

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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Share, be fair, Sprinkle love everything with care. Be careful out there, this world is chaos, everywhere but don't overeat your share, of the pie. Don't take an eye for an eye. When you don't know why, just try, to get along. Remember, everyone belongs. It's one place, one race. Just us, and a whole lot of empty outer space. ~ Donna Ashworth

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have given us more than enough.
As we share these gifts, teach us to give freely,
live gently, and care deeply, for one another and for this world.
Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world that feels loud and crowded, where chaos often fills the air,

People: We come seeking fairness, care, and peace.

Leader: We come reminded not to take more than we need, not to harden our hearts, not to return harm for harm.

People: We come remembering that everyone belongs.

Leader: This is one place. One people. One world.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us to live gently together. Amen.

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OPENING HYMN: #357 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

1 Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here;
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

2 First let me hear how the children stood round his knee;
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the love-light of Jesus' face.

3 Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea,
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee;
and how the Master, ready and kind,
chided the billows, and hushed the wind.

4 Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm-tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing
loudest hosannas! Jesus is King!

5 Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all people and all places, we gather today aware of how divided the world can feel, and how easy it is to forget one another's humanity. Slow us down. Soften our hearts. Teach us again how to share, how to be fair, how to sprinkle everything we do with care.

When we are tempted to take more than our share,
remind us that there is enough.

When we feel overwhelmed by chaos,
help us remember that we belong, to you, and to one another.
Be present in this time of worship,
and shape us into people of compassion and grace.
Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Go and Do Likewise"

Leader: Jesus calls us not to pass by those in need.

People: Teach us to stop, to see, and to care.

Leader: Jesus welcomes the stranger and eats with the outcast.

People: Open our tables and our hearts.

Leader: Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is love.

People: Help us love with action, not words alone.

Leader: Jesus teaches that mercy is stronger than revenge.

People: Lead us away from "an eye for an eye"

and toward forgiveness and peace.

Leader: Jesus shows us that neighbour is not a label, but a choice we make.

People: Give us courage to choose compassion.

Leader: When the world teaches us to hurry past suffering,

People: Remind us to walk humbly and gently.

Leader: When fear tells us to build walls,

People: Help us build bridges instead.

Leader: Jesus invites all who are weary to come and find rest.

People: May we offer rest and refuge to others.

Leader: In this one world we share,

People: Help us remember that everyone belongs and every person matters.

Leader: This is one place. One world.

All: One people, sharing this fragile earth, surrounded by a vast universe, just us, and a whole lot of empty space. With God calling us to live with care. Amen.

*CHORUS: #236 "MAKE ME A SERVANT"

Make me a servant, humble and meek,

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,

And may the pray'r of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant,

Make me a servant today. X 2

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Micah 6:8

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.

"Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,'^[a] and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b]

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

MESSAGE: "Everyone Belongs"

The words we heard today sound almost childlike at first:

Share. Be fair. Be careful. Don't take more than your share of the pie.

And yet, if we're honest, these simple truths are some of the hardest

lessons to live out. We live in a world that often rewards grabbing more, speaking louder, winning at all costs. A world where “an eye for an eye” still feels like justice, even when it leaves everyone blind. Jesus knew this about the world.

That’s why he told stories. In the parable we heard from Luke 10, a man is beaten and left on the side of the road. Two respected, religious figures see him, and pass by. They know the rules. They know the risks. And they choose distance instead of compassion. Then Jesus surprises everyone. A Samaritan, an outsider, someone considered by the Jewish leaders ethnically and religiously unclean, is the one who stops. He sees the wounded man. He is moved with compassion.

He binds his wounds, lifts him up, and makes sure he is cared for. And Jesus asks the question that still echoes today:

“Which of these was a neighbour?”

The answer is clear ... the one who showed mercy. The prophet Micah doesn’t offer a complicated solution either. No ten-step plan. No detailed rulebook. Just three simple, demanding truths: Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly.

Justice means fairness, making room for others at the table. Kindness means care, sprinkling grace into our words and actions. Humility reminds us that this world is not ours to dominate, but ours to share. The Samaritan understood that. He didn’t stop because the injured man was like him. He stopped because the man was human. And then there is that quiet, powerful reminder at the heart of our faith: Everyone belongs. Not because we agree. Not because we are the same. But because this is one place. One people. Floating together in a vast universe, just us, and a whole lot of empty outer space. When we don’t know why things are the way they are, when the world feels chaotic and overwhelming, the call of faith is simple and profound:

Stop. Notice. Choose compassion.

Live as though every person matters, because they do.

This is not naïve hope. It is holy courage. And it is exactly what God asks of us. Go and be a neighbour ... stopping when others pass by, showing mercy where it is needed, and remembering: everyone belongs. Amen.

HYMN: #677 They’ll Know we Are Christian by our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: *And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land. **Chorus**

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we’ll guard each man’s dignity and save each man’s pride. **Chorus**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.

And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. **Chorus**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of this fragile world, we pray for places torn by violence and injustice. Teach us to seek fairness rather than revenge, understanding rather than blame. We pray for those who feel forgotten or pushed aside—for the hungry, the lonely, the overwhelmed. May they know they belong. We pray for ourselves, when we are tired, unsure, or afraid, and tempted to take more than we need. Help us live with care and restraint. Hold this world in your mercy, O God, and guide us in the ways of justice, kindness, and humility. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #595 We Are Pilgrims on a Journey

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

SENDING FORTH

Go now into this one world we share, not rushing past pain,
not turning away from need, not measuring who deserves compassion.
Go as neighbours. Go with open eyes and open hearts.
Bind wounds where you can. Offer kindness where it is needed.
Leave room at the table for all. And may the love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ, and the steady guidance of the Holy Spirit
go with you now and always. Choral Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Tuesday, February 3rd: Coffee Tuesday Breakfast beginning at 9am.
All are welcome!

Sunday, February 15th: Peggy will be away, there will be someone
filling in at each church.

Tuesday, February 17th: Pancake Supper at Hagersville
from 4:00pm-6:30pm. Meal includes pancakes, ham/sausage, baked
beans & a fruit cup. Adults are \$12.50, ages 6-12 are \$5.00 & 5 and
under are free. Family deal-2 adults & 2 kids for \$30.00. Tickets
available at the door.

Sunday, February 22nd: Hagersville Annual Meeting immediately
following short worship service.

Sunday, March 1st: Springvale Annual Meeting immediately following
worship service. Someone will fill for the Hagersville service while
Peggy attends the meeting at Springvale.

Wednesday, March 11th: Official Board meeting at Springvale at
1:30pm.

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

