and to grow in Your grace. As we walk this road of transformation, may Your Spirit shape us into the people You have called us to be. We offer ourselves to You, O Lord—our hearts, our minds, and our lives. Be glorified in us today. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY OF TRANSFORMATION

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, You call us to abide in You, yet we often wander.

People: Draw us back to You, O Lord, that we may remain in Your love.

Leader: You prune our hearts, removing all that hinders our growth.

People: Help us to trust Your work in our lives, even when it is painful.

Leader: You nourish us with Your Word, strengthening us to bear good fruit.

People: Feed our spirits and transform us into Your likeness.

Leader: You send us into the world as reflections of Your grace.

People: May our lives shine with the light of Christ, bearing fruit that glorifies You.

Leader: Lord, shape us, renew us, and abide in us always.

People: We surrender to Your transforming love. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: #376 Spirit of the Living God

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:1-8

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. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers;

such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

MESSAGE: The Road of Transformation: Abiding in Christ

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Life is a journey, and as Christians, our road is one of transformation. Jesus calls us not to stay the same, but to grow, change, and become more like Him. But how does that transformation happen? Do we simply try harder? Do we push ourselves to be better? No—Jesus tells us that transformation happens by abiding in Him.

In John 15:1-8, Jesus uses a powerful metaphor: *"I am the vine, you are the branches."* This image teaches us that transformation is not about striving but about staying connected to Christ. Today, let's explore three key truths about how abiding in Christ leads to transformation.

This Transformation Begins with Connection

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." (John 15:4)

The first step in transformation is staying connected to Jesus. A branch does not produce fruit on its own; it needs the life-giving nourishment of the vine. In the same way, we cannot grow spiritually by our own efforts. We need Jesus.

Therefore, you might ask... What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

When Jesus says, *"Abide in me, and I will abide in you"* (John 15:4), He is inviting us into a deep, ongoing, life-giving relationship with Him. To **abide** means to remain, dwell, and stay connected—it is not a temporary or occasional connection but a constant, daily dependence on Him. Abiding in Christ is not just about believing in Him; it is about living in Him, drawing our strength, purpose, and identity from Him. Simply said....

- It means spending time in prayer and Scripture.
- It means seeking His presence daily.
- It means trusting Him in every season of life.

When we are connected to Jesus, His life flows into us, changing us from the inside out.

But every transformation requires pruning, to put it simply.
"Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."
 (John 15:2)

Transformation is not always comfortable. God sometimes prunes us, removing things that hinder our growth. This might be bad habits, unhealthy relationships, or attitudes that don't reflect Christ. For some, maybe many, this might not be easy. Change isn't good. In God's eyes it is....because, it helps us grow in faith and character. It removes distractions that pull us away from Him. And in the end it makes us more fruitful in His kingdom.

Pruning can be painful, but it is always for our good. When God removes something, it is to make room for something better. And what that is Well transformation produces fruit.

"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

The goal of transformation is fruitfulness, not just for ourselves, but for the world around us. When we abide in Christ, we begin to reflect His character: Thing such as, love, joy, and peace (Galatians 5:22-23). A heart for serving others. And a deepened faith that sustains us through trials.

The more we stay connected to Christ, the more His life shines through us. People will see the change in us and be drawn to Him.

So how does this intertwine with our Lenten journey?

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a time when we intentionally draw closer to Christ. Just as Jesus calls us to *abide* in Him, Lent invites us to remain in His presence, to let go of what holds us back, and to allow God's transforming work within us.

When we abide in Christ during this sacred season, we surrender to His pruning...letting go of sin, distractions, and anything that hinders our growth. We make space for Him to nourish us, to renew our minds and hearts, and to shape us into His likeness.

Lent is not just about giving something up; it is about growing deeper in Christ. It is about walking the road of transformation, trusting that as we remain in Him, He will make us fruitful for His glory.

So let us continue this Lenten journey, not by striving in our own strength, but by staying connected to the true Vine. Abide in Christ, and watch how He transforms your life.

Amen.

HYMN: #371 Open My Eyes that I May See

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
 glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
 place in my hands the wonderful key
 that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for Thee,
 ready my God, Thy will to see,
 Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
 voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
 and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
 everything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for Thee,
 ready my God, Thy will to see,
 Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear,
 Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
 Open my heart and let me prepare
 Love with Thy children thus to share.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 Ready my God, Thy will to see,
 Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Loving and merciful God, we come before You, abiding in Your presence, seeking Your transforming power in our lives.

- **For the Church:** Lord, help Your Church to remain rooted in You, bearing fruit that brings life to the world. May we be a people of love, justice, and truth.
Lord, in Your mercy...
- **For the World:** Lord, in a world longing for peace, let Your Spirit move among nations and leaders. May transformation come where there is division, hope where there is despair.
Lord, in Your mercy...

- **For Those in Need:** Lord, for those who are struggling, grieving, or sick, we ask for Your healing and comfort. May they abide in Your peace and find strength in Your presence.

Lord, in Your mercy...

- **For Ourselves:** Lord, prune away all that keeps us from following You fully. Shape us into vessels of Your love and grace.

Lord, in Your mercy...

Leader: We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #506 Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.
- 3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

SENDING FORTH

Go forth in the love of Christ. Abide in Him, and let His life flow through you. May you be pruned to grow, transformed by His Spirit, and bear fruit that glorifies God. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, March 18th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Friday, March 28th: Soup Lunch at Hagersville from 11:30am-1pm. Tickets are \$10/person. Takeout Only. Chicken Noodle, Hamburger & Cheese Tortellini. Call Susan at 905-768-3729 by March 27th to order ahead.

Sunday, April 13th: Palm Sunday & Communion

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday Joint Service at Hagersville beginning at 10:30am. Join us after worship in the C.E. Wing for fellowship & hot cross buns.

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Sunday. Springvale will host their Easter Breakfast beginning at 8:30am with worship to follow.

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

July 28th to August 1st is V.B.S. “Blast Off with Jesus” – Exploring God’s Universe.

It was suggested at the Official Board meeting that Friday August 1st we invite the congregations to the wrap up at Bible School at 12:00 pm. in the form of a celebration service and not have a Church Service on the Sunday August 3rd. That would mean that Peggy will be away Sunday August 3rd and both Churches would be closed that Sunday. Or we have worship on August 3rd, joint service at Springvale to celebrate V.B.S. On Sunday August 10 – Peggy will be on holidays; but Peggy stated that she will prepare a service to be shared on that Sunday if your congregation decide to be open for Worship on the 10th.

Today, each congregation will decide whether to have a service on August 10th. I am bringing this forward in this announcement, so you time to think about this and then there will be discussion around these two Sundays and motion is to be made.

