

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
Ministry of Pastoral Care & Worship: Rev. Peggy Bartlett
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“Following Jesus ... Then and Now”

Following Jesus today is harder, not because Jesus has changed, but because the world is louder, busier, and more complicated. Still, Jesus calls us gently and says, “Come and see.”

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful God, we offer these gifts as signs of our desire to follow you—with our resources, our time, and our lives. Use what we bring to further your love in the world. Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus once said to his first followers, “Come and see.”

People: We come, curious and cautious, hopeful and tired.

Leader: They followed with open hands and willing feet.

People: We follow with busy lives and full calendars.

Leader: Still, Jesus calls us by name.

People: Still, Jesus invites us to follow.

All: Let us worship the One who meets us where we are.

OPENING HYMN: #374 Come and Find a Quiet Center

1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,

2

Clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
Finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, Long ago, you called fishermen from their nets and invited them into a new way of life. Today, you call us from busy schedules, from heavy worries, from lives full of noise and distraction. Meet us here. Quiet our hearts. Help us listen for your voice again, and give us courage to follow, not perfectly, but faithfully. Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: Following Jesus ... Then and Now

Leader: Long ago, Jesus walked along dusty roads and called ordinary people by name.

People: “Come and see,” he said, and they followed.

Leader: They left nets and boats, familiar work and predictable days.

People: They followed with questions, hopes, and fear.

Leader: Today, Jesus still calls, not on quiet shores, but in busy lives.

People: We hear his voice among ringing phones, crowded calendars, and endless noise.

Leader: Following Jesus today is not harder because he has changed

People: but because the world pulls at us from every direction.

Leader: We are surrounded by opinions, expectations, and distractions.

People: Yet still, Jesus speaks gently to our hearts.

Leader: "Come and see."

People: Come and see love that welcomes. Come and see grace that forgives. Come and see hope that endures.

Leader: We may not drop our nets ...

People: but we can loosen our grip on what weighs us down.

Leader: We may not walk dusty roads ...

People: but we can walk in faith, compassion, and trust.

Leader: Jesus does not rush us.

People: He simply invites us to follow, step by step.

All: So we come. We listen. We follow. Trusting that the same Christ who called then still calls us now. Amen.

CHORUS: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus;

No turning back, no turning back.

2. Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,

Tho' none go with me I still will follow,

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow;

No turning back, no turning back.

3. My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus;

My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus,

My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus;

No turning back, No turning back.

4. The world behind me, the cross before me,

The world behind me, the cross before me;

The world behind me, the cross before me;

No turning back, no turning back.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:35-42

John's Disciples Follow Jesus

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter^[a]).

MESSAGE: Following Jesus Isn't as Easy as It Used to Be

When Jesus called his first disciples, life was simpler, not easier, but simpler. They didn't have smartphones buzzing every few minutes.

They didn't have overflowing calendars, endless emails, CNN blasting news 24/7, or a world that never stops talking.

As simple as this statement...Jesus walked by. He spoke. They followed. Today, following Jesus feels harder, not because Jesus asks more, but because everything else asks for us too. We are pulled in a hundred directions: work, family, appointments, expectations, worries about the world. Think of it this way, Faith becomes one voice among many, instead of the guiding one. And yet, notice how Jesus calls in John's Gospel. He doesn't give a speech. He doesn't demand commitment upfront. He simply asks, "*What are you looking for?*" And then he invites them: "*Come and see.*" That invitation stands the

test of time. Jesus does not say, “Come when your life is sorted out.” “Come when you have more time.” “Come when your faith is stronger.” He says, “*Come and see.*” Following Jesus isn’t as easy as it used to be ... not because Jesus has changed, but because our world has. Life is busier, louder, and more demanding. We are pulled in many directions by schedules, responsibilities, worries, and the constant noise around us. We want to care, but sometimes feel overwhelmed by how much suffering we see. We long to be kind, yet find it harder in a world quick to judge and divide. And still, in the middle of uncertainty and ordinary days, Jesus does not shout or rush us. He simply comes alongside us and gently says, “Come and see.” Following Jesus today may not mean leaving everything behind—but choosing, again and again, to walk with him right where we are. The call is quieter now, we have to listen closer to hear it, but it is no less real. And just like Andrew did, when we take even one small step toward Jesus, we find ourselves inviting others along the way. Faith today isn’t about dropping everything and walking down a road, it’s about choosing, again and again, to walk with Christ wherever we already are.

HYMN: #567 Will You Come and Follow Me

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

- 3 Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of the first call and the present moment, we confess that following you is not always easy. We pray for those who feel overwhelmed, pulled thin by responsibilities and worries. We pray for those whose faith feels quiet or distant, who wonder if they are still hearing your voice. We pray for our church, that we may follow not with perfection, but with sincerity and love. We pray for our community and our world, where hope is needed and compassion is required. Call us again, O God. Give us listening hearts and willing spirits. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #560 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

- 1 O Master, let me walk with Thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me Thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.
- 4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only Thou canst give,
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

SENDING FORTH

Jesus still walks among us. Jesus still calls us by name.

Go now, not because the path is easy, but because the invitation is true.
Follow with courage. Follow with compassion. Follow knowing you are
never walking alone. Choral Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, February 3rd: Coffee Tuesday Breakfast beginning at 9am.
All are welcome!

Sunday, February 15th: Peggy will be away, there will be someone
filling in at each church.

Tuesday, February 17th: Pancake Supper at Hagersville
from 4:00pm-6:30pm. Meal includes pancakes, ham/sausage, baked
beans & a fruit cup. Adults are \$12.50, ages 6-12 are \$5.00 & 5 and
under are free. Family deal-2 adults & 2 kids for \$30.00. Tickets
available at the door.

Sunday, February 22nd: Hagersville Annual Meeting immediately
following short worship service.

Sunday, March 1st: Springvale Annual Meeting immediately following
worship service. Someone will fill for the Hagersville service while
Peggy attends the meeting at Springvale.

Wednesday, March 11th: Official Board meeting at Springvale at
1:30pm.

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

