

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 2nd, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Transfiguration Sunday is observed on the last Sunday before Lent, a period of preparation for Easter. It is a day that highlights the glory and divinity of Jesus, reminding Christians of his heavenly nature and the significance of Jesus's mission. This event is seen as a powerful moment where Jesus' divine nature was revealed to the disciples, and it helps to prepare them for the challenges ahead, especially as they move toward his eventual crucifixion.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: "Let us give joyfully, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Response: "We give with grateful hearts, trusting in God's provision."

Leader: "All that we have comes from the Lord."

Response: "We return a portion with thanksgiving and praise."

Leader: "May these offerings be used for God's glory." Amen

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the radiance of Christ be evident among us:

in our songs and our words;

in our deepest thoughts and desires;

in the youthful and the experienced,

the exhausted and the energetic;

in the hungry and the scared.

2

We are here together.

We join our voices and our hearts in praise.

We gather as witnesses to the transforming power of God.

Gather us in, God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

OPENING HYMN: #412 This is the Day

1,4 This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

2 Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.

3 You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Light of light, God of all creation, long ago you showed yourself to the disciples in Jesus' transfiguration—his face glowing like a field of daffodils on a bright, spring morning. Shine in us, around us,

and through us, that the world may see your glory in the faces of your people—faces transfigured in the light of your love. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

L: It is a strange time of year, O God. We linger between the seasons of Epiphany and Lent. We are between the joy of your appearing and the horror of your undoing at the hands of those who would not or could not embrace your way of life.

P: Perhaps we – like Peter, James, and John –wait for your appearing in dazzling light and unmistakable clarity: We are in need of a glimpse of Jesus who is the way through the mix and mess of this life. Our planet is fragile and so is the life that claims it as home. We wonder how long we can simply take what we want with little regard for what it costs your creation. We wonder if the planet is crying out for relief in the floods that are really tears; the earthquakes that try and shake our consciousness; the gales that blow sighs, too deep for words.

L: Renew and restore a vision of care for your creation. Remind us to take what we need and no more. Encourage us in a counter-cultural faithfulness that is not about consumerism. Spur us with new insight and deeper understanding that we may live mindfully each day, conscious of the impact of we do and fail to do.

P: We are in need of a glimpse of Jesus who is the truth – the truth that love is stronger than hate; peace is possible; and life can emerge even in the midst of devastation. We pray for that truth to be known: We are in need of a glimpse of Jesus who is the life; inviting us to follow in his footsteps as he trod the way of love and justice, inviting us to follow him in prayer as he lived out his faith and made You known.

L: We give thanks for the good news that unfolds in the world as people dream your dreams, follow your nudging, and seek you in the faces they meet each day. Perhaps, O God, it is the only Transfiguration we really need.

ALL: Draw us to the rhythm of Lent as it unfolds in our midst; a sacred invitation to explore the corners of our soul.

Open us to your light that we might see ourselves clearly, with all our fears and faults and faith, with all our desires and dreams and duties. Help us to see our journey as a place of your appearing – that like Peter, James, and John we may come down from the mountain and set one foot in front of the other in your name and for your sake. Amen.

VIDEO

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 17:1-9

The Transfiguration

17 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸ When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

MESSAGE: "The Light of Christ in Our Hearts"

On this Transfiguration Sunday, we are invited to behold the glory of Christ, the radiance of God shining through Him. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 4:6:

"For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ."

This passage connects two powerful moments in Scripture: creation and transfiguration. In Genesis, God spoke into the void and light overcame darkness. That same divine light now shines through Christ, revealing God's glory and truth. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus' face shining like the sun (Matthew 17:2). It was a moment of divine revelation, confirming that Jesus is the beloved Son of God, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

But the Transfiguration wasn't just for the disciples on that mountain—it was for all of us. Paul tells us that the light of Christ is not something distant, something to be admired from afar. Instead, it is something that God has placed within us. Through Jesus, we are no longer lost in darkness; we have been illuminated by His grace. This light is not just a symbol of understanding, it is a power that transforms us, guiding our steps, renewing our hearts, and shaping us into His image.

Just as Moses' face shone after being in God's presence (Exodus 34:29), so too are we called to reflect the light of Christ in the world. But how do we do this? By living as people transformed by His presence, showing His love, extending His grace, and standing as beacons of hope in a world that so often feels covered in shadows.

The disciples wanted to stay on the mountaintop, but Jesus led them back down, because faith is not just about the moments of glory—it is about carrying that light into everyday life. Today, we are called to do the same. The glory of Christ does not fade, and His light does not dim. It shines in us, through us, and around us as we follow Him.

May we embrace this holy light, allowing it to shape our thoughts, our actions, and our witness. May we recognize that, through Christ, we have been given the privilege of seeing and knowing the glory of God. And may we leave this place not just as hearers of the Word, but as bearers of His light, shining brightly for the world to see.

As we enter into the season of Lent next Sunday, may the light of Christ's love shine brightly in our hearts, transforming us from within. Help us to carry this light into the world, reflecting Your grace, truth, and love in all we do. Transfigure us by Your presence, so that we may be true disciples, walking in Your light. Amen.

HYMN: #289 It Only Takes a Spark

- 1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.
- 2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.
- 3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found—
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy and loving God - whose nature and ways are far beyond our understanding, we thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus - who lets us see your face in his, who shows us your love in his actions, your grace in his manner of being. In him too, O God, we see ourselves as you would have us be and as your power is able to make us. Make us more like him now we pray... Lord hear our prayer.....

Lord - we often find ourselves weary, tired out by a load of care, a heap of responsibility and concern. We hunger and thirst, and often fail to stop to eat and drink at the table you have prepared for us. Lord, we are here now - and we ask you - grant us a glimpse of your glory - fill us with your spirit - refresh us and make us new ... Lord hear our prayer.....

Loving God, we pray that your glory may fill your church and give to your people everywhere the energy to shine wherever there is darkness, disunity, persecution, or despair... Lord hear our prayer....

Father, we pray for those we named in our sharing time and for all those whose names are upon our hearts. Grant to them health and wholeness, peace and joy, strength and hope... We remember before you:

(intercessions and petitions as shared in sharing time)

..... Lord hear our prayer....

Give us all, O Lord, a greater love of your holiness, a greater delight in your mystery, and a greater joy in seeking your presence. We ask it through Christ Jesus, who revealed your will to us and who taught us to pray to you as one family, saying **Our Father....**

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #581 When We Are Living

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

SENDING FORTH

When Jesus' glory is revealed to us, we become transformed. We are not who we were before. Go now to your homes, your neighborhoods, your schools, and places of work as new people. Go as Christians illumined by the glory of God in Christ. Be renewed and be radiant.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, March 4th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Tuesday, March 4th: Pancake Supper at Hagersville from 4-7pm. There will be pancakes, ham, sausage, baked beans & a fruit cup. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 6-12, under 5 are free. Or take advantage of the family deal (2 adults, 2 children) for \$30. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Wednesday, March 5th: Official Board meeting at Springvale at 1:30pm.

Thursday, March 6th: UCW will meet at 12:30pm in the Sunday School room. Roll call is items for gift bags for women's shelter.

Please bring paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank! ☺

**Sunday Humour:
Love at Last!**

George, age 92 and Edith, age 89 are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way, they pass a drugstore. George suggests they go in and he addresses the man behind the counter.

"Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answers, "Yes".

"We are about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

"Of course, we do." Says the pharmacist.

"How about support hose for circulation?"

"Definitely."

"What about medicine for rheumatism, osteoporosis and arthritis?"

"All kinds."

"How about waterproof furniture pads and Depends?"

"Yes, sir."

"Hearing aide, denture supplies, sleeping pills, Geritol and Ensure?"

"Absolutely." Exclaimed the pharmacist in wonder.

"You sell wheelchairs, walkers and canes?"

"All kinds and sizes. Why all the questions?"

George smiles and replies to the pharmacist,
"We'd like to use your store for our Bridal Registry."