

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 2026**

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

.....
“What happens when God gets our attention? And what might
God be calling us to do?”

OFFERING PRAYER

God of every good gift, take what we offer today and use it to bring
hope, kindness, compassion and love into your world.
And along with these gifts, we offer ourselves. Give us ears to hear
when you call and courage to answer. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Moses was walking through the wilderness, expecting an
ordinary day.

People: But God had something else in mind.

Leader: Moses saw a bush burning and stopped to look.

People: Sometimes we need to stop long enough to notice.

Leader: God called, “Moses! Moses!”

People: And God still calls people by name.

Leader: Moses had questions, doubts and excuses.

People: And sometimes, so do we.

Leader: But God gave Moses a promise:

People: “I will be with you.”

Leader: Come, then, with our questions, our doubts, our hopes and our
fears.

All: We come to listen for the God who still calls.

OPENING HYMN: #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. **R**

3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. **R**

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' **R**

OPENING PRAYER

God of Moses, God of burning bushes and unexpected moments,
God who has been getting people's attention for thousands of years,
we come into your presence today. Some of us come ready to listen.
Some of us come distracted. Some of us come carrying worries.
Some of us come wondering what you might possibly want from us.
Help us to stop. Help us to notice. Help us to listen. And if you are
calling us toward something new, give us the courage to say,
even if rather nervously, “Here I am.” Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Excuses, Excuses!"**Leader:** God said to Moses, "I have something I want you to do."**People:** Moses said, "Who, me?"**Leader:** God said, "Yes, you."**People:** Moses said, "Are you sure?"**Leader:** God was sure.**People:** Moses was not.**Leader:** Moses said, "But who am I?"**People:** We've used that one.**Leader:** Moses said, "What if they don't believe me?"**People:** We've probably used that one too.**Leader:** Moses said, "I'm not very good at speaking."**People:** Now he's getting creative.**Leader:** And eventually Moses basically said, "Please send somebody else."**People:** Ah! Now THAT one sounds familiar!**Leader:** We say, "I'm too busy."**People:** God says, "I will be with you."**Leader:** We say, "I'm too old."**People:** God says, "I will be with you."**Leader:** We say, "I'm too young."**People:** God says, "I will be with you."**Leader:** We say, "I've never done that before."**People:** God says, "I will be with you."**Leader:** We say, "Someone else could do it better."**People:** God says, "I will be with you."**Leader:** We say, "What if I mess it up?"**People:** God says, "I will be with you."**Leader:** We say, "Could you maybe ask someone else?"**People:** And God smiles and says, "I called you."**All:** God, give us courage to listen, trust and answer when you call.
Amen.***CHORUS: #148 "HOLY GROUND"**

We are standing on holy ground,

And I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now,

We are standing in His presence on holy ground. X2

SCRIPTURE READING**Exodus 3:1-15 NIV****Moses and the Burning Bush**

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. **3** So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"
And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." **6** Then he said, "I am the God of your father,^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."
11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you^[b] will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD,^[d] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

MESSAGE: “When God Gets Your Attention”

I wonder what Moses had planned for that day. Probably not much. Look after the sheep. Find some grass and water for them. Keep the sheep together. Get everybody home. Repeat tomorrow. Moses certainly didn't wake up that morning thinking, “I have a feeling God is going to completely turn my life upside down today.”

But that's exactly what happened. He sees a bush burning. That wasn't necessarily unusual in a hot, dry wilderness. What was unusual was that the bush wasn't burning up. And Scripture tells us something important. Moses says: “I must turn aside and look at this great sight.”

He stopped, notices and paid attention. And that's when God called his name. “Moses! Moses!” And Moses answered, “Here I am.”

Those three words sound very brave when we read them in church. “Here I am”.

But Moses didn't know what was coming next. Because once God explained what God wanted him to do, Moses' confidence disappeared rather quickly. God says, in bravely ... *Moses, I want you to go back to Egypt.* And Moses says: “Who am I?” God says, *I want you to speak to Pharaoh.* Moses says, “What if they don't believe me?” God says, *I want you to lead my people.*

Moses says, “I'm not a very good speaker.” And eventually Moses gets right to the point, “Please send somebody else.” Apparently, arguing with God is not a modern invention. Moses was doing it thousands of years ago. And maybe that's one of the reasons I love this story. Because Moses sounds like us. God nudges us toward something and immediately we begin making a list. I'm too old. I'm too young. I'm too busy. I'm not qualified. I don't know enough. I've never done that before. Someone else would be better. What if I fail? What will people think? And the wonderful thing is that God doesn't say to Moses, “Moses, you're right. Forget I asked.”

Neither does God say, “Moses, don't worry. This will be easy.”

Because it wasn't going to be easy. Instead, God gives Moses something much better.

God says, “I will be with you.” Maybe that is the real miracle in the story. Not simply that a bush burned without being consumed. But that an uncertain, reluctant, excuse-making human being discovered that God could use him. And his life changed. Not because Moses suddenly became fearless. Not because Moses suddenly had all the answers. Not because Moses became perfect. His life changed because eventually he trusted God enough to take the next step. And God still gets people's attention. Probably not through burning bushes. If you see one of those on the way home today, by all means, pay attention! But perhaps our burning bushes look different. Maybe it's a conversation we can't forget.

Maybe someone needs our help. Maybe we see something happening and realize, “Someone should do something about that.” And then comes the uncomfortable thought, Maybe that someone is you. Maybe it's an opportunity to serve. A relationship that needs repairing. Someone who needs encouragement. A new direction we hadn't considered. A person who needs us to stand beside them.

A voice inside saying, You need to do something. Those can be burning-bush moments. Moments when God gets our attention. And perhaps the question isn't, “Why doesn't God speak through burning bushes anymore?”

Perhaps the better question is, “If God did get my attention, would I notice?” And then an even harder question, “If God called me, would I go?” Moses didn't know where that first “yes” would lead.

He didn't know about Pharaoh. He didn't know about plagues.

He didn't know about the Red Sea. He didn't know about forty years in the wilderness. Thankfully, God didn't hand him the whole itinerary at once! God simply asked Moses to take the next step. And perhaps that's how God works with us too. Your burning bush probably won't be a bush. Your Red Sea probably won't be a sea. Your Pharaoh probably won't be a king. But there may still come a moment when God gets your attention and says, “I have something for you to do.”

And when we begin listing all the reasons why we can't, God still whispers the same promise given to Moses, “I will be with you.”

Maybe that's all Moses really needed to know. And maybe that's all we need to know too. So, keep your eyes open.

Pay attention. You never know when God might get your attention. And if God does... don't be surprised if your first response is, "Who, me?" Because God's answer just might be ... Yes ... You. Amen.

HYMN: #567 Will You Come and Follow Me

- 1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
- 3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God who called Moses from the burning bush, we are thankful that you still call ordinary people. You call people who have doubts.

You call people who have questions. You call people who don't feel ready. You call people who sometimes would rather you called somebody else. And somehow, God, you still manage to work through us. Today we pray for people who are facing their own wilderness. For those uncertain about what comes next. For those facing difficult decisions. For those beginning something new. For those whose lives have changed unexpectedly. Remind them, "I will be with you."

We pray for those who are sick, those who are grieving, those who are lonely, those who are frightened, and those carrying burdens we cannot see. Remind them, "I will be with you." We pray for our community, our church, our country and our world. Where there is hatred, call someone to bring compassion. Where there is loneliness, call someone to offer friendship. Where there is injustice, call someone to speak.

Where there is hunger, call someone to share. Where there is despair,

call someone to bring hope.

And God, when that someone turns out to be us, give us the courage not to look over our shoulder and ask, "You mean me?" Help us remember that we don't need to have all the answers. We simply need to trust that wherever you call us, you will be there too.

We gather these prayers in the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #424 May the God of Hope Go with Us Every Day

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

**[Refrain:] Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. **[Refrain]**

SENDING FORTH

Moses went into the wilderness looking after sheep. He came home having encountered God. We don't know what we will encounter this week. We don't know when God might get our attention. We don't know when we might hear that little nudge... "I have something for you to do." So go with your eyes open. Go with your hearts open. Go willing to notice. Go willing to listen. And if your first response is, "Who, me?" remember God's answer, "Yes, you." And remember God's promise, "I will be with you." Go in peace.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Sunday, September 27th: Springvale's 153rd Musical Anniversary joint service beginning at 10:30am. Lunch to follow. There will be **no service** at Hagersville.

Tuesday, September 29th: Turkey Supper at Springvale from 4pm-6pm. Takeout only. Adults are \$25, ages 12 and under are \$10. For tickets call Barb at 905-768-3910 or Betty at 905-537-4188.

Peggy will be away Sept. 14th-20th. During this time, Rev. Charmain Sebestyen from Jarvis Community Church will be available for any emergencies that may come up. Please call her at the church; 519-587-2915 if needed.

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

