

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 2020**

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

Delhi

Small Beginnings

*"Things great have small beginnings. Every downpour is just a
raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every
journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey;
without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there
can be no harvest."*

- William Wilberforce

Offering Prayer

God of light and God of night
Creator of seed and mountain
raindrop and fountain
We bring our offering to you today.
God of right and God of might
Lover of child and childless
rich and homeless
We bring our offering of praise.
May our gifts be uplifted in service to you. Amen

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATION

2

CALL TO WORSHIP

The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,

Thank you!

The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,

Thank you!

The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,

Thank you!

Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,

Thank you!

Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,

Thank you!

We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,

Thank you!

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O God, as enter into this service of thanksgiving
and praise.

OPENING HYMN: # 516 Come, You Thankful People, Come

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
- 2 All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

- 3 For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;

from the field shall in that day
 all offences purge away;
 giving angels charge at last
 in the fire the weeds to cast;
 but the fruitful ears to store
 in the garner evermore.

4 Even so, God, quickly come
 to your final harvest home!
 Gather all your people in,
 free from sorrow, free from sin;
 there for ever purified,
 in your presence to abide:
 come, with all your angels, come,
 raise the glorious harvest home.

OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, for daily bread and all who work to bring your harvest home we bring our thanks today. Creator God, provider of all we bring our thanks today. And we bless each other that the beauty of this world and the love that created it might be expressed though our lives and be a blessing to others now and always. **AMEN**

ANTHEM VIDEO: Selah - "Wonderful Merciful Savior" (Official Video)

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.
 Creator God, **Thank you**

People: In the beginning there was just potential; the seed within the packet, soil's nutrients, sunshine's warmth, rain clouds gathering. And within the tiny seed all that is our daily bread encoded, primed and ready should it be planted and allowed to grow. Creator God, Thank you

Leader: Genesis 2: 8 *Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.* 9 *And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

People: In the beginning there was humankind, placed within your garden, made steward, gardener and caretaker of this place of beauty, given responsibilities and the capacity to enjoy. And yet among the seeds we have sown have been weeds and crops of our own choosing, which have not shown fruit or have spread and choked the earth. Creator God: Forgive us

Leader: Myung Lee reminds us of an old Korean proverb. *"If you plant a bean, then you will harvest only beans, not grapes or strawberries." God gave us new life through Jesus Christ and planted special seeds of forgiveness and love in our hearts. What fruit will we bear in our daily lives?"*

A moment of quiet, time to listen, time to be still with God – what does he say to you this harvest time?

(silence)

All: God of harvest, gardener supreme you place us at the centre feed us, equip us and having provided for us look to a different harvest a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others. God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives, might bring glory to you. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Litany of Thanksgiving (inspired by Psalm 96)

Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,
 The Lord be praised.

**For the tables we share
and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our
families,
and within our homes. For the hands of friendship that have been
extended to us
and the grace we have received,
The Lord be praised.**

For Your continual provision in our lives,
For the embrace of love,
For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day,
echoing through the night,
For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.
The Lord be praised.
For the new life that beats within us now.
The Lord be praised.
**In all things, we give You thanks and join with creation's song,
Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised!**

Ephesians 5:19-21

¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves,
singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks
to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Psalms 100

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

REFLECTION

“Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always
be thankful, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”
1Thess.5:16-18 (NLT)

Comedian Billy Crystal plays the part of a bored baby boomer in a
movie, who sells radio advertising time. One the day he visits his son’s
school to tell about his work along with other fathers, he suddenly lets
loose a monologue to the bewildered youngsters in the class: so here it
is....

Value this time in your life, kids, because this is the time in your life
when you still have your choices. It goes by fast.

When you’re a teenager, you think you can do anything and you do.

Your twenties are a blur.

Thirties you raise your family, you make a little money, and you think to
yourself, "What happened to my twenties?"

Forties, you grow a little pot belly, you grow another chin. The music
starts to get too loud, one of your old girlfriends from high school
becomes a grandmother.

Fifties, you have a minor surgery-you’ll call it a procedure, but it’s a
surgery.

Sixties, you’ll have a major surgery, the music is still loud, but it doesn’t
matter because you can’t hear it anyway.

Seventies, you and the wife retire to Fort Lauderdale. You start eating
dinner at 4:00 in the afternoon, you have lunch
around 11:00, spend most of your time wandering around malls
muttering, "How come the kids don’t call? How come the kids don’t
call?"

The eighties, you’ll have a major stroke, and you end up babbling with
some nurse who your wife can’t stand.

Any questions?

I don't know if that is what everyone's life is like but life is what we make it to be... and when I look around this sanctuary and think about all of you, it sure looks like we have a whole lot to be thankful for, right?

I trust that today as you come together to celebrate and give thanks that you'd remember first of all, the life you have now is precious. It is precious to God! He thought about you, long before the world was made, he said in love he created you, chose you and wants you to be family. You were never created to be alone in this planet. You were created to be in relationship with God and in relationship with others. But there is a But...a big one... we tend at times to look at somebody else's set of circumstances and think they always look better than what we have.

But, Until you stop from wishing that you had what others have or had their conditions, and see that you belong to God and God is their with you in all

circumstances you will never be able to lead a life of thanks.

A story is told of two writers who were very jealous of each other, & their animosity was apparent. Then one of them wrote a book that was quite successful. In fact, it was a best seller, & he was widely acclaimed.

The two came face to face at a party, & the second man said, "I bought your book the other day. It's a good book. Who wrote it for you?"

Shaken a bit by this, the first man nevertheless thanked him for the compliment about his book, & then asked, "Who read it to you?"

It's not easy to be thankful when you envy others or jealous of their accomplishments.

When we start comparing ourselves with others, that can lead to discontent & envy, grumbling & broken relationships.

So, lift your eyes above these things, and see how God has brought you the best and all the gifts in life to be thankful for.

Our scripture...

"Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

It's Thanksgiving Day & the aroma of roast turkey fills Charlie Brown's house. Snoopy, outside, lying on top of his doghouse, smells that aroma, & he is thinking, "It's Thanksgiving Day. Everybody eats turkey on Thanksgiving Day." So he lies there, watching the back door, eagerly awaiting his Thanksgiving dinner.

Finally, the door opens & here comes Charlie Brown with a bowl of dog food, & he puts it on the ground. Snoopy gets off his house & stares at the dog food with a forlorn look on his face. And he thinks, "Just because I'm a dog, I have to eat dog food on Thanksgiving Day."

Then the next square shows him looking at the dog food more intently, & he is thinking, "It could be worse. I could be the turkey."

It's a time my friends, to really count our blessings, & bow our heads in prayers of thanks to God. Thank God, you are not the turkey, you are not the one sacrificed, but that Christ sacrificed His life that we may inherit along with the riches and blessings of heaven. Praise Him for He has chosen, with his great pleasure to bless and include you into His family. Will you receive this great news and rejoice today you belong to Jesus, for if you have faith in Him, all of heaven is yours!

HYMN: Count Your Blessings

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost
Count your many blessings, name them one by one
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done

2. Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly
And you will keep singing as the days go by

3. So, amid the conflict, whether great or small
Do not be disheartened, God is over all
Count your many blessings, angels will attend
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end

4. Count your blessings, name them one by one
Count your blessings, see what God hath done
Count your blessings, name them one by one
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ever faithful Lord, Ever giving Son, Ever present Spirit,
 For the many gifts you grant us and the opportunity to enjoy these things;
 For your daily provision and for the constant signs of your healing love;
 For the hope amidst despair and the light which always shines;
 For all these things, ‘thank you’ is just so inadequate but it’s all we have... to show our gratitude in word, in thought and in action.
 So thank you, Lord and may our thanks move beyond words to transform us into thankful folk,
 faithful folk, seeing folk, folk who see need and see the need to act, folk who love to live and live to love, folk who serve you by serving others.
 Help us to be amongst those who include the excluded and bring in those who are marginalized,
 that when the opportunities come our way to be healers of division and hurt,
 to be peacemakers and restorers, we won’t be found wanting.
 Loving, God, We bring before you those people and issues that are closest to us and that occupy our minds at this time ... names of people
 God, help us to make the light shine in dark places, to make peace known in violent places, and to bring hope to despondent places.
 Our prayers, spoken and silent are brought to you now in the name of your Son, Jesus, who taught us to pray saying.....

LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN: #541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 2x
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 praise God, all creatures high and low;
 give thanks to God in love made known:
 Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

SENDING FORTH

One: Go into the world showing a gentle attitude toward everyone.
 Be joyful and thankful!
 Fill your mind with those things that are good and deserve praise.

Put into practice what you have heard here.
 And may the God who gives peace be with each of you.
All: We go in the peace of Christ to love and serve all creation.

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

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