

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 5th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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“The beauty of Easter is in the reminder that we can always start anew,
find hope in the midst of challenges, and appreciate the simple joys of
life.”

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring these gifts with grateful hearts.
Use them to bring hope where there is fear, love where there is hurt,
and new life where it is needed most.
Multiply them, just as you multiply joy on this Easter day. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

WORDS OF CELEBRATION

This Easter, we celebrate more than an empty tomb ... we celebrate the freedom it brings. Throughout Lent, we've named the things we carry: temptation, fear, doubt, shame, and grief. Today, we discover that in Christ, the stone is rolled away... and we are invited to lay our burdens down and walk in new life. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

LET US SING HYMN: #157 Christ the Lord is Risen Today
(as the Easter Lilies are brought forward)

1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!
- 3 But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!
- 4 Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The stone has been rolled away!
People: Christ is risen!
Leader: The tomb is empty!
People: Love has won!
Leader: We come carrying many things...
People: But today, we are invited to lay them down.
Leader: For this is the day of resurrection!
All: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

OPENING PRAYER

God of resurrection, we come this morning with hearts ready for joy... and some of us, if we're honest, a little tired too. We have walked the road of Lent, carrying fears, doubts, regrets, and grief. But today... you meet us at an empty tomb. Surprise us again, O God. Lift what we have been carrying. Fill this space with hope, laughter, and life. And remind us that resurrection is not just a story, it is a promise we are living today. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM: This Is The Day by Cindy Berry

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

EASTER LITANY

Leader: Lord, we came this morning wondering if we'd feel joyful...

People: And then someone said, "Alleluia!" and it woke us right up!

Leader: We came carrying worries and to-do lists...

People: And you met us with good news instead!

Leader: We came expecting the usual...

People: But you are anything but usual, O God!

Leader: So today ...

People: We will sing loudly, smile widely, and maybe even hug someone we didn't plan to!

Leader: Because Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***CHORUS: #20 "BECAUSE HE LIVES"**

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living, just because He lives. X2

SCRIPTURE READINGS: John 20: 1-18

ANTHEM: Now The Green Blade Rises by John Crum

EASTER REFLECTION

I want to start this morning with a little truth about life... Not everything can be fixed.

Some of you know exactly what I mean. You've tried to fix something around the house...

and instead of fixing it... you've just made it... more broken.

You tighten one thing, then something else falls off.

You fix the handle, now the door won't close.

You follow the instructions... and still end up with extra parts.

And at some point, you just stand there and say "Well... that didn't go as planned." And if we're honest... life can feel like that too.

We try to fix:

- mistakes we've made
- words we wish we could take back
- relationships that didn't turn out the way we hoped

And sometimes... no matter how hard we try... we can't fix it. And that's exactly where Easter meets us. Because Easter is not the story of people getting it right.

It's the story of God stepping in when everything has gone wrong. On Friday, it looked like the end. Hope was gone. The disciples were scattered. Nothing made sense anymore.

No one was standing there saying, "Don't worry... Sunday's coming!" They were grieving. But then... Sunday morning. The stone was rolled away.

Not because someone figured it out.

Not because someone finally fixed things.

But because God had already been at work.

And that's the heart of Easter, God does for us what we could never do for ourselves. Through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord...

- the cross becomes forgiveness
- the grave becomes new life
- and our broken places... are no longer the end of the story

So, here is what Easter morning bring for all of us... You are not defined by your worst moment. You are not stuck in your past. You are not beyond grace.

Because Jesus walked out of that tomb... for you. And maybe Easter faith isn't about having everything together. Maybe it's simply this: Standing in the middle of your not-perfect, slightly messy, "there are still extra parts on the table" kind of life ... and trusting that God is not finished with you yet.

Because Jesus went to the cross... and walked out of the tomb... for you. So maybe Easter faith is simply this: Standing in the middle of your not-perfect life... and trusting that God is not finished yet.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Amen

HYMN: #169 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring:

"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

2 The Lord of life is ris'n today;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let every tongue rejoice and say:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

3 We praise in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of new life, on this Easter morning, we bring before you both our joy and our need. We pray for those who still feel the weight of grief... for those who woke up today missing someone they love. We pray for those carrying fear of the unknown... and for those uncertain about what lies ahead. We pray for those who feel stuck in old stories... remind them they are not defined by their past. And we give thanks, for laughter returning, for hope rising, for the quiet ways you roll stones away in our lives. God of resurrection, meet us where we are... and lead us into new life. In the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

SENDING FORTH

Go now in resurrection joy, with lighter hearts and lifted spirits. The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty. And you do not have to carry what you carried before. "Because Easter isn't just about what happened to Jesus... It's about what God is still doing in us. Rolling away fear. Lifting shame. Holding our grief. And giving us new life. So today... we don't walk out carrying everything we came in with. We walk out lighter. Freer. Alive in the hope of resurrection."

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Wednesday, April 8th: Hagersville Church Council meeting at 6:30pm.

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

Tuesday, April 14th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

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

Friday, April 17th: Scrapbooking table setup at 12:30pm. All help is appreciated.

Sunday, April 26th: Jarvis Community Church presents Elvis in Concert! Garry Wesley as Elvis tribute & Donna Brooks performing the hits of Tammy Wynette & Patsy Cline in this gospel extravaganza. Tickets are \$25 or \$30 at the door. For tickets please call 519-420-0392. All proceeds will go to the Jarvis Caring Cupboard.

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

