

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JULY 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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*“When Life Gives You Lemons...God Helps Us Make Lemonade”*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, You have taken the ordinary gifts of our lives and turned them into extraordinary blessings. Receive these gifts today, and use them to bring hope where there is discouragement, joy where there is sadness, and love where it is needed most. Just as You turn life's lemons into lemonade, may these offerings become blessings for our community and our world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**PRELUDE & WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Life isn't always sweet.

People: Sometimes it feels a little sour.

Leader: Yet God walks with us through every season.

People: God helps us discover joy again.

Leader: When life gives us lemons...

People: God teaches us how to make lemonade.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who turns trials into blessings.

All: Let us worship God!

**OPENING HYMN: #337 Blessed Assurance**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

2

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **R**
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. **R**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, Thank You for being with us on both the easy days and the difficult ones. Thank You that You never abandon us when life becomes hard. Teach us to trust You like Job. Help us follow You like Moses. Give us courage like Joseph. Hope like Ruth. Faith like Paul. And remind us that even when life feels sour, Your love remains wonderfully sweet. Open our hearts today. Help us discover that You are always working for good, even when we cannot yet see it. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**CHILDREN'S VIDEO**

**LITANY**

Leader: Have you ever had one of those weeks?

**People: You mean the kind where nothing goes right?**

Leader: The toast burns...

**People: The coffee spills...**

Leader: The phone rings during supper...

**People: And the dog finds the only mud puddle!**

Leader: Life hands us lemons.

**People: Sometimes a whole basket of them!**

Leader: But God reminds us...

**People: Don't give up.**

Leader: There is sweetness ahead.

**People: God is still making lemonade.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**CHORUS: “GIVE THANKS” X2**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong!” let the poor say,  
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”

Give thanks. Give thanks.

**SCRIPTURES**

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."- Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**MESSAGE: “When Life Gives You Lemons...”**

Have you ever noticed...Life rarely asks permission before handing us lemons? One phone call... One doctor's appointment... One accident... One disappointment... Suddenly everything changes. Yet almost every great person in Scripture received lemons. Let’s talk about some of them....

**Joseph — When Life Isn't Fair**

Joseph had every reason to give up. His own brothers betrayed him. He was sold as a slave. He was falsely accused. He spent years in prison for something he didn't do. If anyone had been handed lemons, it was Joseph. Yet through every setback, Scripture quietly reminds us: "The Lord was with Joseph." Joseph kept trusting God even when he couldn't understand what God was doing. Years later, Joseph looked back and said to his brothers,

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."*

Sometimes God doesn't remove the lemons. Sometimes He turns them into something that blesses everyone around us.

**Ruth — When Everything Changes**

Ruth lost her husband. She left her homeland. She had no guarantee of a future. She could have returned to the familiar. Instead she chose faith. She told Naomi, *"Where you go, I will go...your God will be my God."* God honoured her faithfulness. The widow became the great grandmother of King David and part of Jesus' family tree. Sometimes lemonade begins with simply taking the next faithful step.

**David — Waiting on God's Timing**

David was anointed to become king while still a shepherd boy. You would think life would only get better. Instead... King Saul tried to kill him. David spent years hiding in caves. Living as a fugitive. Wondering when God's promise would finally happen. Yet David continued writing songs of hope. Many of the Psalms were written not from a palace—but from caves. He learned that trusting God isn't about where we are... it's about Who walks beside us.

**Daniel — Faith Under Pressure**

Daniel could have taken the easy way out. All he had to do was stop praying. Instead, he opened his window just as he always had. His faith landed him in the lions' den. But God never abandoned him. Sometimes keeping our faith doesn't prevent us from entering difficult places. It simply means God enters them with us.

**Esther — Courage When It Matters Most**

Esther never asked to become queen. She never imagined she'd have to risk her own life to save her people. She was frightened. Unsure. Yet she found courage and said, *"If I perish, I perish."* God used one ordinary woman to change history. Sometimes lemonade is made when ordinary people choose courage over fear.

**Peter — Failure Isn't the End**

Peter promised Jesus, *"I'll never leave you."* Yet, before sunrise, he denied even knowing Him. Three times. Imagine the guilt. Imagine the disappointment. Many people would have thought their story was over. But after the resurrection, Jesus didn't reject Peter. Instead, beside another charcoal fire, Jesus gently restored him. *"Feed my sheep."* God specializes in making lemonade out of our biggest mistakes.

### Paul — Joy in Difficult Circumstances

Paul was beaten. Shipwrecked. Imprisoned. Rejected.

Yet many of his letters—the ones that encourage us today—were written from prison. He even wrote, *"Rejoice in the Lord always."* Not because life was easy... But because God's love never changed. Paul discovered that joy isn't found in our circumstances.

It is found in Christ.

### The Woman Who Touched Jesus' Cloak

For twelve long years she suffered. She had spent everything she had trying to get better. Nothing worked. She could have lost hope. Instead, she reached out in faith. One simple touch. Jesus stopped everything to notice her. He didn't just heal her body. He restored her dignity.

PAUSE

Sometimes one small step of faith is all God needs to begin changing our story. When life gives us lemons, we usually ask, "Why me?" But the people of the Bible teach us a different question: "God, what can You do with this?"

Joseph discovered forgiveness.

Ruth found a new family. David found songs. Daniel found courage. Esther found purpose. Peter found grace. Paul found joy. The woman found healing. None of them escaped hard times. But every one of them discovered that God could take life's sour moments and turn them into something surprisingly sweet.

The reality is this ....God doesn't promise that life will always taste sweet. But He does promise to stay beside us while we learn to make lemonade. Sometimes... the sweetest people you will ever meet... have survived the sourest seasons. Because God was with them.

Perhaps that's why lemonade always tastes better on a hot summer day. It reminds us that something wonderfully refreshing can come from something incredibly sour. And perhaps that's exactly what God has been doing all along. *Remember - "God specializes in making lemonade out of life's lemons."*

### HYMN: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

### Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by. **[Refrain]**

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. **[Refrain]**

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. **[Refrain]**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and faithful God, we come before You today with thankful hearts. We thank You for the sunshine of summer, for laughter shared with family and friends, for gardens growing, children playing, and moments that remind us to slow down and appreciate the beauty of Your creation. But we also know that life is not always sweet. Sometimes life gives us lemons. There are days when illness changes our plans, when grief weighs heavily on our hearts, when relationships become strained, when finances become uncertain, or when we simply feel overwhelmed by the challenges before us.

In those moments, remind us that we are never alone. Give us the faith of Joseph, who trusted You when life seemed unfair. Give us the courage of Esther, the perseverance of Ruth, the strength of Daniel, the hope of David, and the joy of Paul. Help us to believe that even in difficult seasons, you are still at work, bringing hope where there is discouragement and peace where there is worry.

Today we pray for those in our church family who are hurting in body, mind, or spirit. Surround them with Your healing presence. Bless those awaiting test results, recovering from surgery or illness, caring for loved

ones, or walking through the difficult journey of grief. May they know Your comfort and the love of those who care for them.

We pray for families. Strengthen marriages, encourage parents and grandparents, bless children and youth, and remind each of us that kindness, patience, and forgiveness are often the sweetest gifts we can offer one another.

We pray for our communities of Hagersville and Springvale. Bless those who serve others each day, our first responders, healthcare workers, farmers, teachers, volunteers, and all who quietly make a difference. Help us to be good neighbours, sharing compassion, hope, and encouragement wherever we go.

We pray for our country and for our world. Where there is conflict, bring peace. Where there is division, bring understanding. Where there is fear, bring hope. Help us to be people who reflect Your love in both our words and our actions. And Lord, as we leave this place today, remind us that while we cannot always choose what life hands us, we can choose to place it into Your hands. You are the One who can take our disappointments and transform them into opportunities, our tears into compassion, and our hardships into stories of faith.

For we believe that with You, even life's lemons can become lemonade. We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying,

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN #639** One More Step Along the World I Go

1 One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new  
keep me travelling along with you:  
**[Refrain:]**

**And it's from the old I travel to the new.  
keep me travelling along with you.**

2 Round the corners of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me. **[Refrain]**

3 As I travel through the bad and good  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know: **[Refrain]**

4 Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you: **[Refrain]**

5 You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me.  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you: **[Refrain]**

### **SENDING FORTH**

Go now into God's world. When life gives you lemons... don't lose heart. Trust the One who can add hope to disappointment, peace to worry, strength to weakness, and joy to every season. And may the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit go with you today, this week, and always.

### **CHORAL AMEN**

### **POSTLUDE**

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**Next Sunday's theme is  
"Groovy Sunday: Peace, Love & Jesus"  
We invite you to wear your tie-dye, flower print,  
bright colours & bellbottoms!**



## **Announcements**

**Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>:** Scrapbooking table setup at Hagersville at 4:30pm. All help is appreciated!

**July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>:** 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](mailto:info@hsupc.ca) with your child's information to register.

**Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>:** No church—Peggy on holidays!

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

