

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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Wrapping up Summer and finding ...
“GOD IS IN THE ORDINARY”

We don't have to look for spectacular signs to discover God. God is present in coffee cups and conversations, gardens and groceries, laughter and laundry, meals and memories ... the ordinary moments that make up our lives.

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, take these ordinary gifts, our money, our time, our talents and ourselves and do something extraordinary with them. Use them to feed, welcome, comfort, encourage and bring hope. And remind us that nothing offered with love is ever too small. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come looking for God.

All: And sometimes God is closer than we think.

One: In the sunrise and the rain.

All: God is there.

One: In laughter around a table.

All: God is there.

One: In a neighbour waving from across the road.

All: God is there.

One: In the smell of coffee and the sound of familiar voices.

All: God is there.

One: In the ordinary moments of an ordinary day.

All: God is there.

One: So let us open our eyes, open our hearts, and pay attention.

All: For this ordinary day is filled with the extraordinary presence of God.

One: Let us worship God together.

OPENING HYMN: #307 Touch the Earth Lightly

- 1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.
- 2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!
- 3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.
- 4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently, and making us one.

OPENING PRAYER

God of ordinary days and everyday blessings, Sometimes we expect You to arrive with thunder and lightning, miracles and great signs. And sometimes You do. But more often, You quietly meet us in the places we almost overlook. In the morning light coming through the window. In the first sip of coffee. In the person who remembers our name. In the laughter of children. In the meal someone prepared. In the phone call that came at just the right time. In the quiet assurance that somehow, we are going to be okay. Help us today to slow down long enough to notice. Open our eyes to the sacred hiding within the ordinary. Open our ears to hear Your voice in familiar places.

And open our hearts to receive the simple gifts You place before us every day. May there be laughter in our worship, joy in our gathering, and gratitude in our hearts. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: "Where Did You See God Today?"

Person One: I was looking for God this morning.

Person Two: Oh really? Where did you look?

Person One: Well, I thought maybe there would be a great flash of light.

Person Two: Anything?

Person One: Nope.

Person Two: Thunder?

Person One: Nope.

Person Two: Choir of angels?

Person One: Not a single one.

Person Two: Did you check the kitchen?

Person One: The kitchen?

Person Two: Yes. Was there coffee?

Person One: There was.

Person Two: There's your first clue.

Person One: Then somebody held the door open for me.

Person Two: Another clue.

Person One: Someone smiled and said, "Good morning."

Person Two: Keep looking.

Person One: A bird was singing outside my window.

Person Two: Now you're getting it.

Person One: Someone called just to see how I was doing.

Person Two: Definitely getting warmer.

Person One: I sat down at the table with people I love.

Person Two: And there was God.

Person One: I laughed until my stomach hurt.

Person Two: God loves that too.

Person One: So maybe I don't have to wait for something spectacular?

Person Two: Maybe the spectacular has been around you all along.

Person One: In coffee?

Person Two: Yes.

Person One: In laughter?

Person Two: Absolutely.

Person One: In friendship?

Person Two: Definitely.

Person One: In church?

Person Two: We certainly hope so!

Peggy: GOD IS IN THE ORDINARY! So, open your eye so we don't miss God in all the ordinary things we take for granted. Amen

HYMN: #621 Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (Hymns from the family of God)

1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?

No light in the darkness you see?

There's light for a look at the Savior,

And life more abundant and free!

Refrain:

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.

2. Thro' death into life everlasting,

He passed, and we follow Him there;

O'er us sin no more hath dominion--

For more than conqu'rors we are! **R**

3. His Word shall not fail you--He promised;

Believe Him, and all will be well:

Then go to a world that is dying,

His perfect salvation to tell! **R**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 12:6-7

⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷ Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 6:25–30**Do Not Worry**

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

MESSAGE: “Hiding In Plain Sight”

This summer, I think we proved something. You can apparently preach a sermon about almost anything. Fishing. Beaches. Lemons. The 60’ and 70’s. Coffee House. Suitcases. Ice cream.

And even a man who ended up inside a very large fish! At the beginning of the summer, I don't think any of us were quite sure where some of these Sundays were going. And perhaps there were a few moments when you wondered: “What exactly is Peggy going to do with THAT?” To be perfectly honest, there may have been a few moments when I wondered the same thing! But somehow, each ordinary thing opened a little doorway. Fishing reminded us about following Jesus. The beach reminded us to rest. Lemons reminded us that difficult things don't have to have the final word.

The 60’s and 70’s reminded us of the peace and love Jesus taught. Coffee reminded us about conversation and community. Packing reminded us that sometimes we carry things God never asked us to carry. Ice cream reminded us about the sweetness and goodness of God. And Jonah reminded us that God's grace can reach us even when we're running in completely the wrong direction.

Different Sundays. Different objects. Different stories. But maybe one message has been quietly running underneath all of them: God is here. Not just here in the church. Not just here on Sunday morning. Not just in scripture or hymns or prayers. God is here in life. Ordinary, messy, funny, busy, sometimes frustrating life.

Jesus understood that. When Jesus wanted people to understand God, He didn't always give them complicated theology. He said ... Look at the birds. Look at the flowers. Look at the seeds. Look at the farmer. Look at the bread. Look at the children. Jesus took ordinary things and said, “Look again.” Because maybe that's what faith does.

Faith teaches us to look again. A cup of coffee is just coffee. Until you're drinking it with someone who needed a friend. A meal is just food. Until someone makes room at the table for a person who would otherwise be alone. A phone call is just a phone call. Until it comes on the day you desperately needed to hear someone's voice. A smile is just a smile. Until you're having a terrible day and someone gives you one. A church is just a building. Until people gather inside it and laugh together, cry together, pray together, disagree occasionally, because let's not get unrealistic, and somehow continue loving one another.

Then it becomes something more. It becomes sacred. I think sometimes we're waiting for God to do something enormous. “God, show me a sign!” And meanwhile God may be saying ... “I've been showing you signs all day!”

The sun came up. Someone loved you. Someone thought about you. There was food on your table. You heard music. You laughed. You remembered someone you loved. You helped somebody. Somebody helped you. You made it through another day. Maybe miracles aren't always enormous. Maybe sometimes they're ordinary things we finally learn to notice.

And now summer is ending. Soon the pace changes. The church calendar fills up again.. Anniversary services. Thanksgiving will arrive. Then Remembrance Day. Then suddenly we'll be lighting Advent candles and wondering how Christmas got here so quickly. Life will get busy again. And that's why I think this is a good lesson to carry with us.

Don't become so busy looking for God that you miss God. Don't wait for extraordinary moments. Look at the ordinary ones. When you drink your morning coffee, give thanks. When someone makes you laugh, give thanks. When you see the leaves beginning to change, give thanks. When someone asks how you're doing and actually waits for the answer, give thanks. When you sit around a table with people you love, give thanks. When you walk into this church and someone says, “Good morning, it's nice to see you”, give thanks.

Because perhaps the greatest lesson of our summer together is surprisingly simple, God was never hiding. God was there in the fishing pole. God was there at the beach. God was there in the lemonade. God was there around the coffee table. God was there in the suitcase. God was even there in the ice cream sundae.

And yes... God was definitely there with Jonah and that fish.

God has been hiding in plain sight all summer long.

And tomorrow morning, when Monday arrives and life feels very ordinary again... God will be there too. So, keep your eyes open. You never know where God might show up next.

Amen.

HYMN: #289 It Only Takes a Spark

- 1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.
- 2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.
- 3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found—
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of extraordinary love and ordinary days, Today we aren't going to begin by asking for more. Instead, we're going to begin by saying:

Thank You.

Thank You for morning coffee and evening sunsets. For gardens and front porches. For neighbours who wave. For people who make us laugh. For meals shared around tables. For music that brings back memories. For photographs that remind us where we've been. For children who ask questions we don't always know how to answer. For friends who know our stories and love us anyway. For the simple gift of being together today. God, we also remember that ordinary days can carry heavy things. There are people among us and around us who are worried. People waiting for answers. People grieving someone they love. People feeling lonely. People facing changes they didn't choose. People carrying burdens nobody else can see. Be present in their ordinary days too. May Your love come through a phone call, a visit, a meal, a listening ear, a helping hand, or simply the presence of someone who cares. And when we have the opportunity, use us. Help us become one of those ordinary blessings in someone else's life. May we never underestimate what You can do with a smile, a kindness, a conversation, a casserole, a cup of coffee or a simple: "I'm thinking about you." God, keep our eyes open. Keep our hearts grateful. And keep reminding us that every ordinary day contains opportunities to love, serve, laugh, forgive and begin again. We pray in the spirit of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying: **Our Father...**

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #595 We are Pilgrims on a Journey

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

SENDING FORTH

And so our summer Sundays come to an end. We've fished. We've rested. We've squeezed lemons. We had a groovy time. We've had coffee house questions. We've packed lighter. We've eaten ice cream. We've survived Jonah and the fish. And through it all, God has been with us. So go now into an ordinary week. Wash the dishes. Cut the grass. Make the lunches. Answer the phone. Drink the coffee. Visit a friend. Laugh whenever you get the chance. And pay attention. Because somewhere in the middle of all those ordinary things, God will be there. May the love of God surround you, the grace of Christ walk beside you, and the Spirit open your eyes to the holy hiding in plain sight. Go in peace. Go with joy. And don't forget to look around. God is in the ordinary.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, September 9th: Official Board at Hagersville at 1:30pm. Church Council will meet at 6:30pm.

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.

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

