

HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 12th, 2026

2

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
Cell: 905-317-5275 Email: info@hsupc.ca
Website: www.hsupc.ca
Church: Hagersville- 905-768-5863 Springvale- 905-768-1501

.....

Behind Closed Doors

“Jesus meets us in fear, doubt, and locked places ... and brings peace.”

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, we offer these gifts today as signs of our gratitude for all that you have given us. Receive them, bless them, and use them to bring peace, hope, and love to a world that so often feels closed in by fear. And as we give, open our hearts a little more, that we might trust you more deeply. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today, some of us full of joy, some of us carrying worry, some of us hiding behind closed doors.

People: We come just as we are.

Leader: The risen Christ comes to us, not waiting for us to have it all together.

People: He comes through our fears, our doubts, our locked places.

Leader: Christ stands among us and says,

All: “Peace be with you.”

OPENING HYMN: #166 Joy Comes with the Dawn

**Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

- 1 Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**
- 2 Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. **R**
- 3 We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come into this space from many different places in our lives. Some of us are open and hopeful, others guarded and unsure. We all have doors we keep closed in our lives at some point ... doors of fear, doors of doubt, doors of grief, doors we are not quite ready to open. And yet... you come to us anyway. You do not wait for us to be ready. You meet us where we are. So, open our hearts today, even just a little, that we might feel your presence, hear your voice, and receive your peace. In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen

ANTHEM

CHILDREN’S TIME

CHILDREN’ VIDEO

LITANY: “Locked Doors”

Leader: Lord, we admit... we like our doors.

People: Especially the ones with good locks!

Leader: We lock our homes...

People: ...and double-check them before bed.

Leader: We lock our cars...

People: ...even in the church parking lot.

Leader: We lock our phones...

People: ...so others can’t see what’s in them.

Leader: But we also lock away our worries...

People: ...and pretend everything is fine.

Leader: We lock away our fears...

People: ...and hope no one notices.

Leader: We even lock away our doubts...

People: ...especially at church.

Leader: But Jesus comes anyway...

People: ...right through our locked doors.

Leader: Not with judgment ...

People: but with peace.

All: "Peace be with us. Amen."

***CHORUS: #91 "GREAT ARE YOU, LORD"**

Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, you alone are worthy of my praise,

O Holy Lord, Most Holy Lord, with all of my heart I sing:

Great are You, Lord, worthy of praise;

Holy and true, great are You, Lord, Most Holy Lord. (X 2)

SCRIPTURE READING: John 20:19–31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

MESSAGE: "Behind Closed Doors"

You ever notice how many things we lock these days? Doors. Cars. Phones. Computers. Passwords for everything... I think I need a password just to remember my other passwords. We've become very good... at locking things up. And honestly, it makes sense in this day and age. We lock things to feel safe. But here's the truth: We don't just lock physical doors. We lock emotional ones too.

We lock away:

- fear
- grief
- uncertainty
- and sometimes even doubt

And, think about this we get very good at saying, "I'm fine."

That's exactly where the disciples are in this story. It's Easter evening. The resurrection has happened, but they are not celebrating. They are hiding. The doors are locked. Not because they're tired...but because they're afraid. Afraid of what comes next. Afraid of what might happen to them. And then at this beautiful moment. Jesus doesn't knock.

He doesn't wait. He comes right through those locked doors...

and stands among them. And what does He say?

Not: "Where were you?"

Not: "Why did you run?"

He says, "Peace be with you."

That... is grace. Because that's exactly how Jesus meets us too.

Not when everything is open and perfect... But behind our closed doors.

And then there's Thomas. Poor Thomas... he gets such a bad reputation.

"Doubting Thomas." But let's be honest ... he's just saying what everyone else is thinking.

“I need to see it.” And what does Jesus do? He doesn’t shame him. He doesn’t push him away. He meets him...right in his doubt. And offers him exactly what he needs. That’s the good news. Whether we are:

- afraid like the disciples
- or unsure like Thomas

Jesus meets us where we are. Behind closed doors. In locked hearts. In quiet questions. And He still says: “Peace be with you.” So maybe the question for us today isn’t:

“Do we have doubts?”

“Do we have fears?”

Of course we do. The real question is: Are we willing... even just a little... to let Jesus meet us there? Because the miracle isn’t that the doors open. The miracle is that Jesus comes through them.

HYMN: #299 He Lives (from Hymn for the Family of God)

1. I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him He's always near.

Chorus

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

2. In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And tho' my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last.

(Chorus)

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

(Chorus)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of peace, We bring before you today all those places in our lives that feel closed off—the worries we carry, the fears we hide, the questions we don’t always voice. We pray for those who are living behind doors of anxiety...for those who feel alone...for those who are uncertain about what comes next. We pray for our community... for our families...for those who need healing, comfort, and hope. And we thank you that you do not wait for us to have it all together—but come to us with peace. Help us to trust that you are present, even when we cannot see clearly. We ask all of this in the name of the risen Christ, who stands among us and says, “Our Father...”

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #187 The Spring Has Come

1 The spring has come let all the church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.
New light, new day, the spring has come,
let all the church be part of it!

2 The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!
New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.
New leaf, new thrust, the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!

3 The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.
New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.
New bud, new shoot, the spring has come,
new people are the flowers of it!

CLOSING BLESSING

Go now... not because all your doors are open, not because all your questions are answered, but because Christ goes with you. And wherever you go, into fear, into uncertainty, into the unknown ... He will meet you there. And He will say: “Peace be with you.”

CHORAL AMEN**POSTLUDE****Announcements**

Tuesday, April 14th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Tuesday, April 14th: Port Dover Community Sing-Along at Grace United Church beginning at 7pm. Songs from Abba & Carpenters. No musical experience required. Bring a friend and a toonie to cover expenses! For info call 416-505-1658.

Thursday, April 16th: Unified Board meeting at Springvale at 1pm.

Friday, April 17th: Scrapbooking table setup at Hagersville at 4pm. All help is appreciated.

Sunday, April 19th: The Lynn Valley Voices present The Musical Eras Tour: From Chapel to Concert Hall. Beginning at 3pm at Waterford United Church. Admission by donation. For more information please call 416-505-1658.

Thursday, April 23rd: Ham & Turkey Supper at Springvale from 4pm-6pm. Takeout only event. Adults-\$25, Children-\$10. For tickets call 905-516-3910 or 905-537-4188

Sunday, April 26th: The Lynn Valley Voices present The Musical Eras Tour: From Chapel to Concert Hall. Beginning at 3pm at First Baptist Church, Simcoe. Admission by donation. For more information please call 416-505-1658.

Sunday, April 26th: Jarvis Community Church presents Elvis in Concert! Beginning at 2pm. Garry Wesley as Elvis tribute & Donna Brooks performing the hits of Tammy Wynette & Patsy Cline in this gospel extravaganza. Tickets are \$25 or \$30 at the door. For tickets please call 519-420-0392. All proceeds will go to the Jarvis Caring Cupboard.

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

