HAGERSVLLE UNITED CHURCH & SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 2026

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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A Cup of Tea with God … Take a moment. Put the kettle on. Be still. Remember that God is with you

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, You have blessed us with more than we sometimes recognize. Accept these gifts as an expression of our gratitude. May they bring comfort to those who are struggling, hope to those who are discouraged, and love to those who need to know they are not forgotten. Bless both the gifts and the givers. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who are weary from the busyness of life.
People: We come seeking rest in God's presence.
Leader: Come, all who carry worries, memories, and responsibilities.
People: We come to lay our burdens down.
Leader: Come, all who have forgotten what it feels like to be still.
People: We come to listen for God's gentle voice.
Leader: God does not ask us to hurry, achieve, or impress.
People: God simply invites us to come.
All: Let us be still, open our hearts, and worship the God who welcomes us with love.

OPENING HYMN: #374 Come and Find the Quiet Centre

1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
Finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, We come before you this morning with busy minds and sometimes weary hearts. This past week has reminded us of sacrifice, courage, loss, and the precious gift of peace. And now, as we gather in your house, we are grateful for a moment to simply be. Help us to set aside our lists of things to do, our worries about tomorrow, and the distractions that so often fill our days. Remind us that we do not have to earn your love or compete for your attention. You are already here. You know our hearts, you understand our struggles, and you welcome us just as we are. So, Lord, pour your peace into our lives as gently as

tea is poured into a cup. Warm our hearts with your love. Refresh our spirits with your presence. And help us to discover that sometimes the holiest moments are the quietest ones. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN' TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Lord, Put the Kettle On!"
Leader: Loving God, we live in a world that never seems to slow down. There are places to go, people to see, and a hundred things waiting to be done.
People: Lord, sometimes we need you to put the kettle on!
Leader: We rush through breakfast, hurry out the door, and then wonder why we walked into the next room!
People: Lord, help us slow down long enough to remember!
Leader: We make ourselves a nice hot cup of tea, get distracted by something else, and discover it two hours later, stone cold!
People: Lord, perhaps it's time we sat down and enjoyed it!
Leader: We make lists of things to do, and sometimes we're so busy making the lists that we forget to do the things on them!
People: Lord, remind us that not everything needs to be done today!
Leader: We check our phones, answer our messages, watch the news, and wonder why our minds never seem to rest.
People: Lord, help us turn down the noise and turn up our faith!
Leader: Sometimes we think we have to be busy doing something for you, serving on committees, helping at church, and volunteering wherever we're needed.
People: Lord, remind us that even your faithful servants need a tea break!
Leader: And when we finally sit down for five minutes, we suddenly remember six more things we should be doing!
People: Lord, help us remember that resting is not wasting time!
Leader: You never ask us to have everything figured out, to be perfect, or to have all the answers.
People: Thank goodness, Lord, because we're still working on most of them!
Leader: You simply invite us to come as we are, with our worries, our joys, our questions, and our sometimes very tired hearts.

People: And you welcome us with open arms and endless love.
Leader: So today, Lord, we give ourselves permission to pause, to breathe, and to enjoy the gift of simply being in your presence.
People: The kettle is on, the chairs are waiting, and our hearts are open.
All: Loving God, help us to slow down, laugh a little, worry a little less, and remember that you are always with us. May we find joy in the little things, peace in the quiet moments, and comfort in knowing that we never have to face life alone. Amen.

VIDEO: Where No One Stands Alone

SCRIPTURE READINGS
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." — **Matthew 11:28**
Psalm 46:10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

REFLECTION: "A Cup of Tea with God"
I have a question for you this morning. When was the last time you sat down with a cup of tea and did absolutely nothing?
No television. No phone. No list of jobs running through your head. No thinking about what you should be doing next. Just sitting.
For some of us, that might be harder than giving up chocolate!
Because we live in a world that seems to believe if we're not doing something, we're wasting time. And I wonder sometimes if we've brought that same thinking into our faith. We think we need to be doing something for God. Serving on a committee. Helping at church. Volunteering. Visiting someone. Organizing something. And don't misunderstand me. Those are wonderful things. But sometimes I wonder if God looks at us and says, "Would you please just sit down for five minutes? I'd really like to spend some time with you."
(Pause.)
Especially this week. We've just come through Remembrance Day. A week of remembering those who served, those who sacrificed, and those who never came home. We've listened to stories. We've honoured memories. We've reflected on the terrible cost of war and the precious gift of peace.

And now, as the world begins rushing toward Christmas, perhaps God is inviting us to do something different.
To pause. To breathe. To remember that peace isn't simply something we pray for in the world. Peace is also something we need to make room for in our own hearts. So , Wednesday evening, I sat down and said to Dan … this feels good. He said, would you like a cup of tea…and this thought came to me…
(Pause and lift the teapot.) A cup of tea with God.
You know, there's something rather comforting about a cup of tea.
You can't rush a good cup of tea. Well, you can try, but it usually doesn't turn out quite right! You have to wait for the water to heat.
You have to give the tea time to steep. And then you sit down and enjoy it. And perhaps our relationship with God is a little like that.
We can't always rush into God's presence, say a quick prayer, and expect every worry to disappear. Sometimes we need to sit.
Sometimes we need to listen. Sometimes we need to allow God's peace to settle into our hearts. And sometimes we don't need to say anything at all.
(Pour a cup of tea.)
Imagine sitting down at your kitchen table with God.
Just you and God. Two cups of tea. What would you talk about?
Would you tell God about the things that are worrying you?
Would you talk about someone you miss? Would you share your hopes for your children or grandchildren? Would you ask why life sometimes seems so difficult? Or would you simply sit quietly, grateful that you didn't have to explain anything? Because here's what I find so comforting about our faith. God already knows what's in our hearts.
We don't have to pretend we're fine when we're not. We don't have to have all the answers. We don't have to be strong every moment of every day. And we certainly don't have to impress God with how busy we've been! God simply invites us to come. To sit. To rest. To be loved.
(Pause.)
There's a beautiful little verse in Psalm 46.
"Be still, and know that I am God."
Notice what it doesn't say. It doesn't say, "Be busy, and know that I am God." It doesn't say, "Get everything finished, and then come and find me." It doesn't even say, "Get your life sorted out first."

It simply says, "Be still."
Two little words. And perhaps two of the hardest words for us to follow. Because stillness means letting go of the idea that everything depends on us. It means trusting that God is at work even when we are resting. And it means remembering that our worth isn't measured by how much we accomplish. We are loved because we are God's children.
(Pause.)
In just a couple of weeks, Advent will be upon us. There will be candles to light, carols to sing, and preparations to make. And those are wonderful things. But before we begin all that, perhaps this morning is God's gentle reminder that we don't need to rush toward Christmas.
We need to make room for Christ. And sometimes making room begins by doing less, not more. So, here's my invitation to you this week.
Find a few minutes. Make yourself a cup of tea or coffee.
Sit somewhere comfortable. Put your phone away. And imagine that God has pulled up a chair beside you. You don't need a special prayer. You don't need to open a book. You don't even need to say a word.
Just sit. And remember that you are loved. Because sometimes the most meaningful prayer isn't spoken at all. Sometimes it's simply a quiet moment in the presence of God. I would end the message with something like this: As we leave worship this morning, the world will still be busy. There will still be meals to prepare, appointments to keep, Christmas plans to make, and a hundred other things calling for our attention. But somewhere in the middle of it all, I hope you'll find a few moments to stop. Put the kettle on. Find your favourite cup. Sit down. And remember that you are in the presence of God. You don't need fancy words. You don't need to have all the answers. You don't even need to know what to say. Because sometimes prayer isn't about talking. Sometimes it's about listening. Sometimes it's about resting. And sometimes it's simply about knowing that we are loved. So, this week, why not make yourself a cup of tea, and save a little time for God. Amen.

HYMN: #603 In Loving Partnership We Come

1 In loving partnership we come,
seeking, O God, your will to do.
Our prayers and actions now receive;
we freely offer them to you.

2 We are the hands and feet of Christ,
serving by grace each other's need.
We dare to risk and sacrifice
with truthful word and faithful deed.

3 Loving community we seek;
your hope and strength within us move.
The poor and rich, the strong and weak
are brought together in your love.

4 In loving partnership, O God,
help us your future to proclaim.
Justice and peace be our desire,
we humbly pray in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, In the quiet of this morning, we come to you with grateful hearts. Thank you for the gift of rest. For moments when we can step away from the noise of the world and remember that we are never alone. We give thanks for the blessings that often go unnoticed.
A warm home. A familiar voice. A friend who calls. A cup of tea shared around a kitchen table. And the quiet assurance that your love surrounds us. Lord, we pray for those who are weary. For those who carry responsibilities that seem overwhelming. For those who care for loved ones. For those who are grieving. For those who are lonely, anxious, or uncertain about tomorrow. May they feel your comforting presence. Following this week of remembrance, we continue to pray for peace. Peace in countries torn apart by conflict. Peace for families separated by war. Peace for veterans who carry difficult memories. And peace within our own communities and homes. Help us to be people who do not simply speak about peace, but who live it through kindness, patience, understanding, and love. As we prepare to enter the Advent season, remind us that the greatest gifts are not always wrapped in paper. Sometimes they are found in a listening ear, a gentle word, a shared meal, or a quiet moment with you. And now, Lord, we bring before you the prayers we carry silently in our hearts.
(Pause.)
Hear us as we join together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #664 What a We Have Friend in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage there.

SENDING FORTH

As you leave this place today, may you remember: You do not have to carry every burden alone. You do not have to solve every problem today. And you do not have to earn the love of God. So go into this week with a little less hurry, a little more peace, and a heart open to God's presence. May the love of God warm your heart, the peace of Christ quiet your spirit, and the Holy Spirit remind you that you are never alone. And sometime this week, when you put the kettle on, remember: God is always ready to sit a while with you.

GO NOW IN PEACE

POSTLUDE

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Please bring in paper products for the Hagersville Food Bank! ☺

Announcements

Wednesday, November 18th: Unified Board meeting at 12pm & Official Board meeting at 1:30pm at Springvale.

Saturday, November 21st: Trinity Anglican Annual Christmas Bazaar from 10am-2pm with hot luncheon between 11am-1pm. 80 Colborne St. S., Simcoe.

Tuesday, November 24th: Coffee Tuesday beginning at 9:30am at Springvale. All are welcome!

Wednesday, November 25th: Cookie Trays at Springvale. Available by pre-order for pickup between 4pm-6pm. Large trays $40, medium trays $30, small trays $20. Bowls of chili available for $10 to-go. Cabbage rolls available for $35/dozen, limited quantities. Lottery calendars will also be available for $20.00. To pre-order please call 905-537-4188 or 90-768-3910.

Saturday, November 28th: Ladies Day at Townsend Community Church from 9am-1pm. Guest speaker Tess Scott. Cost is $30/person, price includes speaker and meal. Pre-register by November 16th to jo_flicker@hotmail.com or by phone 226-567-3232.

Sunday, November 29th: First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 5th: *Please note change of date* UCW will meet in the Sunday School room at 6:15pm for a Christmas potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome, men too! Roll call is show & tell and secret pal gifts.

Sunday, December 6th: Second Sunday of Advent—White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 6th: There will be no coffee Sunday today.

Sunday, December 13th: Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20th: Candlelight Service at 7pm. Committee 1 will be in charge of setting up treats for the service.

Thursday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at Hagersville at 7pm.

A Thank You from Haldimand & Norfolk Women's Services (Women's Shelter) – For our "Thanksgiving Giving With Love"

Dear Friends at Hagersville & Springvale United Churches,

Thank you for your very generous donations to the Women's Shelter. The children are happily enjoying the toys, books, crayons and colouring books. Thank you also for the novels. As always, the women's products are very needed and appreciated. They are used up quickly and are expensive to purchase. Thank you very much for your kindness.

-Women's Services

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