HAGERSVLLE UNITED CHURCH & SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 2026

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Land Acknowledgement

As we gather for worship on this Remembrance Sunday, we acknowledge with gratitude that we gather on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee peoples of the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

We honour the Indigenous peoples who have cared for this land for generations and recognize their continuing presence, traditions, and contributions to our communities.

Today, as we remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country, we also honour the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit men and women who have served in times of war and peace, often without receiving the recognition they deserved.

May our remembrance inspire us to walk together in a spirit of respect, reconciliation, and understanding. And may we continue to work toward a world where justice, compassion, and lasting peace are shared by all. Amen.

Remembrance Service

To Ponder

What does it mean to remember someone? It means to bring them here with us…to remember them, so that time and space have no meaning. Death itself is overcome. This is the purpose of remembrance in Canada: to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them here with us as we worship in freedom and peace. We should never take for granted the freedom we have to celebrate our diversity in Canada.

Offering Prayer

We dedicate these gifts to you, Generous God, even as we dedicate our lives to you. Keep us true to our promise, that we may witness to you with all that we are and all that we do. Amen

PIPER TO PIPE IN

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

It is my privilege to welcome you to this special service of Remembrance. It is Remembrance Sunday once again, and we will as a nation acknowledge the sacrifice of the people of the Armed Forces throughout history. However, as a community of faith today, we will be taking some time to reflect on the sacrifices of Canadians throughout the ages. Members of churches all over Canada have served in every major conflict and still do today. And so, it is appropriate for us to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them to mind here with us as we worship in freedom and peace.

Also, today, as we gather to remember those who served and sacrificed for our country, we also recognize a very special milestone.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Following the First World War, thousands of Canadian soldiers returned home, many facing injuries, hardships, and the challenges of rebuilding their lives.

Veterans' organizations came together with a common purpose: to support those who had served, care for their families, and ensure that their sacrifices would never be forgotten.

On July 17, 1926, the Canadian Legion was officially incorporated. In 1960, Queen Elizabeth II granted permission for the title "Royal," and in 1961, it became known as the Royal Canadian Legion.

For one hundred years, the Legion has remained faithful to its purpose. Through the Poppy Campaign, Remembrance Day ceremonies, support for Veterans and their families, and countless acts of community service, Legion members have continued a wonderful tradition of caring and remembering.

And here in our own community, we give thanks for the dedicated Legion members, past and present, who have worked tirelessly to keep the spirit of remembrance alive.

Today, we honour not only those who served our country, but also the generations of volunteers who have made sure their stories are never forgotten.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5:9:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray
All: for a world where no one will learn war anymore.
One: On this day when the guns once fell silent,
All: we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart, home and nation.
One: On this day of hope,
All: we come before you, God, to remember all those who gave their lives so we could be free.
One: In this time of story, song, and prayer,
help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.
All: And so, let echo the old prayers—make us channels of your peace.
One: In that spirit, let us join our hearts in song.

HYMN: #684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

OPENING PRAYER

One: Almighty God, We thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday to recall with tenderness and respect those who lost their lives from this community and the many thousands farther afield in the wars of the last century.

All: We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the World and acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.
One: Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship, Make us ever mindful of your goodness toward us, and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others. As we pray for peace, may it start with peace in our hearts. Amen

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

PLEASE RISE FOR O CANADA

IN FLANDERS FIELDS: Mark Dennis
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

A LITANY OF REMEMBERING....

The piper plays, a bugle sounds, a quiet hush,
Memories of battles lost and won,
Lives forever changed or too soon lying in fields
The world mourns, a loved one cries, The cost of war is great and deep
A prayer is heard, a wreath is laid, Poppies worn by young and old
We will remember.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them.

Response All: We will Remember Them.

CHOIR ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.[c]
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
5 God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
7 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
8 Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields[d] with fire.
10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

VIDEO

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17 9"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now
remain in my love. 10If you keep my commands, you will remain in my
love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.
11I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy
may be complete. 12My command is this: Love each other as I have
loved you. 13Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for
one's friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command. 15I no
longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's
business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned
from my Father I have made known to you. 16You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-
fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father
will give you. 17This is my command: Love each other.

REFLECTION: "Remembering Winnie … Lest We Forget"

This morning, I want to take you back more than a hundred years, to a time when young men, some barely old enough to shave, were leaving their families and everything familiar to fight in a war thousands of miles away. Many were little more than boys.

At an age when young people today are thinking about school, friendships, and getting their driver's license, these boys were facing the horrors of war.

One of those young soldiers was Private Percy McClare, known to his family and friends as Winnie. He was just 17 years old.

On April 16, 1917, following the Battle of Vimy Ridge, he wrote this letter home to his mother.

Winnie's Letter

At an age when most boys barely summon the courage to ask for a date, Canada expected its boys to charge the Kaiser's trenches.

France April 16. 1917

My Dear Mother, I have not written a letter for over a week and a half as I have been in the trenches for 9 days and it is impossible to write up there. You have no doubt heard before this of the advances of the Canadians and the capture of Vimy Ridge. I was in the whole of that battle and it was Hell. I got a small splinter of shrapnel through the fleshy part of my shoulder. It was very slight and I went through it all with it. It was some battle and I am glad to say that I was through it as it will be one of the biggest things in Canadian history. Well mother if you

can please send me some socks when you can and anything else you care to send in the line of eats. Well mother dear, please don't do any worrying as it does no good. But remember me in your prayers. I know you do that and it helps a lot. Well mother, I will close now. Give my love to all. I remain. As ever...your loving son...Winnie.

That was a letter, written in pencil, from Private Percy McClare. To his friends and family, he was known as Winnie. Winnie was like thousands of other Canadian soldiers fighting in France in the First World War -- too young.

He was seventeen; many of the boys dressed in Canadian uniforms were barely into their teens. But they fought like adults and many, like Winnie, never returned home.

(Pause for a moment.)

Seventeen years old.

And what did he ask his mother for?

Not medals. Not recognition. Not praise for his bravery.

Just socks, something to eat, and her prayers.

And isn't that just like a son? Even in the middle of a terrible war, he was telling his mother not to worry.

Sadly, Winnie was among the many young Canadians who never returned home.

And I cannot help but wonder about the life he might have lived.

Would he have married? Had children? Become a grandfather?

We will never know.

And Winnie was only one of thousands whose futures were taken by war.

Remembering in 2026

And here we are, in November 2026.

Almost 110 years have passed since Winnie wrote that letter.

Our world has changed in ways he could never have imagined.

Yet, with all our progress, we still haven't learned how to live together in peace.

We still see war, hatred, families fleeing their homes, and mothers worrying about their sons and daughters.

And perhaps that is why Remembrance Day is just as important today as it was generations ago.

Because remembering isn't simply about looking back.

It's about learning from the past and asking ourselves what kind of

world we want to leave for our children and grandchildren.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

And notice, Jesus didn't say blessed are those who wish for peace.

He said blessed are the peacemakers.

People who choose kindness over hatred, understanding over anger, and forgiveness over revenge.

We may never be called to serve on a battlefield, but each of us can be a peacemaker in our homes, our churches, and our communities.

So today, when we hear the Last Post, when we stand in silence, and when we see the red poppies, may we remember Winnie.

A 17-year-old boy who simply wanted to come home.

And may we remember that behind every uniform was a person, behind every name was a story, and behind every sacrifice was someone who was loved.

We remember the past.

We give thanks for the present.

And we pray and work for a more peaceful future.

Lest we forget. Amen.

HYMN: "Let There be Peace on Earth" *From Hymns for the Family of God*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One, we come before you now with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and RCMP who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and

the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

May our act of remembrance this day honour those who have put themselves in harm's way for the safety of others. May we never forget their sacrifice, the families who grieve for them and support them, and their example of integrity, loyalty, courage, and duty.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day…(moment of silent prayer)…Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

We ask all these things in the name of the One who came to show us your ways and who taught us to pray together, saying:

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #626 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

SENDING FORTH

Leader: As we leave this place today, may we carry the spirit of remembrance in our hearts, not just on November 11th, but each and every day.

People: May we never forget the courage of those who served, the sacrifice of those who never returned, and the dedication of those who
continue to serve our country today.

Leader: Let us honour their sacrifices not only with our words, but through our actions … by choosing kindness over hatred, understanding over division, and peace over conflict.

People: And as we go forth, may the love of God guide our steps, the peace of Christ fill our hearts, and the Holy Spirit inspire us to be peacemakers in our world.
Leader: For we remember the past, we give thanks for today, and we pray for a future where peace may prevail. Go in peace, with gratitude in your hearts and hope in your souls. Amen and Amen

PIPER WILL PIPE OUT AT THE END OF THE SERVICE

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Announcements

Tuesday, November 10th: Coffee Tuesday beginning at 9:30am at Springvale. All are welcome!

Tuesday, November 10th: Port Dover Community Sing Along—War & Remembrance at Grace United at 7pm. $2 donation. Email janice@ketchen.net for more information

Wednesday, November 11th: Remembrance Service at the Hagersville Cenotaph beginning at 10:45am.

Wednesday, November 18th: Unified Board meeting at 12pm & Official Board meeting at 1:30pm at Springvale.

Saturday, November 21st: Trinity Anglican Annual Christmas Bazaar from 10am-2pm with hot luncheon between 11am-1pm. 80 Colborne St. S., Simcoe.

Wednesday, November 25th: Cookie Trays at Springvale. Available by pre-order for pickup between 4pm-6pm. Large trays $40, medium trays $30, small trays $20. Bowls of chili available for $10 to-go. Cabbage rolls available for $35/dozen, limited quantities. Lottery calendars will also be available for $20.00. To pre-order please call 905-537-4188 or 90-768-3910.

Saturday, November 28th: Ladies Day at Townsend Community Church from 9am-1pm. Guest speaker Tess Scott. Cost is $30/person, price includes speaker and meal. Pre-register by November 16th to jo_flicker@hotmail.com or by phone 226-567-3232.

Sunday, November 29th: First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 5th: *Please note change of date* UCW will meet in the Sunday School room at 6:15pm for a Christmas potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome, men too! Roll call is show & tell and secret pal gifts.

Sunday, December 6th: Second Sunday of Advent—White Gift Sunday

Sunday, December 6th: There will be no coffee Sunday today.

Sunday, December 13th: Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20th: Candlelight Service at 7pm. Committee 1 will be in charge of setting up treats for the service.

Thursday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at Hagersville at 7pm.

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