HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, 2026

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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"We All Have Lions in Our Lives!"
Finding Courage, Faith, and God's Presence in the Lions' Den

OFFERING PRAYER
Gracious God, bless these gifts and the hearts that give them. May they bring hope to those who are worried, comfort to those who are hurting, and encouragement to those who feel alone. Use us and all that we offer to share Your love in our community and beyond. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: When life feels peaceful and the road is smooth,
People: We give thanks for God's goodness.
Leader: When troubles come and the lions begin to roar,
People: We remember that God is near.
Leader: When fear tries to take away our courage,
People: God reminds us to be strong in faith.
Leader: When we cannot see what tomorrow will bring,
People: We trust the One who holds tomorrow.
Leader: Come, people of God, whatever lions you may be facing.
All: We come to worship the God who never leaves us alone.

OPENING HYMN: #642 Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

OPENING PRAYER
Gracious and loving God,
We come before You this morning carrying all sorts of things.
Some of us come with thankful hearts and happy memories.
Others come carrying worries, burdens, or questions that have no easy answers. Some of us may even feel as though we have been living in a lions' den lately. But today, Lord, we are reminded that You are a God who does not abandon Your children. You were with Daniel in the darkness. You were with him when he was afraid. And You are with us in every challenge we face. Help us to find courage when we are frightened, patience when life becomes difficult, and faith when the answers are not clear. May our worship today remind us that no lion is greater than Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Lord, Quiet Our Lions!"
Leader: Lord, sometimes life feels like a walk through a beautiful garden.

People: And sometimes it feels like we've wandered straight into a lions' den!
Leader: When the lion of worry keeps us awake at night,
People: Remind us that You are watching over us.
Leader: When the lion of fear tells us we aren't strong enough,
People: Remind us that Your strength is greater than our fear.
Leader: When the lion of impatience starts roaring,
People: Help us take a deep breath before we roar back!
Leader: When the lion of gossip and unkind words begins to growl,
People: Help us speak with kindness and walk in love.
Leader: When the lion of doubt makes us question our faith,
People: Remind us that even a little faith can carry us through.
Leader: And when all the lions seem to be roaring at once,
People: Lord, remind us that we do not stand alone.
Leader: For You were with Daniel in the den,
People: And You are with us in every challenge of life.
All: So, give us courage for today, hope for tomorrow, and faith to trust You through it all. Amen.

CHORUS: #227 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace x2

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Psalm 46:1-3
1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Isaiah 41:10
"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Plot against Daniel: Jealous officials, unable to find fault in Daniel's conduct, convinced the king to sign an irrevocable decree forbidding prayer to any god or human except the king for 30 days

Daniel 6:10-23 New International Version
10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"
The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."
13 Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." 14 When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.
15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."
16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"
17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.
19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.
20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"
21 Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me,

because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."
[23] The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

REFLECTION: "We All Have Lions in Our Lives"
I have always loved the story of Daniel in the lions' den.
It's one of those Bible stories many of us learned as children.
We probably remember the Sunday School pictures of Daniel standing calmly among enormous lions, looking as though he didn't have a care in the world.
Now, I don't know about you, but if I were standing in a den full of hungry lions, I don't think I would look quite so relaxed!
But as I've grown older, I've come to realize that Daniel's story isn't really just about lions. It's about faith, courage, and trusting God when life puts us in situations we never expected.
Because the truth is, we all have lions in our lives.
They may not have four legs, sharp teeth, or a mighty roar, but they can be frightening just the same. Daniel was a good man. He was honest, dependable, hardworking, and faithful to God. In fact, he was doing such a wonderful job that King Darius planned to put him in charge of the kingdom.
Now, you would think everyone would be happy for him. But no!
Some of the other officials became jealous. I find that interesting?
Here was Daniel, minding his own business, doing the right thing, and suddenly he had enemies. Sometimes life hasn't changed all that much, has it? You can be kind, work hard, and do your very best, and still somebody won't be happy with you!
Daniel's enemies convinced the king to make a law that no one could pray to anyone except the king for thirty days. Anyone who disobeyed would be thrown into the lions' den. But Daniel didn't stop praying.
He went home, opened his windows, and prayed three times a day, just as he had always done. And there's an important lesson here.
Daniel didn't suddenly become faithful because he was in trouble. He had been practising his faith long before trouble arrived.
Faith isn't something we only need when life falls apart.
It's something we build every day through prayer, worship, kindness,

and trusting God in the ordinary moments of life.
And there's another lesson in Daniel's story that I don't want us to miss.
Daniel's enemies were so consumed by jealousy that they were willing to hurt an innocent man. And that makes me wonder.
Perhaps we should ask ourselves not only, "What lions am I facing?"
But also, "Am I ever becoming a lion in someone else's life?"
Because words can hurt. Gossip can damage relationships.
Jealousy can destroy friendships. And anger can turn a small disagreement into something much bigger.
Sometimes we don't even realize how loudly we're roaring!
Perhaps one of the greatest ways we can live out our faith is by refusing to become someone else's lion. Instead of criticizing, let's encourage.
Instead of spreading rumours, let's speak with kindness.
Instead of judging, let's try to understand. And instead of adding to someone's burdens, let's help carry them. The world already has enough roaring lions. Perhaps what it needs more of is people who bring peace.
And isn't that exactly what Jesus taught us?
To love one another, to forgive, to show compassion, and to be peacemakers. Another thought came to mind when I was putting this together….I wonder what Daniel thought when he finally stepped out of that lions' den.
I imagine he was pretty thankful to see the sunshine! And I wouldn't be surprised if he decided to keep a safe distance from lions for the rest of his life! But I also imagine that his faith had grown.
Not because life had been easy, but because he had discovered that God was with him, even in the darkest place. And isn't that how faith often grows in our own lives? We look back at something we never thought we'd get through. A loss. A disappointment. A difficult season.
And somehow, here we are. Still standing. Still trusting. Still moving forward. Not because we were strong every moment, but because we were given the strength we needed.
And perhaps we can look back and say, "God was with me through that. I wasn't alone after all." So, my friends, as we leave this place today, remember the words of Isaiah 41:10: "Do not fear, for I am with you."
Not, "Do not fear because life will always be easy." Not, "Do not fear because nothing will ever go wrong." But simply, "Do not fear, for I am with you." And perhaps that is the greatest comfort of all. We don't know what tomorrow will bring.

We don't know what lions may be waiting around the corner.
But, we do know that the God who was with Daniel is the same God who walks with us today. So, when worry begins to roar, remember God's peace. When fear begins to growl, remember God's strength. When life seems unfair, remember God's faithfulness.
And when someone else is facing a lion, perhaps we can be the person who brings them a little peace. Because sometimes God quiets the lions. Sometimes God calms the storm. And sometimes God simply gives us the courage to face another day. So go forward with faith. Go forward with hope. And if a lion happens to cross your path this week, remember: You may hear the roar, but you don't have to let it have the final word. God is still with you. And God's love is greater than anything we will ever face. Amen.

HYMN OF REFLECTION: #675 Will Your Anchor Hold

1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

2 Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near;
through the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow **R**

3 It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill your latest breath;
On the rising tide you can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil. **R**

4 Will our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, the harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore. **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and faithful God, Today we thank You for the story of Daniel and the reminder that Your presence is not limited to the easy moments of life. You are with us in our joy and in our sorrow, in our celebrations and in our struggles. Lord, we pray today for all those who are facing lions in their lives. For those facing the lion of illness, we ask for healing, comfort, and strength.
For those facing the lion of grief, we ask that Your love surround them and that precious memories bring moments of peace.
For those facing the lion of loneliness, help them know that they are not forgotten. For those facing financial difficulties, family troubles, or uncertainty about the future, grant wisdom, patience, and hope.
We pray for those who are frightened, discouraged, or overwhelmed. May they find courage for today and reassurance for tomorrow.
And Lord, help us to recognize when someone else is facing a lion. Give us hearts that notice. Hands that help. Words that encourage. And spirits that bring peace rather than division. We pray for our congregations and our communities. May our churches always be places where people find welcome, kindness, friendship, and support.
And when we find ourselves facing challenges we cannot control, remind us that we can place our trust in You. For You are our refuge, our strength, and our ever-present help. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: God Will Take Care of You (Hymns for the Family of God

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 you leave this place today, remember: You may face lions this week. Some may roar loudly. Others may quietly test your patience, your courage, or your faith. But whatever comes your way, remember the lesson of Daniel. You are not alone. May God give you courage when you are afraid, strength when you are weary, patience when life becomes difficult, and peace when the lions begin to roar. And may the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Hagersville Announcements

Sunday, November 8th: Remembrance Service.

Tuesday, November 17th: Church Council meeting at 6:30pm

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

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

