

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God  
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**“Baptism of the Lord ... Remember Who You Are”**

Before Jesus did anything, God called Him beloved ... and we live from that same blessing.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, receive these gifts  
and use them to remind others  
that they are seen, valued, and loved.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The voice of God echoes over the waters,  
People: calling us beloved, calling us by name.  
Leader: Jesus stepped into the river,  
People: joining us in the joys and struggles of ordinary life.  
Leader: In this place, in this moment,  
People: we remember who we are, God's children, loved and welcomed.  
All: Let us worship God with grateful hearts.

**OPENING HYMN: #232 Joyful, Joyful**

1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,

**2**

opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

**2**

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.

**3**

You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

**4**

Mortals join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, at the river Jordan, God named Jesus “Beloved,” and through Him, God you name us as Your own. In the routines and responsibilities of our days, remind us that we belong to You. Wash away our fear, renew our courage, and stir in us a deeper trust in Your presence. As we worship, may we hear again the whisper of Your Spirit: “You are my beloved child — with you I am well pleased.” Amen.

## ANTHEM

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace, we forget so easily who we are. We listen to voices of doubt, fear, and comparison. We rush through our days without pausing to remember that we are Your beloved children. Forgive us. Wash us again in Your mercy. Restore to us the joy of being Yours.

Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, hear the good news, we are named, claimed, and loved by God. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

### CHILDREN'S TIME: "Name Tags"

Bring simple paper name tags.

Ask: "Who here has ever worn a name tag? Why do we wear them?"

Explain: "Sometimes we forget who we truly are. God gives us a special name —*Beloved*. No matter how the day goes, God says, 'You are mine.'"

Give each child a tag; write **Beloved** underneath their name.

Bless them and send them off.

### CHILDREN'S VIDEO

### LITANY FOR REAFFIRMING BAPTISM

**Leader:** We come to the water, remembering a story older than we are, a story of grace, calling, and new beginnings.

**People:** We remember our baptism, and give thanks.

**Leader:** When Jesus stepped into the Jordan, God's voice declared, "You are my beloved."

**People:** That same promise is spoken to us: We belong to God.

**Leader:** When fear whispers that we are not enough...

**People:** God says, "You are mine."

**Leader:** When we forget our purpose ...

**People:** God calls us back to the path of love.

**All:** We believe in God, who calls us by name and never lets us go.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who entered the waters with us

and showed us that God's love has no limits. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who reminds us, day by day: "You are beloved. Walk in my grace." We are God's children, claimed, forgiven, and sent to live with hope. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### HYMN: #381 Spirit of Life 2x

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion,  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free:  
Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### Isaiah 43:1-3

#### Israel's Only Saviour

**43** But now, this is what the LORD says—

he who created you, Jacob,  
he who formed you, Israel:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

**2** When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

**3** For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

### Mark 1:1-11

#### John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"<sup>[c]</sup>—

<sup>3</sup>“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with<sup>[e]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with<sup>[f]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”

### **The Baptism and Testing of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

### **MESSAGE: “Remembering Who You Are”**

There’s something powerful about hearing your name spoken with love. Maybe you remember a teacher who believed in you. Or a grandparent who said your name with warmth. Or a friend who looked at you and said, “You matter.” Those simple words can steady us when life becomes noisy or uncertain. Today we hear God speak *those* kinds of words, not only to Jesus but to us.

Jesus is now a grown man ... when Jesus came to the Jordan River, there was no choir, no stained-glass window, no organ prelude. Just water. Mud at the edges. People waiting in line. It looked ordinary ... John the Baptist was baptising people in God’s name. Jesus steps into that ordinary river because that is where God meets us. In the ordinary.....

Not only on the mountaintop. Not only in the sanctuary. But right in the middle of everyday life.

And as Jesus rises from the water, the heavens open and a voice says: “You are my Son, the Beloved. With you I am well pleased.”

That sentence is not just an announcement about Jesus, it is a declaration about God’s heart. Before Jesus preaches a sermon,

before He heals, before miracles, before sacrifice, God says ... You are loved. You are mine. I delight in you. The order matters. Jesus does not work *for* love, He works *out of* love. And baptism reminds us of that same truth. We live in a world that constantly says: “You are what you produce.” “You are how successful you are.” “You are the image you present.” But baptism says: NO! Each of You are God’s beloved ... first, last, and always. Of course, we don’t always feel beloved. There are days when worries wake us in the middle of the night. There are seasons when grief lingers. There are struggles no one else sees. And in those moments, other voices try to define us: “You’re falling behind.” “You’re not good enough.” “Other people have it more together.” But those voices do not have the final say. When we reaffirm baptism, we are not pretending life is easy, we are remembering that life is held. Held by God’s promise: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”

(Isaiah 43:2)

I would like to share with you that Baptism isn’t a one-time event. Some people believe that once the water dries. The day moves on. Many people think that well that done, I am good ... but not so. As Christians, we return again and again to the font, not to redo the past but to remember the truth, that Baptism means...We don’t face tomorrow alone.

We don’t carry burdens without help. We don’t have to prove our worth. We belong to God. And because we belong to God, we are sent... like Jesus was sent ...sent into classrooms, retirement homes, grocery stores, hospitals, kitchens, committee meetings, workplaces, and neighbourhoods to live as people who carry God’s love into the world. So today, as you see the water, hear these words again ...

**“You are my beloved child. With you I am well pleased.”**

Remember you are God’s beloved child ... Not because you are perfect. Not because you never fall. But because God has chosen to claim you, to love you, and to walk beside you through every day of your life. May that promise steady us, comfort us, and give us courage, and may others begin to hear it through us, too.

**Amen.**

**HYMN: #644 I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry**

- 1 I was there to hear your burning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.
- 2 I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.
- 3 When you heard the wonder of the word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.
- 4 If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.
- 5 In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.
- 6 When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.
- 7 I was there to hear your burning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Holy God, we pray for those who need to remember  
they are loved, the lonely, the anxious, the grieving,  
those carrying heavy responsibilities, and those searching for direction.  
We pray for our churches and community: give us courage to live as

people who know we belong to You. We pray for the wider world,  
for peace where there is conflict, for shelter where there is need,  
for hope where despair grows. Gather all our prayers, spoken and silent,  
as we join in the prayer Jesus taught...

**Our Father...****LORD'S PRAYER****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.

**SENDING FORTH**

Go now into ordinary days, remembering who you are:  
God's beloved child. May the love of God surround you,  
the grace of Christ renew you, and the Spirit whisper to your heart,  
today and always ... "You are mine."

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

## Announcements

**Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>:** Coffee time at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>:** All committee reports due to the office for Annual Reports.

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Coffee Tuesday Breakfast beginning at 9am. All are welcome!

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Peggy will be away, there will be someone filling in at each church.

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>:** 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 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Hagersville Annual Meeting immediately following short worship service.

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

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>:** Official Board meeting at Springvale at 1:30pm.

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

