

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

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OPENING HYMN: #337 Blessed Assurance

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R

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**Second Sunday of Lent
“What Are We Carrying? ... Doubt”**

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, we place these gifts into Your hands,
a little like Peter stepping out of the boat.
We may not always know how You will use them,
but we trust You are already at work ahead of us.
Take our offerings, and our sometimes-wobbly faith,
and use them to steady others
and remind us that no one rows alone.
In Christ's name, Amen.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When the winds rise and the waves grow high,

People: We wonder if we will make it through.

Leader: When certainty slips from our hands,

People: We reach for something steady.

Leader: Christ comes to us in the storm.

People: Saying, “Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid.”

All: We come with faith. We come with questions. We come as we are.

OPENING PRAYER

God of the deep waters, we confess that sometimes faith feels strong and steady and other times it trembles like Peter on the waves. As we come into worship this morning, doubt is a reality that we all carry. We carry questions we do not voice. We carry uncertainty about tomorrow. We carry prayers that seem unanswered. Meet us here. Not to shame our doubt, but to hold us through it. In Christ's steady presence we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

LITANY: “Rowing Together”

Leader: God of wind and waves, sometimes faith feels smooth and steady.

People: And sometimes it feels like we forgot how to row.

Leader: Some days we glide across calm waters.

People: Other days, we are paddling hard and going nowhere.

Leader: When the wind picks up and the boat starts rocking...

People: We grip the sides and say, “Lord... is this normal?”

Leader: When we step out in courage...

People: We hope the water remembers it’s supposed to hold us.

Leader: Thank You for Peter, bold enough to step out of the boat.

People: And human enough to notice the waves.

Leader: Thank You that when he began to sink...

People: You didn’t say, “I told you so.”

Leader: Instead, You reached out Your hand.

People: And pulled him up before he swallowed too much sea water.

Leader: When our faith feels strong

People: We give thanks.

Leader: When our faith feels wobbly

People: We row anyway.

Leader: When we are unsure of the future

People: We trust the One who walks on water.

Leader: Storm or sunshine, smooth sailing or choppy seas

People: We are in this boat together.

All: Steady our hands, calm our hearts, and remind us that even when we wobble, You are already in the boat. Amen.

CHORUS: #215 “OPEN OUR EYES”

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,

To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. (2 X)

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 14:22–33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he

had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

REFLECTION: “When the Wind Gets Loud”

There is something deeply comforting about this story and something deeply honest. The disciples are not on a pleasure cruise. They are rowing against the wind.

The text tells us the boat was “battered by the waves.”

Isn’t that how doubt often feels? Just exhausting. Just like walking with strong wind in your face. Just like waves that won’t calm down when you out on a boat, trying to get back to shore.

Today in our scripture reading, Peter does something remarkable. He asks to come to Jesus. That request alone is faith.

Through the years, as people of faith this is where we are too hard on Peter.

We call him “the doubter.” But he is the only one who stepped out of the boat. He is the only one that went to meet Jesus.

So, let’s talk about Doubt.

Doubt is a feeling of uncertainty, when we are not completely sure about something.

You could also say:

- **Doubt is when questions rise in our hearts.**
- **Doubt is wondering instead of knowing.**
- **Doubt is faith asking honest questions.**

If this is for Sunday let's put it this way "Doubt isn't the absence of faith, it's faith thinking, questioning, and sometimes wobbling a little." Peter's mistake was not stepping out. It was believing that the strength to stand depended entirely on him.

When he begins to sink, he cries out, "Lord, save me!"

Three words. No theology. No quick prayer. Just honesty asking for help.

And the most important scripture sentence in the story may be this:

"Immediately Jesus reached out His hand."

Immediately. Not after a lecture. (words like you've got this) Not after a test. (words like try again Peter) Jesus immediately reached out. That is why our faith is so important because ... We all carry uncertainty. We all carry questions about the future of our families. The future of our health. The future of our church. The future of this world.

And we carry quiet doubts:

Is God really working?

Is my prayer being heard?

Am I strong enough?

But this story tells us something powerful, Faith is not the absence of wind. Faith is trusting the hand that reaches through it. Sometimes the miracle is not that the waves stop. The miracle is that we do not drown. And notice what happens next. Jesus and Peter get back into the boat together.

Remember, none of us walk on water alone, therefore...maybe Lent is not about pretending we have perfect faith. Maybe Lent is about naming what we carry.

This week name the doubt you carry, because Jesus says, "Bring it. Step out anyway. And if you sink, I will reach."

The wind of doubt may still blow. But the hand of Christ is steady and true, and is there to help you through whatever doubt you carry. Amen

HYMN: #670 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light:

**Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.**

When my way grows drear,

Precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone,

Hear my cry, hear my call,

Hold my hand lest I fall: **R**

When the darkness appears

And the night draws near,

And the day is past and gone,

At the river, I stand,

Guide my feet, hold my hand: **R**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Steady God, For those who are rowing hard against the wind, give strength. For those whose faith feels fragile, give gentleness.

For those who are sinking in grief, fear, or illness, reach quickly.

For our congregation, when we wonder about tomorrow, remind us that You are already there.

For this community of Hagersville and Springvale

for farmers watching uncertain skies,

for families facing financial strain,

for seniors navigating loneliness,

for young people making big decisions, be near.

Hold us when the wind gets loud.

We pray in the name of the One who walks on water

and steps into our storms, in name of Jesus.... Our Father who art in Heaven....

LORD' PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #675 Will Your Anchor Hold

- 1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?
**We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**
- 2 Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near;
through the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow **R**
- 3 It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill your latest breath;
On the rising tide you can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil. **R**
- 4 Will our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, the harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore. **R**

SENDING FORTH

When the wind rises this week, do not be ashamed of your doubt.
Step anyway. Pray anyway. Trust anyway. And when you feel yourself
sinking, remember, Christ's hand is already reaching.
Go in courage. Go in honesty. Go in grace.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Tuesday, March 3rd: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

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

Friday, March 20th: Soup lunch at Hagersville. More details to follow.

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

