

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, MAY 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett  
Cell: 905-317-5275 Email: info@hsupc.ca  
Website: www.hsupc.ca  
Church: Hagersville- 905-768-5863 Springvale- 905-768-1501

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**God's Great Scavenger Hunt**

God is always present—we just need to open our eyes and hearts to see the divine clues in everyday life.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, as we offer these gifts, we also offer our eyes to see, our hearts to love, and our hands to serve. May these gifts help others discover the treasure of Your presence. Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Come with hearts ready to search, eyes ready to see, and spirits ready to be surprised!

**People:** We come to seek God with joy, knowing we will find Him.

**Leader:** In laughter and silence, in nature and neighbor, in questions and answers—God is here.

**People:** Let us begin the great search—not because God is far, but because God is close!

**OPENING HYMN: #391 God, Reveal Your Presence**

1 God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you  
and with awe appear before you.  
Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,  
gather now with deepest reverence.  
You alone God we own,  
you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.

2

2 God, reveal your presence: hear the harps resounding;  
see the crowds the throne surrounding.  
'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,  
angels, saints, their voices blending.  
Bow your ear to us here;  
hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.

3 O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,  
trusting only in your merit;  
like the holy angels gathered all before you,  
may I ceaselessly adore you.  
Let your will ever still  
rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, You are the treasure we seek and the guide who leads. As we gather for worship, give us open hearts to notice Your presence in unexpected places—in a kind word, a gentle breeze, or a new idea. Help us to recognize Your fingerprints in our daily lives. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "What's in Your Pocket?"**

**CHILDREN'S VIDEO**

**LITANY: "God Clues Everywhere!"**

**Leader:** God of surprises, we're on the hunt!

**People:** Not for Easter eggs or lost socks—

**Leader:** But for You, O God, who is hiding in plain sight.

**People:** We'll look high and low, right and left, near and far.

**Leader:** In a smile from a stranger—

**People:** That's a God clue!

**Leader:** In the giggle of a child—

**People:** That's a God clue!

**Leader:** In the stillness of the morning—

**People:** That's a God clue too!

**Leader:** Sometimes we'll miss them,

**People:** But You are patient and keep dropping more hints!

**Leader:** So give us eyes to notice,

**People:** Ears to hear joy,

**Leader:** And hearts to recognize You,

**People:** Even when You show up disguised as ordinary life.

**All:** We are seekers of sacred signs— and with joy, we will find You.  
Amen!

**RESPONSIVE HYMN:** Psalm 100 pg. 820 Make a Joyful Noise

**Make a joyful noise all the earth!**

**Worship your God with gladness.**

**Make a joyful noise all the earth.**

**Come to this place with a song!**

- 1 Know that your God has made you.  
Know it's to God we belong.  
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.  
Worship your God with a song! **R**
- 2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.  
Enter these courts with praise.  
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.  
Worship your God with a song! **R**
- 3 Ages through endless ages,  
seasons of endless years,  
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.  
Worship your God with a song! **R**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Jeremiah 29:11-14

New International Version

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity.<sup>[a]</sup> I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

**Psalm 139:7-10**

New International Version

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

**MESSAGE:** "Finding God in the Everyday"

Have you ever been on a scavenger hunt?

Maybe it was at a birthday party or a school event, or maybe you're the kind of person who still can't resist picking up your phone to play Pokémon Go or go on a geocaching adventure. There's something about hunting for clues, following signs, and discovering treasures that brings out the curiosity in all of us.

Today, I want to suggest something a little bit fun and very real: we are all on a God-sized scavenger hunt. Not for gold coins or hidden Easter eggs—but for something better: signs of God, sprinkled through our everyday lives.

The good news? God is not hiding.

But God *is* inviting us to look a little closer.

Let's start with a simple truth:

God is not playing hide and seek with us.

Jeremiah 29:13 tells us, "*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*" Not some of your heart. Not once a month when you have a moment. But with all your heart.

And here's the beauty of that promise: God wants to be found.

This isn't a cosmic game of "hot or cold." God says, "Come look for me, and I will show up."

Think of Psalm 139:

"Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

If I make my bed in the depths, you are there..."

God is not confined to stained glass windows or holy mountains.  
 God is already in your kitchen, your cubicle, your car, your coffee shop.  
 The Clues Are Everywhere

Just like a good scavenger hunt, God leaves clues. The problem isn't the lack of signs—the problem is that sometimes we stop looking.

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus says:

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap... and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.”

He doesn't say, “Think deeply about theology to understand this truth.”

He says, “Look”

Observe. Watch. Learn.

Think of the signs of God you may have already seen today:

- A warm sunrise breaking through your curtains
- A child laughing without a care in the world
- Someone holding the door open for a stranger
- A flower blooming where it shouldn't be blooming
- A moment of silence that made space for peace

These are not random. They're reminders. God clues.

Even in pain, even in questions, God is still leaving breadcrumbs for us to follow.

In Luke 24, we meet two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. Jesus is walking with them, talking with them—and they don't even realize it's Him! It's only later, as they break bread, that their eyes are opened.

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road?” they said.

Jesus was with them the whole time—they just hadn't been paying attention.

Remember, it's our job to pay attention

Here's the hard part: we have to pay attention.

This is not about being perfect. This is not about being super-religious.

This is about living life with your heart open.

We “seek” God by being present.

We find God in:

- Prayer – not just talking to God, but listening.
- Service – helping others with no agenda.
- In the Simple things – conversation with friends at the table
- A sunset or a starry night

- The calm after the storm
- Reflection – asking: Where was God in my day?

Let me ask you this:

When was the last time you found God in the middle of a mess?

When was the last time you caught yourself saying, “That was weirdly perfect timing,” or “I didn't expect that kindness,” or “I felt something holy in that moment”?

Don't dismiss those feelings. Those are holy clues.

God is whispering: “Here I am. You found Me.”

**HYMN: #288 Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator,  
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
 thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
 as thou has been thou forever wilt be.  
 [Refrain:] Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided—  
 great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
 join with all nature in manifold witness  
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Refrain]
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --  
 wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. [Refrain]

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: “Seeking and Finding”**

Let us join our hearts in prayer—seeking the God who is always just around the corner, just beyond the obvious, and right beside us all along.

**Gracious and joy-filled God,**

Thank You for inviting us into the adventure of life with You. We don't need a map or magnifying glass—just open hearts. Help us remember that You are not far away, but as near as breath, as close as kindness, as constant as the rising sun.

**(Pause)**

When we feel lost or unsure of where to look,

**All:** Lead us, O God, to signs of Your love.

When our days feel ordinary,

**All:** Remind us that You often hide in plain sight.

When we're overwhelmed by worries or weighed down by sadness,

**All:** Whisper gently, "I am here."

We pray for those who feel too tired to seek.

For those in hospitals, in war zones, or in homes filled with silence.

May they know Your nearness.

**(Invite a brief time of silence or name aloud those in need...)**

**All:** Draw near, O God, and let them find You in comfort and care.

We pray for children—curious, wild-hearted, wise beyond their years.

For those learning to spot Your goodness in the world,

And for the grown-ups who need to rediscover the joy of the search.

We pray for our community—this quirky, faithful group of fellow seekers.

May we keep encouraging one another on this treasure hunt of grace.

**All:** Make us a people who point to Your presence—

With our words, with our hands, and with our love.

- And when the trail grows quiet,  
When the next clue seems hidden,  
Remind us that the greatest discovery is this:  
You've been with us the whole time.

**All:** Thanks be to You, God of the Holy Hunt. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN:** #278 In The Quiet Curve of Evening

- 1 In the quiet curve of evening,  
in the sinking of the days,  
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.  
In the lapses of my breathing,  
in the space between my ways,  
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.

- 2 In the rests between the phrases,  
in the cracks between the stars,  
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.  
In the melting down of endings,  
in the cooling of the sun,  
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.
- 3 In the mystery of my hungers,  
in the silence of my rooms,  
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.  
In the empty cave of grieving,  
in the desert of my dreams,  
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.

**SENDING FORTH**

**Leader:** Go out with eyes wide open and hearts eager to search.

**People:** We go to seek and to find God in all places.

**Leader:** May you discover God in laughter, in silence, in beauty, in need, and in love.

**CHORAL AMEN****POSTLUDE**

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

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Next Sunday is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church  
of Canada. If you wish, please wear vintage  
attire if you have it.

## **Announcements**

**Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am.  
All are welcome!

**Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>:** Church Council meeting at 1:30pm

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

**Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Strawberry Supper at Springvale from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are limited and this is a takeout only event. To reserve your ticket please call 905-768-3910 or 905-537-4188.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>:** VBS at Springvale from 9am-12pm. Theme this year is “Blast Off With Jesus”. Lots of fun to be had with games, crafts, songs & snacks. To register please email [info@hsupc.ca](mailto:info@hsupc.ca) with your child’s information.

### **FROM A POSTER FOUND IN A CHURCH IN FRANCE (TRANSLATED)**

“When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear “the call of God”. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving.”