

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 15th, 2026**

2

Leader: Come, all who long for peace.

People: For the One who calms the seas walks beside us still.

OPENING HYMN: #371 Open My eyes, That I May See

1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, We gather today bringing all that we carry, our hopes and our joys, our questions and our worries. Sometimes life feels steady and calm, but other days the winds rise and the waters around us feel rough. Remind us today that we are never alone in the boat. When fear rises, speak peace to our hearts. When we feel overwhelmed, steady our faith. Quiet our spirits now so we may hear your voice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

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

Lent ~ Week Four ~ Fear

Today we continue our Lenten journey in our series
"What Are We Carrying?"

So far we have talked about Temptation, Doubt, and Shame.

Today we turn to something every one of us carries at times ... FEAR.

Fear of the unknown.

Fear of what might happen.

Fear of things beyond our control.

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, We bring these gifts before you
as signs of gratitude and trust.

When fear tells us to hold tightly to what we have,
you remind us that generosity grows faith.

Bless these offerings and use them to bring hope, compassion, and calm
to a world that often feels stormy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who carry worry in your hearts.

People: We come seeking calm in the storm.

Leader: Come, all who feel overwhelmed by life's waves.

People: We come trusting Christ is with us.

CHILDREN'S TIME**CHILDREN'S VIDEO****LITANY: Fear**

Leader: God of calm seas and stormy days, sometimes fear sneaks into our lives.

People: Sometimes quietly... sometimes loudly!

Leader: We fear things we understand...

People: And things we definitely do not understand.

Leader: We worry about health...

People: Bills...

Leader: The news...

People: And the weather forecast!

Leader: We fear when plans fall apart...

People: When life throws us a surprise.

Leader: Sometimes we fear the waves rocking our boat.

People: And sometimes we fear we forgot to pack the life jackets!

Leader: Yet through it all, Christ reminds us:

People: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Leader: Today we remember:

People: Jesus is still in the boat with us.

All: Thanks be to God.

***CHORUS: #199 "LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH"**

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises,
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us,
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high. 2X

SCRIPTURE READING**Mark 4:35-41****Jesus Calms the Storm**

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious

squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

MESSAGE: "Fear"

Sometimes fear shows up in the strangest ways. A little boy was saying his prayers before bed one night. His mother tucked him in, turned off the light, and started to leave the room.

A few seconds later she heard a small voice from the darkness: "Mom... I'm scared."

She said gently, "Don't worry. God is with you."

There was a pause... and then the little boy replied,

"I know God is with me... but right now I need someone with skin on."

And honestly... I think many of us understand exactly what he meant.

Fear has a way of showing up in the dark.

When we can't see clearly... when we don't know what will happen next... when things feel beyond our control.

Fear is a deep human emotion that we feel when something seems dangerous, uncertain, or out of our control. It is our mind and body's way of trying to protect us.

At its most basic level, fear is like an alarm system inside us. When we sense a threat, whether it is a loud noise, a storm, an illness, a mistake we made, or something we don't understand, our body reacts. Our heart might beat faster, our stomach might feel tight, and our thoughts may start racing. That is our body preparing us to pay attention, be careful, or protect ourselves.

But fear is not only about physical danger. Often the fears we carry are emotional or spiritual. We may fear:

- the future
- losing someone we love
- failing or making mistakes
- being judged by others
- things we cannot control

Fear can make us feel small, alone, or overwhelmed, like we are caught in a storm with no clear way out.

And that's exactly where the disciples are in today's story ... in the dark, in a storm, in a boat that feels like it might sink.

And they cry out to Jesus: "Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing?"

PAUSE

Fear is one of the most universal human experiences.

We fear what we cannot predict.

We fear what we cannot control.

We fear what might happen next.

The disciples in today's story knew fear well.

They were experienced fishermen. They knew the Sea of Galilee. But that night something was different. The wind was strong. The waves were crashing. The boat was filling with water.

And where was Jesus?

"Sleeping".

Which, honestly, might be the most frustrating detail in the entire story.

They wake him up shouting:

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

In other words:

Jesus, do you see what's happening?

Do you know how scared we are?

But Jesus stands up and speaks three simple words: "**Quiet. Be still.**"

And the storm calms.

Now the interesting part is what Jesus says next.

He doesn't say: "Good job waking me up."

Instead he asks: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Now that might sound harsh ... but it isn't meant that way.

Jesus is reminding them of something important:

Faith does not mean storms never come. Faith means, Christ is with us when they do.

Because storms happen in life, fear happens all the time... Fear is a part of life The real question is:

Who is in the boat with us? And the answer is ... Christ.

HYMN: #288 Great is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

[Refrain:] Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **[Refrain]**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. **[Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of calm and courage, We bring before you today the fears we carry. Some are small worries that whisper in the night. Some are heavy storms that shake the foundations of our lives.

We pray for those facing illness...for those waiting for test results... for those walking through uncertainty. We pray for families navigating change...for people struggling with anxiety or loneliness... for communities affected by violence or disaster. We pray for those who feel like their boat is filling with water and they do not know what to do next. In those moments, remind us of your presence. Speak peace to troubled hearts. Steady us when waves rise. Give courage where fear has taken hold. And help us be a source of calm and compassion for those around us. For we pray together in the name of the One who calms the storm. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #670 Precious Lord Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:

**Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.**

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall: **R**

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river, I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand: **R**

SENDING FORTH

As you leave this place today,
Remember this: Storms will come.
Winds will rise. Waves will sometimes rock the boat.
But Christ is still with you. So go into the world with courage.
Go with faith stronger than fear. Go knowing the One who calmed the
sea walks beside you always.

CHORAL AMEN**POSTLUDE**

.....

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

Announcements

Tuesday, March 17th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Friday, March 20th: Soup lunch at Hagersville United from 11am-12:30pm. Takeout only. \$10/person. Includes your choice of chicken noodle, hamburger or cream of mushroom soup plus a bun & a cookie. Please call 905-768-3729 by March 19th at 6pm to order.

Friday, April 3rd: Good Friday service at Hagersville beginning at 10:30am. Fellowship & hot cross buns to follow in the C.E. Wing

Monday, April 13th: The Chapelaires in concert for Christian Service Centers 41st Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet at Port Dover Community Centre. Doors open at 6pm, dinner at 6:30pm. For tickets please contact Dorothy Gordon at 519-443-6578

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

**Tuesday, March 17th
at 7 p.m.**

Port Dover Community Sing-Along – Irish Songs
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! This is NOT a karaoke event. Just show up (no registration required), drop \$2 in the jar, and take a seat.

We'll sing favourites like: *When Irish Eyes are Smiling, My Wild Irish Rose, The Gypsy Rover, Black Velvet Band, Wasn't That a Party, The Unicorn*, and the ultimate Irish ballad, *Danny Boy*. Wear your green and bring a friend. All voices welcome. \$2 donation.

Call 416-505-1658 for more information.

Grace United Church - 18
Chapman St. W., Port Dover

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi

