

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 2026**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God
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WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
One Table, Many Hands, One Love

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, everything we have begins with you. Take these gifts and the gifts surrounding your table. Multiply the kindness behind them. May they feed the hungry, comfort those who are struggling, bring joy to children, and remind someone that they are not alone. Take our hands as well, God, and use them in your service. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From north and south, east and west,

People: We gather around God's table.

Leader: From cities, towns, farms and villages,

People: God's people gather today.

Leader: We may speak differently, sing differently and worship differently,

People: But in Christ, we are one.

Leader: There is room at this table for young and old, for neighbour and stranger, for you and for me.

People: There is room for everyone.

Leader: Come to the table.

People: We come with thankful hearts.

Leader: Come and worship.

All: One table. Many hands. One love. Thanks be to God!

OPENING HYMN: #391 God, Reveal Your Presence

- 1 God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you
and with awe appear before you.
Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,
gather now with deepest reverence.
You alone God we own,
you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.
- 2 God, reveal your presence: hear the harps resounding;
see the crowds the throne surrounding.
'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending.
Bow your ear to us here;
hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.
- 3 O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,
trusting only in your merit;
like the holy angels gathered all before you,
may I ceaselessly adore you.
Let your will ever still
rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.

OPENING PRAYER

God of every nation, every language and every people, today we remember that your Church is so much bigger than the walls surrounding us. While we worship here, your people are worshipping around the world. Some are beginning their day. Some are ending it. Some worship with organs and choirs. Some with guitars and drums. Some sing loudly. Some pray quietly. Yet somehow, through your love, you gather all of us together. Thank you for making room for us at your table. Thank you for the bread that reminds us of Jesus. Thank you for the cup that reminds us of your love. Thank you for enough—not only enough to receive, but enough to share. Open our hearts today. Help us see our neighbours, both near and far. And when worship is finished, send us from this place ready to be your hands, your feet and your love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME: "How Big Is God's Table?"

CHILDREN'S VIDEO

THANKSGIVING GIVING, WITH LOVE

Blessing of the Gifts

Leader: Today we have brought more than ourselves to worship. We have brought gifts, simple things that will become blessings in the lives of people we may never meet. Let us dedicate them together.

For food that will help fill an empty cupboard,

People: Bless these gifts with love.

Leader: For paper products and everyday necessities that will help make life a little easier,

People: Bless these gifts with love.

Leader: For colouring books, crayons, children's books and toys that will find their way into children's hands,

People: Bless these gifts with love.

Leader: For the women, children and families who will receive them,

People: May they know they are remembered and loved.

Leader: For our food bank, our women's shelter and all who quietly care for neighbours in need,

People: Give them strength for their work.

Leader: And for us, who have been blessed with enough to share,

People: Make us generous in heart and generous in spirit.

All: God, take these gifts, given with thanksgiving and given with love. Use them to bring hope, dignity, comfort and joy to your children.

Amen.

HYMN: #677 They'll Know we Are Christian by our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;

And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus: *And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Chorus**

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;

And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. **Chorus**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;

And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.

And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. **Chorus**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

REFLECTION: "What Happens After the Table?"

There is something wonderfully simple about a table. Tables are where we eat, talk, laugh and gather with family and friends. But today, this table means something more. Today, Christians around the world are gathering around Communion tables. Different countries. Different languages. Different cultures. Different traditions. And yet Christ brings us together. Paul tells us: "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body." Not because we all agree. Not because we all look alike. Not because we worship in exactly the same way. We are one because Christ has invited us to the same table. And I love that there isn't a sign on Jesus' table saying: "Perfect people only." Thank goodness for that! Because I think we'd have a lot of leftover bread! Jesus welcomed ordinary people. People with questions. People who made mistakes.

People who struggled. People who didn't always agree. People just like us. And he simply said: Come. But here's the question I've been thinking about: What happens after we leave the table? We receive the bread. We receive the cup. We remember Jesus. We say Amen. And then what? Surely Communion is meant to make a difference when we walk out those doors. Jesus said: "I was hungry and you gave me food." And today, we don't have to look far to understand those words. Look at what surrounds our Communion Table. Food for someone's cupboard. Everyday necessities for a family. Colouring books, crayons, books and toys for children. Each gift quietly says:

*Somebody thought about you. Somebody cares about you.
You haven't been forgotten.*

Maybe that's what Communion looks like when it leaves the church. The bread we receive becomes generosity. The cup we share becomes compassion. The grace we receive becomes grace offered to somebody else. This is what Communion looks like when it walks out the door. That's what our *Thanksgiving Giving, With Love* is all about. We give because we are thankful. We share because we have received. We love because God first loved us. Today we come to Christ's table with open hands. We receive the bread. We receive the cup. We receive God's grace. And when we leave, may those same hands remain open... open to give, open to help, open to welcome, open to love. Because there is one table. There are many hands. And there is one love, the love of God that has room for us all. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

HYMN: #599 Living Christ, Bring Us Love

- 1 Living Christ, bring us love, love for every stranger;
Living Christ, bring us love, love from cross and manger.
- 2 Living Christ, bring us joy, joy of earth and heaven;
Living Christ, bring us joy, joy of sin forgiven.
- 3 Living Christ, bring us peace, peace with God and neighbour;
Living Christ, bring us peace, peace in all our labour.
- 4 Living Christ, bring us love, love shared at your table;
Living Christ, bring us love, love from cross and stable.
- 5 Living Christ, lead us out, out to tell the story;
Living Christ, lead us out, out to show your glory.

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Look at this table.

It is not a Canadian table.

It is not a United Church table.

It does not belong to one congregation, one denomination, one country or one people. This is Christ's table. Today this table stretches around the world. And there is room. Room for those who are certain and those who have questions. Room for those whose faith is strong and those whose faith feels fragile. Room for those who come with joy and those who come carrying sorrow. Room for you. Room for me. Room for God's children everywhere. Jesus says: Come. The table is ready.

HYMN: #459 Here, O My Lord verses 1,2&3

- *1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon you lean.
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
- 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table for me spread;
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the fellowship of living wine and bread.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: God of creation, you made this beautiful world and called it good. You created people of every race, language, nation and culture, and called us your children. When we wandered away, you continued to call us home.

And in Jesus, you showed us just how wide your love could be. Jesus ate with people others ignored. He welcomed people others rejected. He fed the hungry. He touched the hurting. He made room at the table. And so, with Christians gathered around the world today, we join our voices together saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy God, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

THE STORY OF THE BREAD AND CUP

On the night before Jesus died, he gathered with his friends around a table. He took bread.

He gave thanks.

He broke it and shared it with them, saying:

“Take and eat. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave thanks and shared it with them, saying:

“Drink from this, all of you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Today, thousands of miles apart, Christians remember these same words. Different tables. Different bread. Different cups. But one Christ. One family. One love. God, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them signs of Christ's love among us. And make us Christ's body in the world—ready to serve, ready to share, ready to welcome, and ready to love. **Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD

The bread of life, given for you.

SHARING THE CUP

The cup of love, shared with you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the open table, you have fed us. You have welcomed us.

You have reminded us that we belong. Now send us out.

May the bread we have received become kindness.

May the cup we have shared become compassion.

May the love we have experienced here become love offered freely to others. We came to your table as many. Send us into the world as one.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

BENEDICTION

Go from this place remembering that the table does not end here. Every kitchen table where someone is fed, every hand extended in friendship, every gift freely given, every stranger welcomed, every lonely person remembered, every child reminded that they matter, can become an extension of Christ's table. So go with thankful hearts. Go with generous hands. Go knowing there is a place for you at God's table. And then, go and make room for somebody else. In the name of the Creator who made us, Christ who welcomes us, and the Spirit who sends us. **Amen. One Table. Many Hands. One Love.**

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Saturday, October 10th: Rural Life Mission Fall Luncheon. Lunch beginning at 12pm with program beginning at 1:30pm. Meet the Thunder Bay Mission House hosts Lawrence & Melanie Anderson. Tickets available by phone: 905-768-3056 or email: rurallifemission@gmail.com. Cut off date for meal tickets is October 5th.

Tuesday, October 13th: Coffee Tuesday at Springvale beginning at 9:30am. All are welcome!

Friday, October 16th: Scrapbooking table setup at Hagersville around 4pm. All help is appreciated.

Sunday, October 25th: Hagersville Anniversary Service. Join us at 11am for a joint service in celebration of Hagersville's 157th Anniversary. There will be no service at Springvale. Lunch to follow.

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

