

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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“Faith Over Fear ~ God’s Light Shines Bright!”

Halloween reminds us that people have always tried to make sense of fear — dressing up to laugh at it, lighting pumpkins to push back the dark. As Christians, we know that God’s love casts out fear. Jesus came to bring light into the world, and we are invited to shine that light for others, through kindness, courage, and love.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
You fill our lives with light, laughter, and love.
As we bring our gifts,
may they brighten dark places and lift fearful hearts.
Use these offerings to shine Your light into the world. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world that can seem dark and frightening,

People: God’s light shines bright!

Leader: When shadows fall and fears rise up,

People: God’s love gives us courage.

Leader: As we gather today, we bring our laughter, our wonder, and even our worries.

People: For God turns fear into faith, and darkness into light!

All: Let us worship the One who conquers fear with love!

OPENING HYMN: #232 Joyful, Joyful

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, As children dress up and laughter fills the air this week, remind us that You call us to see past masks and costumes to the beauty You place inside each person. When we feel afraid, remind us that You are with us. When the world feels dark, help us to be Your light. Let this time of worship remind us that in Your love, we have nothing to fear. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: God's Light Shines ~ Even on Spooky Nights!

Leader: The nights grow darker, the wind starts to howl, pumpkins glow, and children giggle in anticipation.

People: But even on spooky nights, God's light still shines!

Leader: Costumes and masks appear all around ... princesses, pirates, and maybe a few ghosts, too!

People: But God sees our hearts, not our disguises!

Leader: When we feel a little scared of shadows or strange sounds

People: God whispers, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you."

Leader: When we see jack-o'-lanterns lighting the dark ...

People: We remember that Christ's light glows in us, chasing away fear!

Leader: When the world feels gloomy or uncertain ...

People: We will shine with kindness and courage.

Leader: When others are lonely or sad ...

People: We'll share the light of God's love to brighten their way.

Leader: God's light shines brighter than any shadow, and God's love is stronger than any fear.

People: So we will laugh, love, and live with faith, because God's light shines, even on spooky nights!

Leader: Let us be lanterns of hope, candles of courage, and pumpkins that glow with joy!

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it! Amen!

CHORUS: #2 SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Shine, Jesus shine, Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit blaze, Set our hearts on fire. Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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.

John 1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Matthew 5:14-16 ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

MESSAGE: "Faith Over Fear"

Have you ever noticed how Halloween is the one night of the year when people actually want to be scared?

We decorate our houses with ghosts and skeletons, hang fake cobwebs on the porch, and carve funny or spooky faces into pumpkins. And what do children do? They dress up, run out into the night, knock on strangers' doors and say, "Trick or treat!"

When you think about it, Halloween is really a night about bravery.

Kids walk in the dark, meet people they don't always know, and collect candy from places that look a little bit scary. But they do it because they trust that behind the masks and decorations, there's something good, kindness, laughter, and maybe even a handful of chocolate.

So, when I got thinking about what I would base my service on this week, well... Halloween came to mind. Because Halloween can be dark and scary to children and even some adults. Therefore, Halloween reminds us how much we need *light*.

We light up pumpkins, carry flashlights, or hang little glowing decorations. Why? Because the light makes us feel safe, it helps us see what's around us and keeps us from getting lost.

In the Bible, light is a symbol of *God's presence*.

John 1:5 says, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

That's a powerful promise! It means that no matter how dark the night gets, whether it's a dark sky or a dark moment in our lives, God's light is still shining.

So let's take that promise a little farther... We all have fears ... not just of ghosts or things that go bump in the night. Sometimes we fear the future. We fear losing people we love. We fear not being enough. But God says, "*Do not fear, for I am with you.*" (Isaiah 41:10)

Faith doesn't mean pretending we're never scared.

Faith means we trust that God's light will always guide us through the dark. You see, courage isn't the absence of fear, it's choosing to trust God even when we are afraid. And that's what make us human.

Jesus said, "*You are the light of the world.*" That means every one of us, every heart that believes in God, carries a little bit of that holy light inside. And here's the amazing part: when we shine our light through kindness, forgiveness, and love, it helps others find their way, too. When we smile at someone who's having a bad day, we're shining God's light. When we stand up for what's right, we're shining God's light. When we help, listen, forgive, or encourage, we're shining God's light.

A Little Story "God's Candles"

One evening, a little boy was helping his mom light candles during a power outage. The house was quiet except for the sound of rain tapping against the windows. He watched carefully as his mom lite each candle, first flickering weakly, then glowing steady and bright. After a few moments, the little boy looked up and asked, "Mom, if Jesus is the light of the world, why does He need me to shine too?" His mother smiled softly, her face glowing in the candlelight. "Well," she said, "think about the sun. It's the biggest light of all, bright and powerful, filling the world with warmth. But at night, when the clouds are thick or the rain is heavy, we can't always see it. Does that mean the sun stopped shining?" The boy shook his head. "No, it's still there we just can't see it."

She paused and placed a hand on his shoulder and said ... "You see, sweetheart, there are people who can't see the light of Jesus right now. Maybe they're sad, or scared, or lonely. Maybe life feels too cloudy for them to see the sun. That's why God sends you. You're one of His candles, a little light that can brighten someone's darkness and remind them that God's love is still shining." The boy looked at the flickering candles around the room. They weren't big, but together they filled the whole space with a warm, gentle glow. He smiled and whispered, "Then I'll be a candle for God." And his mom nodded. "That's all God asks ... one light at a time, one heart at a time. When all of us shine together, the darkness doesn't stand a chance."

So on Friday night when the jack-o'-lanterns glowing, houses are creepy and spooky and kids laughing in the dark, remember this:

- Fear is real, but it doesn't define us.
- God's light within us is stronger than any darkness around us.

You don't have to be afraid of the darkness, because God's light lives in you. And when you share that light with others, you help God make the world a little brighter, a little safer, and a lot more loving.

Therefore, go ahead and shine your light. Shine it bright and bold for all to see. Because faith will always be stronger than fear, and God's light will always overcome the dark. Amen.

HYMN: This Little Light of Mine

1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Hide it under a bushel (NO), I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO), I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel (NO), I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4 Let it shine in my hometown, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Let it shine in my hometown, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Let it shine in my hometown, I'm gonna let it shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

5 See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces shine.
 See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces shine.
 See the light spreading round the world, see all the faces shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, you are the Light that shines in every darkness.
 When shadows fall and fears grow strong, We thank You for laughter,
 for costumes and creativity, for children who remind us how to see the
 world with wonder and joy. When we face things that seem scary or
 uncertain, help us remember that Your love is stronger than any fear.
 Give us courage to trust You, no matter what comes. We pray for those
 who are hurting today, for those who are sick, lonely, or grieving.
 May Your healing light surround them and bring peace. We pray for our
 community, our neighbours, our families, our friends, and for all who
 will go out celebrating this week. Keep everyone safe and fill our streets
 with kindness and laughter. We pray for our world, O God. Where there
 is war, bring peace. Where there is hunger, bring nourishment. Where
 there is fear, bring hope. Help us to be lanterns of Your love, shining
 kindness in dark places, offering comfort where there is pain, and
 sharing faith wherever there is fear. For You, O God, are with us in
 every season, and no darkness can ever put out Your light. Therefore
 God of Light, shine through our fears... We offer these prayers in the
 name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, who taught us to pray
 together, saying ...
 All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #585 Jesus Bids Us Shine

1 Jesus bids us shine with pure, clear light,
 like a little candle burning in the night.
 In this world is darkness, so let us shine.
 you in your small corner, and I in mine.

2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
 well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
 Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
 you in your small corner, and I in mine.

3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
 many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
 sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
 you in your small corner, and I in mine.

SENDING FORTH

Go now, beloved of God, into a world that sometimes feels shadowed
 and unsure. But do not be afraid, for the Light of Christ goes with you,
 before you to guide you, beside you to strengthen you, and within you to
 shine bright for all to see. So go, and let your faith be brighter than your
 fear, your love stronger than any darkness, and your joy a spark that
 lights the way for others. Go in peace, and go in light!

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, November 12th: Official board meeting at Springvale at
 1:30pm. Moved from Oct. 15th.

Wednesday, November 12th: Unified Board meeting at Springvale at
 noon. Please bring lunch with you.

Wednesday, November 25th: Springvale will be selling their cookie
 trays. Pickup will be from 4-6pm. Large trays are \$40, medium trays are
 \$30 & small trays are \$20. Cabbage rolls available by pre-order,
 \$30/dozen. Chili will also be available for purchase for \$10/bowl. To
 pre-order please call: 905-537-4188 or 905-768-3910.

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

During our Ecumenical Service at Hagersville United Church, we were collecting donations for the Norfolk-Haldimand Hospice. We raised \$740.00! Thank you to everyone to helped contribute to this.

