

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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God in Ordinary Days... focusing on noticing God in everyday life.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we offer these gifts and the ordinary days that lie ahead.
Use what we give, our time, our resources, our hearts, to bring comfort,
kindness, and hope to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: After the celebrations and busy days, we return to ordinary time.
People: Yet God is here, in quiet mornings, in simple meals, in everyday moments.

Leader: We come with our hopes, our worries, our routines, and our questions.

People: God meets us here, just as surely as in the excitement of Christmas.

Leader: Let us open our hearts to the still, small voice of God.

People: We worship the One who walks with us through all our days.

OPENING HYMN: #87 I am The Light of the World

'I am the light of the world!'

You people come and follow me!'

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

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- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R
- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth
and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! R
- 3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R
- 4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! R

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and gracious God, the lights are packed away, the calendar has turned, and life settles back into familiar rhythms. Remind us that You are not only the God of big moments, but also the God of laundry and dishes, phone calls and caregiving, workplaces and quiet evenings at home. Open our eyes to Your presence in small kindnesses, our ears to Your whisper in times of stillness, and our hearts to the peace that comes from knowing we are never alone. Through Christ, who walks with us every ordinary day. Amen.

ANTHEM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of everyday grace, we confess that we often look for You only in excitement, answers, and miracles. We miss Your presence in quiet rooms, long days, and ordinary tasks. Forgive us, and renew us, that we may recognize Your love woven through every moment of our lives. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME: "Where Is God on a Normal Day?"

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: God Shows Up Here!

Leader: When Christmas decorations are packed away and life goes back to normal...

People: God is still with us, right here, right now!

Leader: In alarm clocks that ring too early, and coffee that finally wakes us up ...

People: God is with us in the start of our day.

Leader: In dishes, laundry, and groceries, in school runs and errands...

People: God is with us in ordinary tasks.

Leader: In phone calls to check on a friend, in helping out a neighbour...

People: God is with us in kindness and care.

Leader: In quiet prayers whispered at the sink, and sighs spoken only to God...

People: God is with us in every breath.

Leader: In laughter around the table, and tears we don't quite have words for...

People: God is with us in joy and in struggle.

Leader: Not only in bright lights, angels, and celebration, but also in January days that feel ordinary...

People: God is here. God is faithful. God is near.

Leader: Let us live this week with open eyes and hopeful hearts ...

People: trusting that God meets us in every ordinary moment of our lives.

CHORUS: #41 In His Time

In His time, in His time,
He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord, please show me ev'ry day,

As You're teaching me Your way,
That You do just what You say, in Your time.

In Your time, in Your time,
You make all things beautiful in Your time.
Lord, my life to You I bring,
May each song I have to sing
Be to You a lovely thing, in Your time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Kings 19:12 (KJV) states: "And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." This verse highlights the way God communicates, emphasizing His presence in a gentle whisper rather than in dramatic displays of power.

Luke 2:39–40 ³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their *own* city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong ^[k]in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Psalms 46:10

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

MESSAGE: "God in Ordinary Days"

Have you noticed how quiet January feels? The ornaments are boxed away, the cookies are mostly gone, the company has gone home, and the house suddenly feels... well... ordinary again. No more carols. No more big gatherings. Just winter roads, routines, and to-do lists. And sometimes, after the glow of Christmas, ordinary life can feel a little flat ... even lonely. Which is why I love the quiet part of the story we heard today. Jesus goes home, to ordinary life

Luke tells us something very simple: "They returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom." No angels singing. No shepherds running. No star in the sky. Just... Nazareth, a small town, everyday life. Jesus grew up learning carpentry tools, helping His parents, eating supper at the table, laughing with neighbours, learning to pray at home. For nearly thirty years, the Son of God lived a life that looked very much like ours.

Isn't that something? Before the miracles, before the crowds, before the cross, Jesus lived the ordinary rhythms of work, learning, friendships, chores, and prayer. God came into the world and chose to spend most of His time in the places we sometimes overlook.

Then we hear about Elijah. He was exhausted, afraid, overwhelmed. He expected God to show up with power and fireworks.

And Scripture tells us:

- There was a great wind, but God was not in the wind.
- There was an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake.
- There was a fire, but God was not in the fire.

And then... "...a sound of sheer silence." Or "...a still, small voice." And Elijah covered his face, because in the quiet, God was near. Sometimes we think God only shows up when something dramatic happens: the big healing, the big answer, the mountain-top moment. But Elijah learned what Jesus' quiet childhood also shows us: God is often found right in the middle of ordinary life. So that brings me to this question ... Where does God meet us today? Or where might we meet God this week? Maybe not only here in church even though this time matters deeply, but also:

- while washing dishes and thinking of the people you love,
- in a phone call to someone who's lonely,
- in the patience it takes to care for a spouse or parent,
- in laughter shared over a simple supper,
- in a quiet prayer whispered before sleep.

Those are holy places too. Faith isn't mainly lived on the "big days." Most of it is lived in grocery stores, kitchens, work shifts, doctor's waiting rooms, and quiet car rides. And in all of it, God says: "Be still, and know that I am God." (*Psalm 46:10*)

The invitation for us this January is not to try harder to be spectacular Christians...but simply to notice: To pause, even for a few seconds, and say: "Lord, I know You are here with me." Whether is at the kitchen sink. At the office desk. While folding laundry. While taking a walk in the cold. God is not far away. God is not waiting for the next holiday. God is present ... quietly, faithfully ... in each ordinary moment. Friends, as we think of Jesus growing up in Nazareth, living an ordinary life and Elijah hearing God in the stillness remind us of this truth: Our ordinary days are sacred ground, because God walks through them with us. So, as we move through January, with its routines, its quiet,

dark days, its long evenings ... may we trust that God is near: in our work, in our rest, in our conversations, and even in our weariness. And may we learn to listen for that gentle, steady, loving whisper: "I am with you ... always." Amen.

HYMN: #506 Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.
- 3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of ordinary days, we bring You our daily concerns:

For those who feel tired...for those who are lonely...

for caregivers who give so much...for those facing winter sadness or worry...

Pause.

Be their strength, their comfort, their steady presence.

We pray for our community — for workers, teachers, farmers, nurses, volunteers — all who quietly make life better for others.

Pause.

Help us notice opportunities to be Your hands and heart in simple ways. And in our own lives, teach us to pause, to listen, and to trust that You are near — in every ordinary moment. We pray in Jesus' name, who walks beside us each day. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #82 A Light is Gleaming
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

- 1 When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears. **R**
- 2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
'God's light will ever stay.' **R**
- 3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: **R**
- 4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
- warming all our days. **R**

SENDING FORTH

Go now into the week ahead, into the routines, the tasks, the quiet moments, knowing that God goes with you: in your home, in your work, in your rest, and in every ordinary day. May the peace of Christ settle gently around you, and may the Spirit help you listen for the still, small voice of God.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, January 14th: Hagersville Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

Friday, January 16th: Chili Lunch at Hagersville from 11am-12:30pm. Variety of chili's available. \$10/person. Takeout only. For pre-order please call 905-768-3729 by Jan. 15th @ 6pm.

Tuesday, January 20th: Coffee time at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Sunday, January 25th: All committee reports due to the office for Annual Reports.

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 4:30pm-6:30pm. More details to follow.

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.

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

