HAGERSVLLE UNITED CHURCH & SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 2026

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Reign of Christ Sunday

"A Different Kind of King" A King Who Leads with Love, Not Power

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and love. Bless them and use them to bring hope to those who are struggling, comfort to those who are hurting, and welcome to those who feel alone. May our giving reflect the generosity of Christ, our King of Love. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today to celebrate Christ our King.
People: A King unlike any other!
Leader: A King who came not to be served, but to serve.
People: A King whose greatest power is love.
Leader: A King who welcomes the stranger and lifts up the forgotten.
People: A King who makes room for everyone.
Leader: A King whose kingdom is not built with walls or weapons.
People: But with kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and peace.
Leader: Come, let us worship Christ, who reigns in our hearts and lives.
All: Let us celebrate the King of Love! Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #211 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

4 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me:
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come before you this morning, grateful for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. In a world where power often means being the strongest, the richest, or the loudest, Jesus showed us another way. He taught us that true greatness is found in kindness, that true strength is found in compassion, and that true leadership is found in serving others. Help us to recognize Christ not only in the beauty of this sanctuary, but in the ordinary moments of our lives. In the neighbour who needs a helping hand. In the stranger who needs a welcome. In the friend who needs encouragement. And in the quiet moments when we simply need to know that we are loved. Open our hearts to your presence today, and remind us that your kingdom begins wherever love is shared.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "If Jesus Were King Today…"
Leader: If Jesus were King today, would he live in the biggest castle?
People: Probably not! He'd be too busy visiting people!
Leader: Would he wear the fanciest clothes and the shiniest crown?
People: Probably not! He'd be more concerned about those who had no warm clothes!
Leader: Would he demand that everyone bow down before him?

People: No! He'd probably be helping someone get back on their feet!
Leader: Would he spend his days counting his riches?
People: No! He'd be sharing what he had with others!
Leader: Would he only invite important people to his table?
People: No! Everyone would be welcome!
Leader: Would he spend his time telling everyone how important he was?
People: No! He'd be reminding everyone how important they are to God!
Leader: So what kind of King is Jesus?
All: A King of kindness, a King of compassion, a King of forgiveness, and most of all, a King of Love!
Leader: And how do we honour such a King?
All: By loving others as Jesus loves us! Amen.

***CHORUS: #47 <u>JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES</u>**
Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word. X2

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Colossians 1:15–20
The Supremacy of the Son of God
15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all
creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on
earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or
authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He
is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the
head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from
among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and
through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or
things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
The Gospel reading is particularly powerful for this Sunday because it shows us Jesus as King in the most unexpected place: not upon a throne, but upon a cross.
Luke 23:33-43
33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him
there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34
Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are

doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They
said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the
Chosen One.” 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They
offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, “If you are the king of the Jews,
save yourself.” 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this
is the king of the jews. 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled
insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40 But
the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since
you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are
getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”
42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your
kingdom.” 43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be
with me in paradise.”

REFLECTION: “A Different Kind of King”
When we hear the word *king*, what comes to mind? Perhaps a golden crown, a grand palace, a magnificent throne, or someone surrounded by servants waiting to carry out every command. And, of course, there are the royal weddings, the beautiful carriages, and all those fancy hats!
But today, on Reign of Christ Sunday, we are invited to think about a very different kind of King. Because Jesus didn't look anything like the kings people expected. He didn't have a palace. He didn't wear expensive robes. He didn't have an army marching behind him.
And he certainly didn't travel around in a golden carriage.
Most of the time, he walked. And instead of surrounding himself with important people, he surrounded himself with ordinary people. Fishermen. Farmers. Children. People who were sick. People who were lonely. People who had made mistakes. People whom society had pushed aside. And somehow, this man from Nazareth changed the world. Not through wealth. Not through military power. Not through fear. But through love. Think about that for a moment. We live in a world where people often measure success by how much money they have, how important their position is, or how many people listen when they speak. But Jesus turned all of that upside down. He taught that the greatest among us should be the servant of all. He taught that the last would be first. He taught that we should love our neighbours, forgive those who hurt us, and care for those who cannot care for themselves. And perhaps most surprisingly, he taught us to love even our enemies.

Now, I don't know about you, but some days loving our neighbours is challenging enough! And yet, Jesus never said that following him would always be easy. He simply showed us what love looks like when we put it into action. Our Gospel reading today takes us to a very unexpected place. We might expect to find a King sitting upon a throne, surrounded by cheering crowds. Instead, we find Jesus hanging upon a cross. Above his head were the words identifying him as the King of the Jews. Some people mocked him. Others turned away.

But even in those terrible moments, Jesus continued to show compassion. When one of the criminals beside him asked to be remembered, Jesus offered him a promise of paradise.

Even there, in a moment of suffering, Jesus was thinking of someone else. That is the kind of King we follow. A King who does not turn away from suffering. A King who does not abandon the forgotten.

A King whose love reaches into the darkest places and offers hope.

And I think that message is especially important today.

Because when we look around our world, we see so much division. We see people arguing over politics, religion, and who is right or wrong. We see loneliness, uncertainty, and families struggling to make ends meet. And sometimes we wonder whether kindness and compassion can really make a difference. But Jesus reminds us that God's kingdom doesn't begin with grand gestures. It begins with ordinary acts of love. A phone call to someone who is lonely. A meal shared with someone who is hungry. A kind word spoken to someone having a difficult day. A hand extended in friendship. A willingness to forgive. These may seem like small things. But in the kingdom of God, they are anything but small. They are signs that Christ is still at work in our world.

And here is something else I find beautiful about Reign of Christ Sunday. It comes just before Advent. Next Sunday, we will begin preparing once again for the birth of Jesus.

And isn't that remarkable? Today we celebrate Christ as King. And next Sunday, we begin waiting for a baby. Not a baby born in a palace. Not a baby wrapped in royal robes. But a child born in a humble stable. A child who would grow up to teach the world that love is greater than power, compassion is stronger than cruelty, and hope can shine even in the darkest places. The King we celebrate today is the same child we will welcome at Christmas. And perhaps that is the greatest reminder of all.

God's love doesn't always arrive the way we expect. Sometimes it comes quietly. Sometimes it comes through the kindness of a stranger. Sometimes it comes through the laughter of a child. And sometimes it comes through a simple cup of tea shared with someone who needs a friend. As we celebrate Reign of Christ Sunday, perhaps the most important question is not simply, "Is Jesus our King?" but rather**,** "Are we allowing His love to reign in our lives?" Do we show kindness, offer forgiveness, and make room for others? For Christ's kingdom is not simply something we wait for someday. It is something we are called to live today**,** in our homes, our churches, our communities, and in the way we treat one another. Life will always bring challenges, but we never face them alone. We follow a King whose love never gives up, who walks beside us, and whose kingdom has room for everyone.

So, as we prepare to enter Advent, let us remember: The greatest King the world has ever known wore no crown of gold, but gave the world a love that will never end. And that, is a King worth following. Amen.

HYMN: #589 Lord, Speak to Me

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your straying children lost and lone.

2 O lead me, so that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, so that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.

3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing my words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflows
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and gracious God, Today we give thanks for Jesus Christ, our King of Love. We thank you that his kingdom is not built upon riches or power, but upon compassion, forgiveness, justice, and peace.
We pray for our world, where so many people long for peace. Where there is conflict, bring understanding. Where there is hatred, plant seeds of love. Where there is division, help us find common ground. We pray for those who lead our communities, our country, and the nations of the world. May they lead with wisdom, humility, fairness, and compassion. We pray for those who are struggling today.
For those who are ill, those waiting for medical answers, those facing uncertainty, and those who are tired in body or spirit. Surround them with your healing presence. We remember those who are grieving the loss of someone they love. May they find comfort in cherished memories and strength in the promise that your love never ends.
We pray for those who feel forgotten or alone. Help us to be your hands and feet, reaching out with friendship, encouragement, and care.
And we pray for our churches and communities of faith. May we always be places where people feel welcomed, valued, and loved. Help us remember that the kingdom of Christ grows every time we choose kindness over judgment, forgiveness over resentment, and love over fear. As we prepare to enter Advent, quiet our hearts and open our eyes to the many ways you are already at work among us. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our King and our friend, who taught us to pray together, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #595 We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

SENDING FORTH

As you leave this place today, Remember that you are loved by a King who never needed a crown to show his greatness. A King who chose kindness over power, Compassion over judgment, And love over everything else. May Christ reign in your hearts, May his peace guide your steps, And may his love shine through all that you say and do. And as we prepare to enter the season of Advent, May we remember that the greatest King of all came into our world as a humble child, Bringing hope, peace, joy, and love. Go in peace, knowing that you are loved, you are valued, and you are never alone.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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

Announcements

Saturday, November 21st: Lights of Hospice 6th Annual Holiday Tree Light Up beginning at 6pm with tree lighting at 7pm at Powell Park, 250 Main St., Port Dover.

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

Sunday, November 29th: Lynn Valley Voices Wintersong at First Baptist Church, 129 Young St., Simcoe beginning at 3pm. Admission by donation.

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 6th: Lynn Valley Voices Wintersong at Jarvis Ebenezer Church, 139b Talbot St., Jarvis beginning at 2pm. Admission by donation.

Sunday, December 13th: Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20th: Candlelight Service at 7pm at Springvale.

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