

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 2024**

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

Canfield

A Celebration of Thanksgiving and World Wide Communion

“To be thankful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us--and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense blessings from Him.”

THANKSGIVING OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God,

We come before You with hearts full of thanks. In this season of gratitude, we pause to remember all the ways You have blessed us—

With family, friends, and the gift of life itself.

As we bring these offerings before You,

We do so with humble and joyful hearts,

Acknowledging that every good and perfect gift comes from Your hand.

May our offerings, both of resources and spirit,

Be a true reflection of the gratitude we carry for all You have done.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us gather with hearts full of gratitude,
For the blessings that surround us every day—

For the breath in our lungs, the love we share,
For the abundance of creation, and the gifts we bear.

**People: We come with thanksgiving,
For the goodness of God, who provides all things.
In joy and in hardship, we give thanks,
For the steadfast love that endures forever.**

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise,
For family, for friends, and for the community we cherish.
For the food on our tables, the beauty of the earth,
And the peace that flows from God’s unending grace.

**People: With grateful hearts, we worship the Giver of life,
Offering thanks for the gifts we see and those unseen.
In this time and in this place, we join together
To honor the One who is always faithful.**

Leader: As we gather in thanksgiving, let us remember—
God’s love is more than enough.
In every season, in every moment,
We are held in the hands of a generous and gracious God.

**People: We come to worship, to give thanks,
And to celebrate the goodness of God.
Let our hearts overflow with gratitude and joy!**

OPENING HYMN: #516 Come, Ye Thankful People Come

1 Come, you thankful people, come,
 raise the song of harvest home!
 All is safely gathered in,
 safe before the storms begin;
 God, our maker, does provide
 for our needs to be supplied:
 come to God's own temple, come,
 raise the song of harvest home!

2 All the world is God's own field,
 harvests for God's praise to yield;
 wheat and weeds together sown,
 here for joy or sorrow grown;
 first the blade, and then the ear,

then the full corn shall appear:
 Harvest-giver, grant that we
 wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For our God, one day, shall come,
 and shall take this harvest home;
 from the field shall in that day
 all offences purge away;
 giving angels charge at last
 in the fire the weeds to cast;
 but the fruitful ears to store
 in the garner evermore.

4 Even so, God, quickly come
 to your final harvest home!
 Gather all your people in,
 free from sorrow, free from sin;
 there for ever purified,
 in your presence to abide:
 come, with all your angels, come,
 raise the glorious harvest home.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, we come before You today with grateful hearts, thanking You for Your abundant blessings. As we gather in worship, we remember Your faithfulness in the past, we acknowledge Your presence with us now, and we trust You for the future. Open our hearts to receive Your love, and may our praise rise to You with thanksgiving for all You have done. In Jesus' name,
 Amen.

ANTHEM: Good And Simple Gifts by Natalie Sleeth

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

THANKSGIVING LITANY "God is Good"

Leader: Today, we come with hearts full of thanks and laughter, knowing that God is good! Can I get an Amen?

People: Amen! God is good!

Leader: For the blessings of warm pie, family gatherings, and food that makes us loosen our belts—what can we say?

People: God is good!

Leader: For turkey that's cooked just right... or even when it's a little too dry—because hey, there's always gravy!

People: God is good! And so is gravy!

Leader: For the laughter shared around the table, for stories told a thousand times, and for the joy of being together—what do we say?

People: God is good! And so is Grandma's storytelling!

Leader: For the little ones running underfoot, for the chaos, the crumbs, and the noise that fills the house—let's give thanks!

People: God is good! Even when stepping on a stray toy!

Leader: For every pumpkin pie, apple crisp, and the sweet satisfaction of a second slice (or third)—let us rejoice!

People: God is good! And so are the desserts!

Leader: For the moments when we pause, when we catch our breath, and realize that we are surrounded by blessings too many to count—what's our response?

People: God is good! All the time!

Leader: For God's faithfulness through every season, for His grace in every challenge, and for His love that never fails—how do we respond?

People: God is good! Yesterday, today, and forever!

Leader: And for the laughter that fills our hearts, the joy of being alive, and the promise that God walks with us through it all—what do we say, church?

People: God is good! Let's laugh, rejoice, and give thanks!

Leader: So, with thankful hearts, full stomachs, and joyful souls, we declare together:

People: God is good, all the time! And all the time, God is good! Amen!

RESPONSE: #7 " Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong!" let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks. Give thanks.

POEM: "The Circle of Life in Thanksgiving"

HYMN: #217 Verses 1,2,3 All Creatures of Our God and King

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,
Soft shining moon with silver gleam,
Sing praises, sing praises,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

2. O rushing winds and breezes soft,
O clouds that ride the winds aloft,
Sing praises, hallelujah!
O rising morn, in praise rejoice;
O lights of evening, find a voice:
Sing praises, sing praises,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3. Earth, ever fertile, day by day
Brings forth rich blessing on our way:
Sing praises, hallelujah!

The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
Let them God's glory also show:
Sing praises...

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE: "Grateful for Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

Thanksgiving is a time to pause and reflect on the blessings we've received. As we gather, let's focus on how gratitude connects our past, present, and future.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). But this thankfulness extends beyond today—it includes the rich tapestry of our lives, looking backward, living in the present, and trusting forward.

Thankful for the Past (Reflection on God's Faithfulness)

Psalm 77:11-12

"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds."

The past is a source of deep gratitude. God's faithfulness to us through our life experiences—both joyous and challenging—reminds us that He has never left us. Reflect on moments where God answered prayers, opened doors, or gave strength to endure difficult seasons. These moments of grace build a foundation for trust.

Thanksgiving is not just about celebrating the good times but also appreciating the lessons and growth that come from trials.

Grateful for the Present (Contentment and Awareness)

Philippians 4:11-12

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."

Gratitude for the present means embracing the here and now, even when it's imperfect. It's about contentment and the recognition that God is with us in every moment.

Thanksgiving should lead us to slow down and be fully aware of today's blessings: the relationships, the provision, the peace that surpasses understanding.

In a world that constantly urges us to strive for more, we can cultivate thankfulness for what God has already given us right now.

Hopeful for the Future (Trusting God's Plan)

Jeremiah 29:11

“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.”

Gratitude for the future is about trusting in God's providence. We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow.

Just as God was faithful in the past and present, He will be faithful in the days to come. Our future, even with its unknowns, is secure in God's hands.

This forward-looking gratitude empowers us to live without fear and with confidence that God's plan is for our ultimate good.

Pause

Remember, Thanksgiving is about more than a single day or a meal. It's an ongoing attitude that embraces the past, present, and future with gratitude.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving, may we remember God's faithfulness in the past, be content in the present, and walk in hope for the future and Thank God for His unwavering presence throughout our lives. Pray for a spirit of gratitude that transcends circumstances and seasons, and trust Him with tomorrow.

COMMUNION LEAD IN HYMN: #469 We Gather Here

- 1 We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.
- 2 He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.
We are now a family of which Christ is the head;
though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

- 3 We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION LITANY

Leader: We gather today with believers from every nation and every place, united by the body of Christ.

People: We are one body, one family, called to serve the world together.

Leader: From every corner of the earth, Your people come, O God—different languages, cultures, and traditions, yet we are all part of Your great family.

People: We share in the one bread and the one cup, united by Your love.

Leader: In Christ, we are made one—despite the boundaries and differences that separate us, Your Spirit brings us together in love.

People: We give thanks for the gift of unity and the calling to serve each other in humility and grace.

Leader: As we come to Your table today, we remember our brothers and sisters around the world—those who share in abundance and those who gather in scarcity.

People: Make us mindful of their needs, and inspire us to share what we have, so all may be fed.

Leader: We pray for the church around the world, for those in places of peace and those in places of conflict, for those who gather freely and those who must gather in secret.

People: Strengthen Your church to be a beacon of hope, justice, and love in every land.

Leader: Today, we partake of this holy meal as a foretaste of the great banquet that is to come, when all will gather at Your table.

People: Until that day, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, and we live as His body in the world.

Leader: Come, let us eat and drink, for the table is prepared.

People: We come with open hearts, thankful for the gift of communion with God and with one another. Amen.

ANTHEM: At The Table Of The Lord by Jay Althouse

WORDS OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION IS SERVED

CLOSING COMMUNION PRAYER (UNISON)

Gracious God,
We thank You for the gift of this sacred meal. As we have partaken of this bread and this cup, we are reminded of our unity in Christ, transcending borders, languages, and differences. Strengthen us by this communion to go out into the world as ambassadors of Your love, peace, and justice.
Empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ, serving those in need, advocating for the oppressed, and working for unity where there is division. May the bond we share in this holy meal inspire us to live as one body, united by Your Spirit, for the healing of the world.
Send us out in Your grace, filled with gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ and committed to living as His followers. Keep us ever mindful of Your presence with us, and help us to reflect Your love in all that we do.
In the name of Jesus Christ, who unites us all, we pray, Our Father Who art in Heaven

POST COMMUNION HYMN: #481 Sent Forth by God’s Blessings

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

SENDING FORTH

The God of laughter sends you out.
So, we can share joy with everyone.
The Brother of the poor sends you out.
So, we may bring hope and healing to the broken and despairing.
The Spirit of wonder sends you out.
So, we may join all creation in offering thanks.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, October 15th: Coffee time at Springvale at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome!

Friday, October 25th: Soup Lunch at Hagersville from 11:30am-1pm. Cost is \$10 per person and includes soup, bun & cookie. Soup kinds will be chicken noodle, hamburger and butternut squash. This will be a take-out only event. To order, please call 905-768-3729 by October 24th at noon. ***We are in need of people to help make soup & cookies ☺***

Saturday, October 26th: Save the date for Young at Heart’s October Dinner. The theme is Oktoberfest. More details to follow.

Sunday, October 27th: Joint service celebrating Hagersville's 155th Anniversary at 11am. Guest speaker will be Rev. Douglas Mitchell. Special music will be provided by The Sing-Capella Quartet, sharing a mix of music they love the most. Lunch will be provided after the service.

Sunday, November 10th: Joint Remembrance Service at Hagersville beginning at 11am. Assembly of Friends will join us for worship. There will be a potluck lunch to follow the service, please bring a salad or main dish. Dessert will be provided.

Please bring paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank! ☺

