

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

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Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Pastor Peggy Bartlett  
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**REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE**

Vineland

**Easter Sunday**

The darkness is gone! Bright light floods into this new day of hope.  
Those who went to the tomb received good news.  
Christ was not there! Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!  
Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Amen!

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of great gifts:  
This morning we give you praise,  
we give you glory,  
we give you thanks!  
With resurrection humming in our hearts,  
our minds are tuned to your song of peace!  
We joyfully present these gifts to you,  
in a chorus of thanksgiving,  
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come!  
Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**OPENING WORDS**

This is love.  
Jesus... you spoke words of comfort, walked with the unclean and unloved, shared wisdom, bread and wine, brought healing into lives and challenged the status quo.

This is love.  
Jesus... you spoke the word of God, walked a painful road to the Cross, shared living water, bread of life, brought Salvation to the world and died for the sake of all.  
This is love.  
The seeds have been sown. We are called to germinates those seeds with our faith, our actions and our devotion to you. May they grow throughout the world.

**HYMN: #166 Joy Comes with the Dawn**

**Joy comes with the dawn; Joy comes with the morning sun,  
Joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,  
Joy comes with the dawn.**

Weeping may come; Weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**

Sorrow will turn, Sorrow will turn into song,  
and God's laughter makes us strong. **R**

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come quickly to the tomb to see the place where He was laid.  
**P: Look! The stone is rolled away! He is not here!**  
*Choir: singing verse 1 of "Christ the Lord is Risen today" #155*  
1 Christ the Lord is risen today, hallelujah!  
all creation join to say; hallelujah!  
raise your joys and triumphs high; hallelujah!  
sing, O heavens, and earth reply: hallelujah!

L: Just as He said, He would conquer death.

**P: We can see for ourselves this awesome sight.**

*Choir: singing verse 2 of "Christ the Lord is Risen today!" #155*  
2 Love's redeeming work is done, hallelujah!  
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!  
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!  
Lo! he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

L: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

**P: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Choir and congregation sing verses 3,4 of “Christ the Lord is Risen today!” #155**

3 Lives again our glorious King: hallelujah!  
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!  
Once he died, our souls to save: hallelujah!  
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

4 Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, hallelujah!  
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!  
Every knee to you shall bow, hallelujah!  
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

### OPENING PRAYER

Loving, Powerful God, joy floods over our souls on this day! Christ is risen! Fear is vanquished! Open our hearts and our spirits to receive fully the joy which has been given for us! Let us celebrate the victory of Christ and the hope for the future! Amen.

**ANTHEM:** Sing Allelu! By Ruth Schram

### CHILDREN’S TIME

### CHILDREN’S VIDEO

### A LITANY FOR EASTER

Leader: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child  
one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity

**People: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter  
and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned**

Leader: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman  
and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come

**People: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher  
and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand**

Leader: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer  
and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness

**People: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest  
and king  
and yet humbled himself to take our place upon the cross**

Leader: Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant  
and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love for human kind

**People: Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose  
from death to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection**

Leader: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
for the sake of me and you and others too.  
God so loved the world, that we all might have eternal life. What an  
Easter Gift!

### **\*CHORUS: #20 “BECAUSE HE LIVES”**

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living, just because He lives. X2

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** John 20: 1-18

### MESSAGE

Preparation: in the middle of the worship area display a crown of thorns,  
a white burial cloth, a hammer, a cross, and a stone. After each stanza  
one of the objects is carried out.

The crown of thorns has played its part. It mocked the Saviour,  
it ridiculed heaven, it brought scorn and laughter. But it is heaven who  
laughs now, for the crown was found inadequate to kill love (crown is  
carried out).

The robe has played its part. It teased the Saviour, wanting to break him with humiliation. It brought contempt and mockery. But it is heaven that is contemptuous now, for the robe was found wanting in its binding of love (cloth is carried out).

The hammer has played its part. It pinned the Saviour, wanting to drain the life from his flesh. It brought smugness and satisfaction.

But it is heaven that is satisfied now, for the nails proved too weak to remove love (hammer is carried out).

The cross has played its part. It tortured the Saviour, turning God into an object, a play thing. It brought manipulation and approval. But it is heaven that approves now, for the cross proved too powerless to finish love (cross is carried out).

The tomb has played its part. It buried the Saviour, hiding the Messiah from the world. It brought certainty and fulfillment. But it is heaven that is fulfilled now, for the tomb wasn't final enough to end love (stone is carried out).

For there is no end to love: there is always life in death; there is always dancing at dawn; there is always sunrise after night; there is always eternity in the everyday; there is always, always, always, Love.

**HYMN: #169 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing**

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

2 The Lord of life is ris'n today;  
death's mighty stone is rolled away;

let every tongue rejoice and say:

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

3 We praise in songs of victory  
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

### **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

Why is it, Lord, that we rush headlong into holidays? The store shelves have been filled with bunnies, eggs, candy, and all the trimmings of the

secular Easter, and we are drawn to planning for that day. We feel a sense of urgency, and yet you have called us to be on this journey, gradually coming with Christ to the Cross and beyond. Slow us down. Help us to look more closely at our own lives, at the many ways in which they are driven and demands are placed upon them. God of Awesome Joy, be with us this day as we celebrate the resurrection of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Let the light of your love flood into our lives. Remind us again of the ministry and mission of Christ, who came that we might have life. May we open our hearts and offer prayers for family and friends, for situations near and far. Remind us that Darkness does not win. Death is not victorious. Christ is Risen, for us, for you and for me. We are raised with Christ to a new life of hope and service. Let the joy of this good news swirl around in our hearts. Let excitement for service and ministry burst forth from us. Let us truly be the "Easter People" that you have called us to be. For we ask these things in the name of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

**CLOSING HYMN: #586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection**

1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;

we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;

we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;

tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;

we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;

we'll weave a cloth of all the world united

within the vision of new life who sets us free.

2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;

we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;

we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,

expressive love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,

raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,

we'll leap and dance the resurrection story

including all in circles of our love.

**BLESSING**

**All: Your light is the only light we need  
as we travel through life's mystery  
Your word the only voice we hear  
that still small voice that leads us  
to the place where we should be  
Your presence is the only company we need  
as we walk this narrow road  
Your fellowship the warmth we crave  
to help us on our way**

Leader: May the truth of Easter  
The joy of Easter  
And the blessings of Easter  
Be with us this day and all days...  
Go in peace, and feel the presence of the Risen Lord with you, now and  
forever. Amen

**CHOIR LEAD – GO NOW IN PEACE**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Announcements**

**Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Coffee Time at 9:30am at Springvale. All are  
welcome

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:** Ham & Turkey Supper at Springvale United  
from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Adults: \$25.00, Children: \$12.00. Take-out only  
Meal includes: Ham, Turkey, Scalloped Potatoes, Stuffing, Corn,  
Coleslaw & Pie. Please call or text Shirley at 905-981-5455 to reserve  
your tickets.

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>:** Soup Lunch at Hagersville. More information to  
follow.

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