

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 2026**

Leader: Come and worship the God who is above us, beside us, and within us.

All: Thanks be to God!

OPENING HYMN: #371 Open My Eyes, That I My 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

Loving God, Today we gather remembering the wonder of Your presence. Jesus walked among the disciples, rose from the grave, ascended into heaven, and promised that we would never be left alone. As we worship today, remind us that Your Spirit still moves among us, in kindness, in courage, in comfort, and in hope. Prepare our hearts for worship and for communion, that we may feel Your presence once again. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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“He Went Up... But Never Left Us”

Ascension ~ Communion Sunday

Today we remember that Jesus ascended into heaven...
yet He did not abandon His people.

He promised the Holy Spirit, and through that Spirit, Christ is still with us, guiding, comforting, strengthening, and calling us together around this table of grace.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, Jesus ascended into heaven, yet Your Spirit continues to move among us, bringing hope, comfort, generosity, and love. Today we offer these gifts, not simply as money placed upon a plate, but as signs of thankful hearts. Bless these offerings and use them to continue Christ's work in the world: to feed the hungry, welcome the lonely, encourage the weary, and share the good news of Your love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ has risen.

People: Christ has ascended.

Leader: The Spirit has come among us.

People: We are not alone.

Leader: Jesus calls us together as one family.

People: Around the table of grace and love.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY

Leader: Sometimes we wish Jesus had stayed on earth a little longer.

People: It would have made things easier for us!

Leader: We could ask Him where we left our keys...

People: Or whether we remembered to turn off the stove.

Leader: We could ask Him how to fix the world...

People: Or at least how to survive family dinners.

Leader: But Jesus said something surprising as he was ascending...

People: "I will not leave you alone."

Leader: Christ returned to heaven...

People: But sent the Holy Spirit to walk beside us.

Leader: So, when we feel uncertain...

People: The Spirit gives wisdom.

Leader: When we feel tired...

People: The Spirit gives strength.

Leader: When we feel alone...

People: The Spirit reminds us we belong to God.

Leader: Today we gather at Christ's table.

All: And discover once again that He is still with us.

CHORUS: #285 Surely The Presence Of The Lord Is In This Place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. **2x**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:15-18

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it

sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[a] in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:25-27

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

REFLECTION: “He Went Up... But Never Left”

I imagine the disciples standing there staring up into the sky after Jesus ascended. Looking upward... blinking... wondering...

“Now what?”

It almost feels like the ending of a movie where everyone just stands there confused. Jesus had risen from the dead. He had walked with them again. He had taught them again. And now... He was gone from their sight. But here is the important part: The Ascension was not Jesus leaving them behind. It was Jesus preparing them for what came next. Because Pentecost was coming. The Holy Spirit would arrive, not just for a few disciples... but for everyone. No longer would God’s presence stay in one place. Now the Spirit would move through ordinary people. Through fishermen. Through doubters. Through tired people. Through faithful people. Through people like us. And perhaps that is why communion matters so much today.

Because communion reminds us:

Jesus may have ascended into heaven...but Christ is still present with us. Present in this meal. Present in community. Present in grace.

Present through the Holy Spirit. We do not worship a distant Christ.

We worship a living Christ. And every time we gather at this table, we remember: He went up...but He never left us.

Amen.

HYMN: #378 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies,
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Hast you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see your cross: there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek you and O let me find!

4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame,
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar and your love the flame.

COMMUNION INVITATION

Friends, this is not our table. This is Christ’s table.

All are welcome here, the joyful, the weary, the uncertain, the hopeful.
Come not because you must, but because Christ invites you.

HYMN: #459 Here, O My Lord verses 1,2&3

- *1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon you lean.
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
- 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table for me spread;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the fellowship of living wine and bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER (UNISON)

Loving God, We thank You for Jesus Christ,
for His life, His love, His death, His resurrection,
His ascension into heaven, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Pour out Your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup,
and upon us gathered here. May this meal strengthen us, encourage us,
and remind us that Christ is still present among His people.
When we leave this place, help us carry Your love into the world.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**SHARING OF BREAD & CUP****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION****LORD'S PRAYER****POST COMMUNION HYMN: #481 Sent Forth by God's Blessings**

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
 the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
 The supper is ended, O now be extended
 the fruits of this service in all who believe.
 The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
 shall blossom in action for God and for all.
 God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
 to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
 the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
 Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
 embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
 unite us as one in this life that we share.
 Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
 give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

BENEDICTION

Go now in peace, knowing that Christ who ascended into heaven
 still surrounds you with grace. May the Holy Spirit guide your steps,
 fill your hearts, and remind you daily: You are never alone.

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

Thursday, June 4th: Springvale UCW invite you to their June meeting at Springvale United Church at 7pm. Guest speaker Andy Gibb, the public education coordinator for dementia, will be speaking on conditions that present like dementia and dementia. Refreshments to follow. RSVP to Cathy by May 29th at 289-921-1794.

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

Wednesday, June 10th: Unified Board meeting at Springvale at 12pm. Official Board at Springvale at 1:30pm. Church council meeting at Hagersville at 6:30pm.

Sunday, June 28th: Join us at the Waterford Legion Pavilion at 2pm to celebrate the life of Debbie Kozicki. There will be a memorial service followed by a gathering with refreshments.

BROADVIEW

It is time to renew or subscribe to Broadview for 2026-2027. Cost is \$30.00. Pick up a sample copy of Broadview magazine. Envelopes available at the back of the church; place on the offering plate or e-transfer at barbzdunich@gmail.com



(working from home)