

the benefit of all. Help us to be gardeners and caregivers for the earth that is home for all life. Fill us with your gentle love, that we may walk tenderly on the earth, cooperating with your intention of abundant love and life. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

BLESSING OF THE SOIL

Leader: O Lord, all the earth is yours. We bring before you this rich and living soil that you may bless it and our lands with abundant fertility

All: In the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, bless this living soil, that it may produce for those who respect and love it, food in abundance for birds, beasts and all people.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad.

Let the field be joyful and all that is in it.

Blessing of the Farm Machinery:

Leader: This tractor, whose disc turns the soil, we bring before you, O Lord, that you may look with favour on all we do to cultivate the soil.

All: God most High, bless this tractor and all who work the soil. May the Lord open the heavens for us, his rich treasure house to give rain upon our land at the proper time, and bless every thing to which we turn our hand

Blessing of the Seeds:

Leader: Seeds of life – so small, and yet, in the mystery of death and burial, you will produce life tenfold and more.

We sprinkle you with water, sacred sign of life, asking that you may be embraced by our mother the earth, fed by rain and kissed gently by the sun.

All: In caring for you we shall experience the most ancient profession of the human family, the vocation of being workers in the garden. Soon you will be our pride and joy. Soon you will be our food as these seeds are planted and grow to sustain life.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Genesis 1:11–12, Genesis 2: 7, 15

Genesis 1:11–12 (creation of plants and seeds)

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 2: 7, 15

⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man^[a] from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

REFLECTION: So, God Made a Farmer by Paul Harvey

And on the eighth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, “I need a caretaker.” So God made a farmer.

God said, “I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the field, milk cows again, eat supper, then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board.” So God made a farmer.

“I need somebody with arms strong enough to wrestle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild... somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait for lunch until his wife’s done feeding visiting ladies – then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon – and mean it.” So God made a farmer.

God said, “I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt... and watch it die, then dry his eyes and say ‘Maybe next year.’ I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make a harness out of hay wire, feed sacks and shoe scraps. Who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his 40-hour week by Tuesday noon and then, painin’ from tractor back, put in another 72 hours.” So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double-speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to

help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place. So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to wean lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark."

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed, feed, breed, and brake, and disk, and plow, and plant, and tie the fleece and strain the milk, and replenish the self feeder... and finish a hard week's work with a 5-mile drive to church.

Somebody who'd bale a family together with the soft, strong bonds of sharing... who would laugh, and then sigh... and then reply with smiling eyes when his son says that he wants to spend his life doing what Dad does. So God made a farmer.

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: LIKE A SEED

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within. That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.

May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another. May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—health as only you, O God, can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love. May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand. May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

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

L: Christ calls you to be his disciples, to serve him with love and compassion, to serve Earth by caring for creation.

P: We will remember our planet home! We will groan with all creation! We will celebrate with Earth!

L: Will you care for creation?

P: We will care for creation! We will nurture our planet! We will celebrate life!

L: May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all, fill you with the knowledge of God’s presence in Earth and the pulsing of Christ within you. Go in peace! Serving Christ and loving Earth!

P: We go in peace, serving Christ and loving Earth.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Please bring in paper products for the
Hagersville Food Bank!

Announcements

Sunday, May 5th: Join us at Hagersville in the sanctuary at 7pm to watch the series “The Chosen”.

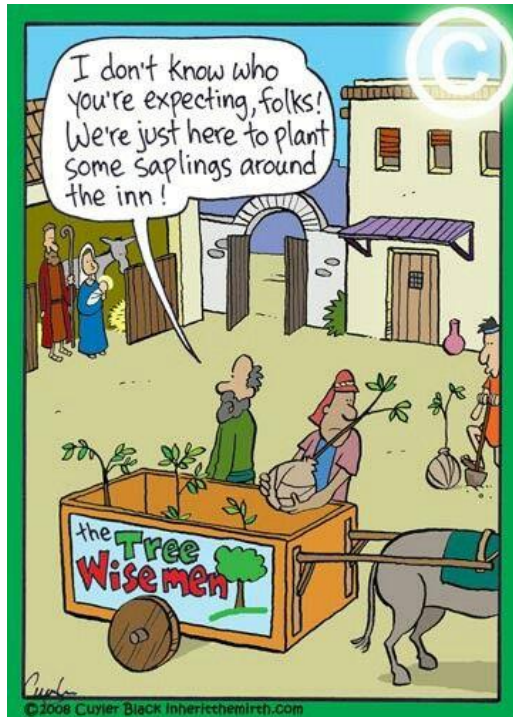
Thursday, May 9th: Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the afternoon/evening. All help is appreciated.

Saturday, June 1st: High Tea at Hagersville from 12pm-2pm. Join us for an afternoon of sandwiches, scones, tea & desserts. Cost is \$20/person in advance. Etransfer available: dalebvecero@hotmail.com. Text or call Dale at 905-515-6908 to reserve your seat.

Wednesday, June 12th: Hagersville Church Council meeting at 2pm.

Wednesday, June 19th: Official Board meeting at Springvale at 10:30am.

Tuesday, June 25th: Mark your calendars for Springvale’s Annual Strawberry Supper! More details to come.



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