

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, MAY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
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***"Celebrating the Women Among Us"***

“Mother's Day takes on a deeper meaning as we get older. When we look back through our life, we can see how much our moms have given us every step of the way.”

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
Bless these gifts that we offer in gratitude.  
May they honour the legacy of faithful women and  
support ministries that nurture, empower, and heal.  
In Christ's name, Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Come, let us give thanks for the women who have shaped our lives—mothers, aunts, teachers, mentors, sisters, and friends.

**People:** We celebrate all women, for their strength, their wisdom, and their faith.

**Leader:** Some have birthed children, others have nurtured with love in different ways. All have given life through compassion, justice, and care.

**People:** Let us worship God who created all people in love, and who gifts us with women of vision, courage, and grace.

2

**OPENING HYMN: Wonderful Words of Life**

1 Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life;  
Words of life and beauty Teach me faith and duty.

**Refrain:**

**Beautiful words, wonderful words,**

**Wonderful words of life;**

**Beautiful words, wonderful words,**

**Wonderful words of life.**

2 Christ, the blessed one, gives to all, Wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call, Wonderful words of life;  
All so freely given, Wooing us to heaven. **[Refrain]**

3 Sweetly echo the gospel call, Wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all, Wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior, Sanctify forever. **[Refrain]**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of Creation, We thank you for the women among us and in our lives—those who have mothered us, and those who have stood beside us, nurturing us with kindness, patience, and joy. We recognize that not every woman is a mother, and not every mother fits one mold, but your image is reflected in each one. In this time of worship, help us to honour their stories, celebrate their gifts, and lift up their faith. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**CHILDREN'S VIDEO**

**LITANY OF GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE WOMEN AMONG US**

**Leader:** For the moms who packed our lunches, found the missing shoe, and knew when we needed a nap—even when we didn't,

**People:** We thank you, O God!

**Leader:** For the grandmothers who told us stories, baked cookies, and let us get away with a little more than our parents did,

**People:** We bless you, O God!

**Leader:** For the aunties, neighbors, and Sunday school teachers who stepped in, cheered us on, and told us to sit up straight,

**People:** We smile and say thank you, O God!

**Leader:** For the women who never had children of their own, but nurtured whole communities, classrooms, and congregations,

**People:** We honour you, O God, and we are better because of you.

**Leader:** For the women who speak truth, work hard, lead with courage, and love with grit and grace—

**People:** We see you, we celebrate you, and we give thanks to God for you!

**Leader:** And for all women—whether wearing heels, sneakers, or slippers—who keep the world running with faith, humor, and holy imagination:

**People:** We give loud, joyful, and heartfelt thanks! Amen!

**RESPONSIVE HYMN:** I'll Be A Sunbeam for Jesus

1. Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,  
To shine for Him each day;  
In ev'ry way try to please Him,  
At home, at school, at play.

**Chorus: A sunbeam, a sunbeam,  
Jesus wants me for a sunbeam;  
A sunbeam, a sunbeam,  
I'll be a sunbeam for Him.**

2. Jesus wants me to be loving,  
And kind to all I see;  
Showing how pleasant and happy  
His little one can be. **[Chorus]**

3. I will ask Jesus to help me  
To keep my heart from sin,  
Ever reflecting His goodness,  
And always shine for Him. **[Chorus]**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Proverbs 31:25–30

<sup>25</sup> She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.

<sup>26</sup> She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

<sup>27</sup> She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

<sup>28</sup> Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:

<sup>29</sup> “Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all.”

<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

**MESSAGE:** “Bearing Love in Many Ways”

Today is Mother's Day — and we give thanks for mothers. But this is not only a day to celebrate moms. It's a day to celebrate all women — because women bear love in this world in many, many ways. Through mentoring, teaching, leading, organizing, listening, baking, preaching, comforting, standing up, sitting beside, and simply showing up.

Some women have raised children, while others have raised churches, raised communities, raised awareness, and raised hope. Some are biological mothers. Others are spiritual mothers, work moms, aunties, sisters, and friends who have shown us what love looks like when it's lived out loud.

And that's something the Bible makes very clear: women have always been carriers of God's love, no matter their role or status.

Let's look at a few of these women:

**Deborah (Judges 4–5)**

Deborah was a judge, a warrior, and a prophet. She wasn't described as a mother in that passage — but she mothered a nation. She led when no one else would. She encouraged Barak to go into battle, and when he hesitated, she said, “Fine, I'll go with you.” Deborah bore God's love through leadership and courage.

**Lydia (Acts 16)**

Lydia was a successful businesswoman — a seller of purple cloth — and a worshiper of God. When she heard Paul's message about Jesus, she opened her home and her heart. Her house became the first church in Europe. Lydia bore God's love through hospitality and generosity.

### **Mary Magdalene**

Not the scandalous figure history has sometimes made her out to be — but a faithful disciple, the first to witness the resurrection, and the one Jesus entrusted with the message, “Go and tell the others.” Mary bore God’s love through devotion and proclamation.

These women weren’t celebrated because of children they raised — they were celebrated because of love they lived and gave.

### **Modern Women Bearing Love**

Now let’s think about the women in your life. Some may have children. Others may not. Some may be older, some younger. But you know them because of how they love.

That teacher who believed in you.

That boss who mentored you.

That neighbor who brought food when you were sick.

That aunt who remembered your birthday.

That friend who sat in silence with you when you were grieving.

That church elder who prayed for you by name.

They may not have the title of “mother,” but they carry God’s nurturing spirit in their very being.

### **Bearing Love Is Not Limited by Biology**

In Romans 16, Paul mentions a list of people — and many of them are women. Phoebe, a deacon. Priscilla, a church leader. Junia, an apostle. These women were integral to the early church, not because they were mothers, but because they bore the light of Christ through teaching, serving, encouraging, and leading.

We sometimes limit the idea of “bearing” to physical childbirth. But God’s view is much bigger. You can bear love by creating beauty, shaping justice, making space for others, building a better world.

In that way, we are all called to be bearers — of hope, grace, peace, and love.

So today, we say:

To the mothers who have raised children — we honour you.

To the women who have mothered through mentoring — we thank you.

To those who have never been called “Mom” but have been the backbone of families, classrooms, offices, and ministries — we see you.

To those who have wanted children and could not — we hold you in tenderness and honour your love that still overflows.

To every woman bearing God’s love in her own way — through leadership, listening, laughter, and life —

I say Thank you ...

You are the Deborahs, Lydias, and Marys of our day.

You are not only worthy of celebration ...

you are bearers of God’s love to a world that desperately needs it. Amen.

### **HYMN: #602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

- 1      Blest be the tie that binds  
         our hearts in Christian love;  
         the unity of heart and mind  
         is like to that above.
- 2      Before our Maker’s throne  
         we pour our ardent prayers;  
         our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
         our comforts and our cares.
- 3      We share each other's woes,  
         each other's burdens bear;  
         and often for each other flows  
         the sympathizing tear.
- 4      The glorious hope revives  
         our courage on the way;  
         that we shall live in perfect love  
         in God's eternal day.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – Mother’s Day**

**Leader:** God of love and compassion, on this day we lift up all women—those who have nurtured us, guided us, and stood beside us with strength, tenderness, and courage.

**People:** We give thanks for mothers and all who mother.

**Leader:** We pray for biological mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers, and chosen mothers. For grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and friends who have offered care, encouragement, and wisdom.

**People:** May they feel the deep gratitude of our hearts and the peace of Your abiding presence.

**Leader:** We remember women who have longed for children and have faced the ache of infertility, miscarriage, or loss.

We hold space for those whose hearts carry grief on this day.

**People:** Comfort them with Your healing love, O God. Let them know they are not forgotten.

**Leader:** We lift up mothers who are estranged from their children, those who have made difficult choices, and those who live with regret or pain.

**People:** Grant them Your mercy and renew them with hope.

**Leader:** We pray for women who lead—in homes, communities, classrooms, and across the world. For those who teach, heal, create, advocate, and build. For women who carry the burdens of others and continue to rise with strength and grace.

**People:** Bless their gifts and sustain their spirits. Help us honour their work with justice and care.

**Leader:** For women in places of conflict or hardship, for mothers separated from their children, and for those who raise families in the face of poverty, violence, or fear—Lord, be their refuge and their strength.

**People:** Let justice roll down like waters, and peace like a river.

**Leader:** Holy One, remind all women—no matter their story—that they are seen, they are beloved, and they are called by You for sacred purpose.

**People:** Empower them with courage. Embrace them with grace. And may we walk together, in love, as Your people. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**CLOSING HYMN:** #556 Would You Bless Our Homes and Families  
Would you bless our homes and families, source of life who calls us here; In our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
Teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours  
To delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod,  
Teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there, Teach us, God, to claim as family everyone whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;  
May the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care  
Till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
Teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

## SENDING FORTH

Go now with gratitude for all the women who have shaped us—  
biological mothers, chosen family, spiritual mentors, and friends.  
Let us live with their courage and compassion,  
offering our own love to the world in Christ's name.

## CHORAL AMEN

## POSTLUDE

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## Announcements

**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am.  
All are welcome!

**Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>:** Official Board meeting at 1:30pm at Springvale.

**Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>:** High Tea celebrating Hagersville's 150<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>:** Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the afternoon.

**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>:** Save the Date for Springvale's Annual Strawberry Supper from 4pm-6pm, takeout only.

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

## **Life Lessons from a Mother...**

\* My mother taught me religion.

‘You better pray that spot will come out of the carpet.’

\* My mother taught me about time travel.

‘If you don’t straighten up, I’m going to knock you into the middle of next week!’

\* My mother taught me foresight.

‘Make sure you wear clean underwear; in case you’re in an accident.’

\* My mother taught me about contortionism.

‘Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck?’

\* My mother taught me about behaviour modification.

‘Stop acting like your father!’

\* My mother taught me about envy.

‘There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don’t have wonderful parents like you do.’

\* My mother taught me humour.

‘When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don’t come running to me.’

\* My mother taught me how to become an adult.

‘If you don’t eat your vegetables, you’ll never grow up.’

\* My mother taught me genetics.

‘You’re just like your father.’

\* My mother taught me wisdom.

‘When you get to be my age, you’ll understand.’

\* My mother taught me about justice.

‘One day you’ll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!’