

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 2020**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God Ministry of Pastoral
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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Sherkston: First

“To encourage one another is to give courage where it is needed. The life to which God has called the Christian to be in this world, but not of it, requires moral courage.”

Offering Prayer

There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord. Now we return thanks to you for these gifts and we bring these token to you, asking for your blessing on givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers to be your witnesses throughout the world. AMEN.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We lift our eyes to the Lord.

P: God created the heavens and the earth

L: We raise our voices in songs and speech

P: We raise our voices in prayer and praise.

L: Lord, hear our prayers, accept our praise.

P: Lord, open our hearts to receive your blessings of peace.

OPENING HYMN: #377 Holy Spirit, Hear Us

- 1 Holy Spirit, hear us,
help us while we sing;
breathe into the music
of the praise we bring.
- 2 Holy Spirit, shine now
on the book we read;
light its holy pages
with the truth we need.
- 3 Holy Spirit, prompt us
when we bow to pray;
speak within and teach us
what we ought to say.
- 4 Holy Spirit, help us
daily by your might,
what is wrong to conquer,
and to choose the right.

OPENING PRAYER

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: The voice of God is speaking to you. God is calling you today to come and rejoice. Come to me, dear ones. Open your hands.

P: We can't, Lord. Our hands are calloused and dirty, rough.

L: Open your hands. My healing and cleansing love will protect and soothe you. Come to me, beloved friends. Open your hands.

P: We can't, Lord. Our hands have been wounded and they are bleeding.

L: Open your hands and I will touch your wounds and stop the bleeding. Come to me, disciples, witnesses. Open your hands.

P: We can't, Lord. We have nothing to offer to you. Our hands are empty.

L: Open your hands and I will give you my peace. Now you are healed.

P: Now we can reach out to help.

L: Now you can go into the world to offer blessing and hope.

P: Praise be to you, O God, who has taken our excuses and turned them into commitment. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NIV

The Day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30 NIV

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Message "Why are You Here?"

HYMN: #671 I Need Thee Every Hour

- 1 I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice but thine can peace afford.
I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee.
O bless me now, my Saviour;
I come to thee.
- 2 I need thee every hour; stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. R
- 3 I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain. R
- 4 I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfil. R

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Wise and Patient God, we know what you want us to do, but we are far too often hesitant to follow through for you. You give us multiple blessings and ask that we develop these gifts and use them to help others. In times of great crisis we come through, we mobilize. But in the intermediate times, we hold back. We develop a "let someone else do it" attitude. We often think of our gifts, our talents as things that are less than worthy. In this country in which competition is the ruling code, we don't want to compete with others, because we feel we just don't have the right "stuff". How blind we are, Lord! To each one of us you have given gifts which can be used to help others. Each gift and talent is precious in your sight. Rather than compete with others to see who has the greater talent, let us use the gifts we have been given joyfully. One of the greatest gifts is the gift of prayer. And we have brought before you, Lord, the concerns which have been weighing on our hearts. Touch the lives of all these people and situations with you healing love. Give each one a sense of your powerful presence. Flood their lives with hope and peace. Help each one of us to be workers for you. Help us to trust in your abiding presence and love for us. Challenge us to use the gifts and to honor the giver, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: More Voices #154 Deep In Our Hearts

- 1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story;
telling Creation that we are one.
- 2 Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.
- 3 Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.
- 4 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story;
telling Creation that we are one.

SENDING FORTH

As you have been blessed, now go to be a blessing to others. Go, bringing the news of peace and hope, of healing and love. Go and the God of peace will always go with you. AMEN.

CHORAL AMEN

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