

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Third Sunday of Lent – "The Path of Living Water"

"Receiving and sharing the life-giving presence of Christ."

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord, as You have poured out Your living water upon us, we offer these gifts as a sign of our gratitude. May they be used to bring hope, healing, and renewal to others. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are thirsty, come to the well that never runs dry.

People: We come, longing for the Living Water that only Christ can give.

Leader: God calls us to drink deeply of His mercy and grace.

People: We come to worship the One who quenches our deepest thirst.

Leader: Let us open our hearts and receive the life-giving presence of Christ.

People: Amen! Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN: #238 How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

2

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. **R**

3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. **R**

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' **R**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, You are the wellspring of life, the source of our hope and renewal. As we gather in Your presence, refresh our spirits with Your living water. Cleanse us from all that separates us from You, and fill us with Your love so that we may share it freely with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord, You offer us living water, yet we turn to empty wells that do not satisfy.

People: Forgive us when we seek fulfillment in things that cannot quench our thirst.

Leader: You invite us into a deeper relationship, yet we hesitate to trust fully.

People: Forgive us when we allow fear and doubt to keep us from Your presence.

Leader: Fill us again with Your grace, O Lord, that we may be transformed and share Your love with the world.

People: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ knows our past, yet still offers us His living water. Through His grace, we are forgiven and made new.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen!

CHORUS: #381 Spirit of Life 2x

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion,

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free:

Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 4:5-42

John 4:5-42

New International Version

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

The Disciples Rejoin Jesus

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³ Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans Believe

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

MESSAGE: *"The Path of Living Water"*

John 4:5-42

Introduction: The Thirst We All Carry

Have you ever been truly thirsty? I mean the kind of thirst that makes your throat dry, your lips crack, and your body weak. When we are that thirsty, water becomes the most precious thing in the world.

But there is another kind of thirst—one that goes beyond the physical. It is the thirst of the soul, the longing for something more, the deep desire for purpose, for love, for belonging. This is the thirst that Jesus speaks of in His encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. It is the thirst that only the Living Water can satisfy.

Jesus arrives at a well in Samaria, tired from His journey, and He sits down to rest. A woman comes to draw water, at noon, the hottest part of the day, when no one else would be there. She comes alone, possibly to avoid the whispers and judgment of others.

And then something unexpected happens: Jesus speaks to her.

"Give me a drink," He says.

This surprises her. First, because Jesus, a Jew, is speaking to her, a Samaritan, a people despised by the Jews. Second, because He is a man speaking to a woman in public, breaking cultural norms.

But Jesus isn’t just asking for a drink; He is offering something far greater. *"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."* (John 4:10)

The woman is confused. She sees only the physical, she points out that Jesus has no bucket to draw water. But Jesus speaks of something deeper. The water from the well will quench thirst only for a moment. The Living Water He offers brings eternal life.

What Is This Living Water?

When Jesus speaks of Living Water, He is talking about:

1. The gift of salvation – A life filled with God’s grace, forgiveness, and transformation.
2. The presence of the Holy Spirit – The wellspring of God within us, refreshing, renewing, and guiding us.
3. A life of purpose and joy – No longer seeking temporary fulfillment, but drawing from the deep well of God’s love.

The woman, though skeptical at first, longs for this water. *"Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."* (John 4:15)

But before she can receive this gift, Jesus gently confronts her reality. He tells her to bring her husband. She responds, *"I have no husband."* And Jesus, knowing her story, reveals that she has had five husbands and is now living with someone who is not her husband.

- The Samaritan woman had tried to fill her life with relationships, but they never truly satisfied.

This isn’t about shame ... it’s about truth. Jesus meets her where she is but doesn’t leave her there. He invites her into something new.

Like the Samaritan woman, we often come to God carrying burdens, broken relationships, past mistakes, regrets, and disappointments. We try to quench our thirst with things that don’t satisfy: success, approval, possessions, distractions. But Jesus invites us to lay all of it down and receive the Living Water that truly satisfies.

Many today look to success, money, or pleasure for fulfillment, but only Jesus provides lasting peace.

As their conversation continues, the woman begins to see that Jesus is not just any man He is the Messiah, the one who knows her fully and still loves her completely.

And what does she do? She leaves her water jar and runs back to town to tell others. The very people she may have been avoiding, she now seeks out, saying:

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:29)

Her life is transformed, and she becomes one of the first evangelists sharing the good news of Jesus with others. Because of her testimony, many Samaritans come to believe.

This story, which I love, has such a powerful message even for us today. This story is one that teaches us that:

1. Jesus meets us where we are – No matter our past, our struggles, or our failures, He comes to us with love and grace.
2. He offers us something greater – A new life, a transformed heart, and the presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

We are called to share this gift – When we truly encounter Jesus, we cannot keep it to ourselves. Like the Samaritan woman, we are called to go and tell others about the One who has changed our lives.

For this third Sunday of Lent, this story is a reminder to us all that Jesus still offers this Living Water.

So, I ask myself and all of you Are you thirsty for something more? Are you carrying burdens that leave you empty? Are you searching for purpose, hope, and love?

Come to Jesus. Drink deeply of His grace. And then, go and share this water with a thirsty world.

Amen.

HYMN: As the Deer Pants for the Water pg. 766

1- As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you

R- You alone are my strength, my shield
To you alone will my spirit yield
You alone are my hearts desire
And I long to worship you

2- I want you more than gold or silver
Only you can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye **R**

3- You're my friend and you are my Father
Even though you are my King
I love you more than any other
So much more than anything **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Gracious and loving God, You are the source of all life, the wellspring of mercy, and the giver of Living Water. We come before You thirsty—longing for Your presence, Your peace, and Your renewing grace. Hear us as we lift our prayers to You.

Leader: For the church throughout the world, that we may be a place where all who are weary and thirsty find refreshment in Your love...

People: Lord, fill us with Your Living Water.

Leader: For those who are searching, doubting, or struggling to believe, that they may encounter the life-giving presence of Christ, who knows them fully and loves them completely...

People: Lord, fill us with Your Living Water.

Leader: For all who are burdened by past mistakes, regrets, or shame, that they may know the freedom and forgiveness found in Jesus...

People: Lord, fill us with Your Living Water.

Leader: For the nations and leaders of the world, that they may work for peace and justice, providing for the needs of the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed...

People: Lord, fill us with Your Living Water.

Leader: For those who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually thirsty—those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or afraid—may Your healing and comfort be poured out upon them...

People: Lord, fill us with Your Living Water.

Leader: For ourselves, that we may receive the gift of Your Living Water with open hearts and be moved to share Your love and grace with others...

People: Lord, fill us with Your Living Water.

Leader: Holy God, You have invited us to drink deeply from the well of Your mercy. Quench our thirst, renew our spirits, and send us forth to share the good news of Your love. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, the source of Living Water, who taught us to pray...

All: Our Father, who art in heaven... (The Lord's Prayer)
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
 till travelling days are done.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go forth, refreshed by the Living Water of Christ.

People: We will go, sharing His love with all we meet.

Leader: May the peace of God fill you, the grace of Christ sustain you, and the power of the Holy Spirit guide you.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

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.

Tuesday, April 1st: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Wednesday, April 9th: Ham & Turkey Supper at Springvale from 4-6pm. Takeout only. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$12 for children. Text or call Shirley at 905-981-5455 to reserve your tickets.

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! ☺

