

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
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With courage and faith we can overcome great obstacles. Meaning ...  
that when we face big problems, we don't have to be afraid. If we have  
courage and trust God, He will help us overcome even the hardest  
things.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Bless these gifts, O God, and use them to overcome hunger, despair, and  
injustice. May our offerings, like David's sling and stone, become  
instruments of Your power and love. Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in the presence of the One who gives strength to the  
weak,

**People:** and courage to the fainthearted.

Leader: We come, young and old, small and mighty,

**People:** to worship the God who defeats the giants in our lives.

Leader: With sling and stone, with song and prayer, with faith and hope,

**People:** we lift our hearts to the Lord of Hosts!

**OPENING HYMN: #345 Come, Children, Join to Sing**

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!

Praise to our Servant-King: Hallelujah!

Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice,

Now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!

Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends,

A love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!

Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!

The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore,

Singing forevermore: Hallelujah!"

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, You are our refuge and strength, our shield and protector.  
Like David, we sometimes feel small against the giants we face — fear,  
doubt, injustice, and worry. But with You on our side, no enemy can  
stand. Fill us with courage today, strengthen our faith, and remind us  
that in Your hands, even the smallest offering can become mighty.  
Amen.

**ANTHEM:** I See A New Heaven by Carolyn McDade

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

People: God of power and might, we confess that sometimes we let our  
fears become larger than our faith. We shrink from challenges and  
believe the giants are too strong. Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting that  
You are greater than anything we face. Renew our trust in Your power,  
and help us to step forward with courage and hope. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Leader: God is our strength and shield. In Christ we are forgiven,  
renewed, and set free to face the days ahead with courage. Thanks be to  
God!

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**CHILDREN'S SONG**

**LITANY: Facing Our Giants**

**Leader:** Sometimes the giants in life look pretty scary...

**People:** But God is bigger than any giant!

**Leader:** David was small, Goliath was tall.

**People:** But God gave the victory to the small!

**Leader:** We may not fight with slings and stones,

**People:** But God gives us courage in our hearts and homes.

**Leader:** Giants of fear, worry, and doubt try to stop us...

**People:** But God gives us faith, joy, and hope to guide us!

**Leader:** With God, little becomes mighty.

**People:** With God, weakness becomes strength.

**Leader:** So let us face our giants together,

**People:** For the battle belongs to the Lord!

**\*CHORUS: #47 JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES**

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word. X2

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 Samuel 17:32–50

<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, “Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”

<sup>33</sup> Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you.”

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. <sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. <sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!”

<sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

<sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

**SERMON: “Little but Mighty”**

Have you ever faced something that just felt *too big*?

A problem, a fear, a challenge that towered over you?

That’s what Israel felt as they stood on the battlefield looking at Goliath. He was huge, armored, trained, terrifying. Every soldier was afraid. No one wanted to take that first step forward.

And then along came David. Not a warrior, not a soldier, not even a man yet. Just a shepherd boy who showed up with bread and cheese for his brothers. By all appearances, he was too small, too weak, too

inexperienced. But as we know, David became the one to step forward when no one else would.

Wow, that is one of those stories that you never forget. The Story in Sunday School where the Goliath was portrayed as 8 feet tall and David as 4ft tall. And I want to put it into perspective for 2025.

Goliath isn't just a character from an old story. Goliath represents the *giants* in our lives today. We all have giants to face in life. For some, the giant is fear ... fear of failure, of loss, of the unknown. For others, the giant is grief or illness ... something that feels overwhelming. For some, the giant is depression ... caused by many situations in our world. We all face giants. Sometimes they seem too strong for us, too loud, too frightening. We don't want to face them, like the Israelites, we'd rather stay back in the safety of our tents than face what feels impossible. But David saw something others didn't. While everyone else measured Goliath's size and strength, David measured God's.

David remembered how God had helped him before, when he faced lions and bears protecting his sheep. If God had been faithful then, surely God would be faithful now.

And notice something: David didn't try to wear Saul's armor or carry Saul's sword. He couldn't be someone else. He had to fight in the way God had equipped him. A sling. Five smooth stones. Faith in God. That was enough.

Pause.....

This story reminds us of a powerful truth: God loves to use what looks small and weak to accomplish great things. A few biblical examples .... A shepherd boy beats a warrior. A few loaves and fishes feed a crowd. Daniel thrown into the Lions Den and his faith never wavered and God keep him safe. Esther, a young Jewish woman who became queen, found herself in a position where her courage and faith could save her people from destruction. Moses was an ordinary man who often doubted his own abilities, but God used him to lead the Israelites out of slavery. A cross, a symbol of death, becomes the doorway to eternal life.

Over and over, Scripture shows us that God works through the small, the ordinary, the overlooked. Because then it's clear, the victory belongs to God.

So now I would like to pause and ask a tough question to all of you, think for a moment ... what giants are you facing right now?

Maybe it's a diagnosis and you don't know how to fight. Maybe it's a relationship that feels broken beyond repair. Maybe it's the giant of depression or anxiety, and you hear that voice that whispers, "*You're not strong enough.*"

Maybe it's the giant of wondering what the future will hold. For you, for your children, your grandchildren, for our faith, our church...

But the story of David reminds us: we are not defined by the size of our giants. We are defined by the size of our God.

David didn't win because he was the best shot with a sling. David won because he trusted God enough to take that first step onto the battlefield. Courage doesn't mean we're never afraid. Courage means we move forward anyway, knowing God is with us.

Whatever giants you face this week, remember: God doesn't need you to be the biggest or the strongest. God only needs you to be faithful and to trust.

The smallest things can give you strength. A small prayer whispered in the night is mighty. A small act of kindness to someone in need is mighty.

Like David, you may feel small compared to the giants in your life. But in God's hands, even the smallest stone can bring down the tallest giant. So, step forward with faith. Face your giants with courage. For the God who helped David and so many others is the God who stands with you today.

With God, even the smallest person or action can be mighty.  
Amen.

### **HYMN: #675 Will Your Anchor Hold**

- 1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,  
when the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,  
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,  
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

- 2 Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,  
when the breakers roar and the reef is near;  
through the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,  
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow **R**
- 3 It will surely hold in the floods of death,  
when the waters cold chill your latest breath;  
On the rising tide you can never fail  
while our hopes abide within the veil. **R**
- 4 Will our eyes behold, through the gathering night,  
the city of gold, the harbour bright,  
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,  
with the storms all past for evermore. **R**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of courage and strength, we come before You today knowing that, like David, we often feel small in the face of life's giants. Yet we trust that You are with us, and that Your power is greater than any challenge we face. We pray for those who are battling giants of illness and pain. Bring healing, comfort, and hope to those who suffer. We pray for those who face giants of grief and loss. Surround them with Your love, and remind them they are not alone. We pray for children and youth, that they may know Your strength when they feel small, and Your guidance as they grow in faith and courage. We pray for our church, O God, that when we face challenges, we would remember that You make us mighty in Your service. Help us to trust You with our future, and to share Your love with boldness. We pray for the world, where the giants of war, injustice, and hunger still stand tall. Give leaders wisdom, give nations peace, and give us courage to be peacemakers in our own communities. And finally, we pray for ourselves. You know the personal giants we each face—fears that whisper, doubts that linger, worries that weigh heavy. Give us faith like David, to step forward trusting that You go before us. We lift all these prayers, spoken and unspoken, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray...

### LORD'S PRAYER

### CLOSING HYMN: #670 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light:

**Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.**

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall: **R**

When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river, I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand: **R**

### SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go into the world with courage, for the God who helped David will help you.

**People:** We go, trusting that God makes the small mighty.

Leader: Face your giants with faith and hope,

**People:** for the Lord goes with us always!

Leader: May the Lord bless you with courage, strengthen you with faith, and guide you with love, now and always.

### CHORAL AMEN

### POSTLUDE

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## **Announcements**

**Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Scrapbooking setup at Hagersville in the evening. All help is appreciated.

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>:** The Ryerse Jazz Singers will be performing at 2pm in the sanctuary. Join us to share in the love of music while raising money for the C.E. Wing floor. Free will offering.

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>:** Springvale Anniversary joint service beginning at 11am. Gary & Shirley Teal will be speaking on their mission work in Africa. Lunch to follow.

**Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>:** Turkey Supper at Springvale from 4pm-6pm. Takeout only. Adults are \$25, ages 12 and under are \$10. For tickets call Barb at 905-768-3910 or Betty at 905-537-4188.

**Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>:** Hagersville United 156<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service & the town of Hagersville 150<sup>th</sup> special service at 2pm with guest speaker Rev. Douglas Mitchell. More details to come.

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

A pastor once told his congregation,  
“Trials and tribulations are like washing machines. They twist  
us, spin us, and knock us around... but in the end, we come  
out cleaner, brighter, and stronger.”

One man in the back whispered to his wife,  
“Great... so that’s why I feel like I’ve been stuck on the  
*heavy duty* cycle for years!”