

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 2025**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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Advent 2 – White Gift Sunday

White Gift Sunday is a tradition where we bring simple gifts wrapped in white to remind us that all offerings are equal when given with love.

These gifts are shared with those in need, helping us reflect the compassion and generosity of Christ during the Christmas season.

OFFERING PRAYER AND FOR THE WHITE GIFT'S

Generous God, On this White Gift Sunday we bring our gifts to You—
some wrapped in white paper, some carried in our hands,
and many carried quietly in our hearts.

Bless these offerings and bless the people who will receive them.
May every can of food, every toy, every donation, every act of kindness
shared today become a reminder that no one is forgotten, and that Your
love reaches every home and every heart.

Open us, to the joy that comes from giving freely and lovingly.
Use these gifts to bring hope, comfort, and peace to our community.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, bringing your hopes, your worries, your gifts, and your hearts.

People: We come to celebrate God's generosity and love.

Leader: Today we remember that giving, no matter how small, can change a life, brighten a day, and remind someone that they matter.

People: We come ready to offer what we can, trusting God to use it for good.

Leader: let us discover that, generosity opens doors, softens hearts, and brings light into dark places.

People: May Christ open our hearts today.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who gives freely and loves us completely.

All: We gather in joy, gratitude, and peace.

OPENING CAROL: #35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

OPENING PRAYER

God of generous love,
On this White Gift Sunday, you invite us to see the world through the eyes of compassion.

Open our hearts, help us to notice the needs around us, to listen to one another with kindness, and to give not out of guilt or pressure, but out of joy, gratitude, and hope.

Bless every gift brought today—those wrapped in white paper, those carried in our hearts, and those shared quietly in kindness.

As we worship, remind us that generosity is one of the greatest ways we bring Your light into the world. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

ANTHEM

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY: *The Candle of Peace*

Reader 1: Today we light the second candle of Advent—the Candle of Peace.

Reader 2 : Peace isn't just quiet. Peace is when people are kind to each other.

Reader 1: Peace is when we forgive, try again, and choose love even when it's hard.

Reader 2: Jesus came to bring peace into our world and into our hearts.

Reader 1: Today, as we think about giving and helping others,

Reader 2: We remember that peace grows when we share what we have.

Reader 1: Peace grows when we see each person as a child of God.

Reader 2: Peace grows when we choose compassion instead of anger.

Reader 1:: Jesus, Light of Peace, help us be peacemakers in our homes, our schools, and our world.

(They light the candle.)

Congregation: Come, Lord Jesus. Be our peace. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN: #7 Hope is Star verse 2

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.

R: When God is a child there's joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY LITANY

Leader: Today we gather during this season of giving and hope.

People: We come remembering that God's love always reaches toward those in need.

Leader: We bring our White Gifts, simple offerings wrapped in humility.

People: We offer them with thankful hearts and a desire to help our neighbours.

Leader: When we give food, clothing, toys, and care...

People: We are sharing God's compassion with the least of these.

Leader: When we offer generosity, we offer light.

People: And where light shines, hope grows.

Leader: May these gifts bless families, strengthen homes, and remind each person that they are not forgotten.

People: May our giving reflect the love of Christ, whose birth we prepare to celebrate.

All: Lord, bless our gifts, bless our hearts, and bless all who will receive them. Amen.

THE WHITE GIFTS ARE GATHERED....

CAROL: #69 Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 3:10-11

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Generosity Encouraged

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAY

Today's play brings together an unlikely pair, Jesus and Ebenezer Scrooge! With a dash of humour and a pinch of Christmas magic, Scrooge learns that giving doesn't hurt the wallet nearly as much as it warms the heart. May their conversation remind us of the joy and wonder of sharing on this White Gift Sunday.

PLAY “Scrooge Meets Jesus - A White Gift Conversation”

Characters:

- **Scrooge** – grumpy, stubborn, full of excuses
- **Jesus** – calm, gentle, kind, humorous

Scene opens

Scrooge shuffles in from the back of the church, muttering as he comes to the front of the church...

Scrooge: Bah! Humbug! Every year it's the same. (looking around the church, (noticing all the white gifts).... White Gift Sunday. Giving, sharing, helping others... Doesn't anyone remember me? I could use a white gift myself ... maybe a new pair of socks! Then I wouldn't have to spend my money (sarcastically)

Jesus enters quietly. From front door....

Jesus: Good morning, Ebenezer.

Scrooge: (jumps) Who? Oh. You again. I should've known. The season of giving shows up, and here comes Jesus.

Jesus: You say that like it's a bad thing.

Scrooge: Well... it's expensive, isn't it? People asking for this and that. Food, warm clothes, toys, shelter, care. Why should I have to help the “less fortunate”? in my opinion they should help themselves!

Jesus: (smiles gently) Ebenezer, do you remember what I once said? “*Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.*”

Scrooge: (huffs) Yes, yes. I think I heard it in church one Sunday... But surely you didn't mean all of them.

Jesus: I meant every single one. Every hungry person, every lonely family, every child who needs a warm coat. When you help them, you're helping me.

Scrooge: But what difference does a can of soup or a toy make? The world's problems are far too big.

Jesus: Ebenezer, you and I both know you once argued with three ghosts about much less.

Scrooge: (grumbles) yah, yah... Don't remind me.

Jesus: A gift may seem small, but it tells someone, “*You matter. You're seen. You're loved.*”

And when lots of small gifts come together, they can change a whole community.

Scrooge: Hmmm. I suppose. But why do I, Scrooge, have to be the one to do it? I helped Bob, Tiny Tim and that family... (looking at the congregation) Bob even has Saturdays off now

Jesus: Scrooge! Because you have something to give.

And because generosity heals the giver just as much as the receiver.

Scrooge: Heals the giver? I don't need healing!

Jesus raises an eyebrow.

Scrooge: ...Well, maybe a little. My heart still gets stiff sometimes.

Jesus: Ebenezer, look around. I know in this congregation, all these people have enough but....

there are families who don't know if they'll have enough food this month.

Children who won't feel the warmth of a new coat or warm boots.

There are people out there that need to know someone cares.

And I choose you Scrooge grumpy old you, to help.

Scrooge: You... chose me? (Looking at the congregation) Great another spirit that thinks I can make a different.

Jesus: Scrooge I choose everyone. No one is too small, too old, too stubborn, or too grumpy to make a difference.

Scrooge: (sighs deeply) Bah... humbug.

Well... maybe not the humbug.

Maybe... “God bless us, everyone” ... is that what you want to hear?

Jesus: (smiles) It’s a good start.

Scrooge: (reaches into pocket, pulls out his wallet) Fine. I’ll buy a White Gift. Maybe even two. But don’t expect me to smile while doing it.

Jesus: That’s alright, Ebenezer. I can handle the smiling.

You just handle the giving.

And together, you and me, we’ll light up someone’s Christmas.

Scrooge: (finally smiles) Alright then. Let’s get to it. But you know it’s going to hurt to spend money....

Jesus: No, it won’t It will make you feel good....

Scrooge: Will it ... my wallet is hurting already *as they walk off together. (down the aisle)*

Video will play

VIDEO

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join our hearts in prayer...God of Light and Giving,
On this White Gift Sunday, we thank You for the gentle ways You open our hearts. You invite us to notice the needs around us, to reach out with compassion, and to remember that every act of kindness is a gift to You. We pray today for all who are struggling—for families facing financial hardship, for those who feel forgotten or alone, and for those whose spirits are heavy at this time of year. May our gifts, our prayers, and our presence remind them they are loved.

God of Peace, we pray for our world—where wars rage, where fear grows, and where peace feels far away. May the Candle of Peace we light today shine into the lives of all who long for safety, healing, and hope. Teach us to be peacemakers in our homes, our community, and our world. We pray for those dear to us who are sick, grieving, recovering, or in need of strength. Wrap them in Your comfort, surround them with Your healing, and remind them that they do not walk alone.

God of Joy, as we prepare for Christmas, keep us from getting lost in the rush. Help us to find moments of stillness, laughter, and gratitude.

Let the simple gifts of this season—a warm smile, a shared meal, a generous heart—open us to Your presence.

Bless the gifts we bring today, both big and small. Bless the hands that offer them and the hearts that will receive them. May these gifts become signs of Your love alive in this world. We pray all this in Jesus’ name, the One who teaches us to give, to love, and to hope. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING CAROL: O Christmas Tree

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!

Thou tree most fair and lovely!

Oh Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!

Thou tree most fair and lovely!

The sight of thee at Christmastide

Spreads hope and gladness far and wide

Oh Christmas tree, O Christmas tree

Thou tree most fair and lovely!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!

Thou hast a wondrous message:

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!

Thou hast a wondrous message:

Thou dost proclaim the Saviour's birth

Good will to men and peace on earth

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree!

Thou hast a wondrous message

SENDING FORTH

As you go from this place, may the God who gives abundantly bless you with hearts that overflow. May Christ, whose love reaches “the least of these,” guide your hands to serve with compassion. May the Spirit fill you with joy, the kind of joy that grows each time you give it away.

Go now in peace, carrying light for those who feel forgotten, carrying

hope for those who need a reminder, and carrying love for all God's children. May your generosity shine brightly this week, and may God's grace shine even brighter in you.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

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

Sunday, December 14th: Third Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 16th: Norfolk Haldimand Community Hospice presents A Candlelight Evening to Remember from 7-8pm at The Devine Mercy Catholic Church, 2058 Main St. N., Jarvis. For more information contact 519-410-0881.

Sunday, December 21st: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Candlelight Service at Springvale at 7pm. Regular morning service at Hagersville.

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

