

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 14th, 2026**

Leader: Today we gather with those same songs still echoing through the years.

People: Songs that remind us God has always walked with His people.

Leader: So come with thankful hearts.

People: Come with joyful voices.

Leader: Let us worship God through the stories and songs of faith.

All: For God is still giving His people a song to sing.

OPENING SONG: #439 (*Hymns of the Family of God*) *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Written in 1845 by William W. Walford.

The Story Behind the Hymn

The words were written by William W. Walford around 1845.

Walford lived in England and was blind for much of his life. Although he had little formal education and lived in humble circumstances, he had a deep faith and a great love for prayer.

According to tradition, Walford would spend many hours in prayer and often spoke about how prayer brought him peace, strength, and companionship. One day, while talking with a minister friend, he shared a poem he had written about the joy of spending time with God in prayer. The minister was so moved by the poem that he sent it to a Christian publication, where it quickly became popular. The poem began: "Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care..."

Those words resonated with Christians who understood what it meant to bring their worries, burdens, and hopes before God. Walford was reportedly blind and found deep comfort through prayer. The hymn reflects the peace and strength found in spending quiet time with God. It became especially beloved in rural churches and evening services.

1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

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“Stories Behind the Songs”

Those old gospel songs carry so much history, faith, struggle, and hope within them. Sometimes just hearing the story behind a hymn helps people sing it with fresh meaning. Many of those songs were sung at kitchen tables, camp meetings, funerals, revivals, and family gatherings for generations.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, with thankful hearts we offer these gifts to You today. Thank you for the music, memories, and faith that have blessed our lives through generations. May these offerings help continue Your work of hope, compassion, and love in our church and community. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Long before us, voices gathered in little churches, around family pianos, on front porches, and in prayer meetings.

People: They sang of faith, hope, joy, and heaven.

Leader: Some sang through hardship.

People: Some sang through sorrow.

Leader: Some sang because their hearts were overflowing with gratitude.

People: Some sang because singing was the only strength they had left.

2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
 Thy wings shall my petition bear,
 To Him, whose truth and faithfulness
 Engage the waiting soul to bless;
 And since He bids me seek His face,
 Believe His Word, and trust His grace,
 I'll cast on Him my every care,
 And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and Faithful God, we gather this day thankful for the gift of worship shared through music. For generations, songs of faith have echoed through churches, homes, hospital rooms, campfires, and quiet moments of prayer. Through music, Your people have found strength to carry on, peace in difficult days, and joy that lifts the spirit. Today, as we remember the stories connected to these beloved hymns and gospel songs, remind us that You have walked beside Your people through every season of life. May these familiar melodies awaken hope within us, renew treasured memories, and draw us closer to one another and to You. Bless our time together with warmth, encouragement, and glad hearts. May the music we share today become not just something we sing with our voices, but something we carry into our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S HYMN: #365 Jesus Love Me

Author: Anna Bartlett Warner (1827–1915)

Music Composer: William Batchelder Bradbury

Short Background “Jesus Loves Me” began as a poem written by Anna Bartlett Warner in 1860 for a children’s novel called *Say and Seal*.

In the story, the words were spoken to comfort a dying child.

A few years later, William Bradbury added the familiar melody and chorus:

“Yes, Jesus loves me...” The hymn quickly became one of the best-known Christian songs in the world because of its simple message: Jesus loves us no matter our age, fears, or struggles.

1 Jesus loves me, this I know,
 for the Bible tells me so.
 Little ones to him belong;
 they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

LITANY: “Stories Behind the Songs”

Leader: We gather today with songs in our hearts and memories in our souls.

People: God has always spoken through music and praise.

Leader: Some hymns were written in times of joy...

People: And some were born from sorrow and struggle.

Leader: Some songs were written beside hospital beds...

People: Some through tears, prayers, and hope.

Leader: Through every generation, God has given people words to sing.

People: Songs of comfort, courage, faith, and love.

Leader: When our hearts are full and we cannot find the words...

People: Music often speaks for us.

Leader: When life feels heavy or uncertain...

People: A familiar hymn can remind us God is near.

Leader: We remember today that behind every song is a story...

People: And behind every story is the faithfulness of God.

Leader: So let us sing boldly, pray deeply, and listen carefully.

All: For God still speaks through the songs of faith today.

CHORUS: #233 There's Something About that Name

Author: Bill Gaither

(usually sung with harmony support from Gloria Gaither)

Short Background

“There's Something About That Name” was written in 1970 by Bill Gaither during a difficult and uncertain time in the world. The Vietnam War, social unrest, and fear about the future weighed heavily

on many people's hearts.

At the same time, Bill and Gloria Gaither were preparing for the birth of their son, Benjamin. Bill later shared that as he thought about bringing a child into such a troubled world, he found comfort and peace in the name of Jesus.

Out of that reflection came the simple but powerful chorus:

“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, There's just something about that name...”

The song quickly became one of the most beloved gospel choruses because of its gentle reminder that peace, hope, comfort, and assurance are found in Christ. Its simple melody and heartfelt message made it especially meaningful in worship services, revivals, funerals, and times of personal prayer.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; there's just something about that name
Master, Saviour, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all Heaven and earth proclaim;
Kings and kingdoms, will all pass away,
But there's something about that name!

MESSAGE

Music has always been part of the life of faith.

From the earliest stories in the Bible, people sang to celebrate, to worship, to grieve, and to give thanks. Long before many people could read scripture for themselves, they learned about God through hymns and songs passed from one generation to the next.

There is something powerful about music because it reaches beyond the mind and touches the heart. A familiar hymn can calm anxiety, bring tears to the eyes, awaken treasured memories, or give strength on difficult days. Sometimes a song says what we struggle to put into words ourselves.

Many of us carry the music of faith throughout our entire lives. We remember the songs sung at baptisms, weddings, funerals, revivals, Sunday school classes, youth camps, and Christmas Eve candlelight services. Certain hymns immediately take us back to loved ones who once sang beside us in church pews. Even in nursing homes or hospital rooms, people who may struggle to remember many things can often still sing the words to the old hymns by heart.

Music also reminds us that faith is not meant to be lived alone. When a congregation sings together, voices blend in unity, young and old, joyful and hurting, confident and uncertain, all joined together in praise. In those moments, music becomes more than sound; it becomes prayer, encouragement, comfort, and hope shared together.

And perhaps that is one of God's greatest gifts through music: songs remind us that we are never alone.

God meets us in melody, memory, harmony, and praise, carrying us through every season of life.

HYMN: #588 “In The Garden” (Hymns of the Family of God)

Author: C. Austin Miles (1868–1946)

Short Background

“In the Garden” was written in 1912 by C. Austin Miles.

The inspiration came as he was reading the resurrection story in John 20, where Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in the garden near the empty tomb.

Miles said he imagined himself standing there with Mary, hearing Jesus speak her name. From that moment came the famous words:

“And He walks with me, and He talks with me...”

The hymn became very popular because of its gentle, personal picture of walking and talking with Jesus. It has brought comfort to generations of Christians, especially at funerals, Easter services, and quiet moments of devotion.

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

He speaks, and the sound of His voice,
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. **R**

I'd stay in the garden with Him
 Though the night around me be falling,
 But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
 His voice to me is calling. **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, today we thank You for the gift of music, for songs that have comforted, encouraged, and strengthened people through every season of life. Some songs remind us of joyful days, and some remind us of people we deeply miss.

Yet through them all, your presence has remained faithful. We pray today for those who are struggling, grieving, lonely, or discouraged. Bring comfort, healing, peace, and hope where they are needed most. Bless our families, our churches, and our community. Help us continue to share kindness, faith, and joy with one another. And may the songs we sing today remind us that You are always near. In Jesus' name we pray, who gave us voices to sing and to praise....

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG): Page 960 In Voices United

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil,
 for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever.

CLOSING HYMN: #56 "God Will Take Care of You" Hymns for the Family of God

Authors:

Words by Civilla D. Martin
 Music by Walter Stillman Martin

Short Background

"God Will Take Care of You" was written in 1904 by husband-and-wife team Civilla and Walter Martin.

The story behind the hymn is very meaningful. Walter Martin had been invited to preach somewhere, but Civilla was feeling ill and discouraged. A young boy visiting their home said to her:

"Don't worry. God will take care of you."

Those simple words stayed with her. While Walter was away preaching, Civilla wrote the lyrics, and Walter later composed the music.

The hymn became beloved because it speaks gently and honestly about life's burdens, fears, and uncertainties while reminding people to trust in God's care and presence through every circumstance.

1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide;
 God will take care of you.
 Beneath His wings of love abide;
 God will take care of you.

Refrain:

**God will take care of you,
 through ev'ry day, o'er all the way.
 He will take care of you;
 God will take care of you.**

2 Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
 God will take care of you.
 When dangers fierce your path assail,
 God will take care of you. **[Refrain]**

3 All you may need He will provide;
 God will take care of you.
 All strength you need will be supplied;
 God will take care of you. **[Refrain]**

4 No matter what may be the test,
 God will take care of you.
 Lean, weary one, upon His breast;
 God will take care of you. **[Refrain]**

SENDING FORTH

As we leave this place today, may the songs of faith continue to echo in our hearts. May the old hymns remind us that God has carried His people through every generation...

through hardship and hope, sorrow and celebration. And may we leave here singing a little louder, smiling a little brighter, and trusting a little deeper in the grace of God.

Go now in peace, and may God place a song in your heart this week.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Tuesday, June 23rd: Annual Strawberry Supper at Springvale from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are limited and this is a takeout only event. To reserve your ticket please call 905-768-3910 or 905-537-4188.

Tuesday, June 23rd: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale will be postponed this week due to the setup for the Strawberry Supper.

Sunday, June 28th: Join us at the Waterford Legion Pavilion at 2pm to celebrate the life of Debbie Kozicki. There will be a memorial service followed by a gathering with refreshments.

July 27th-31st: Join us this year for VBS at Springvale United as we learn about God's Creatures Great & Small from 9am-12pm. Ages 4-11 welcome to participate, and we welcome ages 12+ to join in as helpers. Bring your sense of wonder, and maybe your favourite stuffed animal friend, as we discover how God's love is woven through every wing, paw & footprint. Email Emily at info@hsupc.ca with your child's information to register.

