

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH**

SUNDAY, APRIL 4th, 2021

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God Ministry of Pastoral
Care & Worship: Pastor Peggy Bartlett Cell: 905-317-5275
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Hagersville- 905-768-5863 Springvale- 905-768-1501

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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Applewood

This is love.

*Jesus... you spoke words of comfort, walked with the unclean and
unloved, shared wisdom, bread and wine, brought healing into lives
and challenged the status quo.*

This is love.

*Jesus... you spoke the word of God, walked a painful road to the Cross,
shared living water, bread of life, brought Salvation to the world
and died for the sake of all.*

This is love.

*The seeds have been sown. We are called to germinates those seeds
with our faith, our actions and our devotion to you.
May they grow throughout the world.*

Offering Prayer

The God of peace that brought again from the dead Jesus the great
Shepherd of all of us his sheep. We offer these gifts this morning as we
continue to do your work in this world which is pleasing in God's sight.
Receive these gifts in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATION

EASTER CALL TO WORSHIP / OPENING PRAYER

From the darkness of the grave—you came forth, you conquered death:
Christ the Lord is risen to-day!

Alleluia!

Walking from the empty tomb, opening wide the gates of life:
Christ the Lord is risen to-day!

Alleluia!

Lord of life, You defeated death to show that we can rise from all that
binds us to the world: pride, envy, anger, fear, the depth of sin that holds
us here. Christ the Lord is risen to-day!

Alleluia!

Lord of life, You defeated death to demonstrate a love that is beyond
our understanding; that reaches out even to me. Saving grace to all who
hear. Christ the Lord is risen to-day!

Alleluia!

Lord of life, We pray for all who bring Your word of life as a light to
those in darkness; for those who bring Your word of peace to those
enslaved by fear; for those who bring Your word of love to those in
need of comfort. Lord of love and Lord of peace, Lord of resurrection
life, be known through our lives and through Your power.
Christ the Lord is risen to-day!

Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN: #157 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, hallelujah!

all creation join to say; hallelujah!

raise your joys and triumphs high; hallelujah!

sing, O heavens, and earth reply: hallelujah!

2 Love's redeeming work is done, hallelujah!

fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!

Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!

Lo! he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

3 Lives again our glorious King: hallelujah!

where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!

Once he died, our souls to save: hallelujah!

where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

4 Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, hallelujah!
 praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
 Every knee to you shall bow, hallelujah!
 risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

LITURGY - I BELIEVE IN JESUS

I believe

I awaken to

Jesus Christ

**the one who walked our earth
 and whose God-light shone through**

God's only son

the one whose life came from the very life of God

our Lord

our guide, our teacher, our friend

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

whose life was an intent of God's creative imagination

born of the Virgin Mary

who sang love's song at his beginning and was blessed

suffered under Pontius Pilate

rejected by the powers of the world

was crucified

executed by those same powers

died

sharing the same death of us all

and was buried

love had been killed

he descended to the dead

and they thought this the end

but on the third day

nothing could contain, bind or hold the life Jesus began

he rose again

and the story continues to be believed

of renewal, transformation and life again.

I believe in Jesus. Hallelujah!

REFLECTIVE VIDEO: Risen – New Easter Song by Shawna Edwards

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 28:1–10

New International Version

Jesus Has Risen

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

REFLECTION: “The Sun Rises”

Jesus has taught us to try to achieve a loving life. I believe that and Jesus is our example of that. Jesus was always serving, teaching, healing, blessing, and challenging the world around him. He was always placing his faith ahead of him and placed his faith in God to lead him to where he is needed.

And now, after his crucifixion and moving into his enlightened and resurrected state, his message of new possibilities of challenging the world is even more profound.

Sometimes, when we look at things in our lives, we can look at them not just for their physical qualities and endurance but also with our spiritual

eyes to receive a new vision of what the world was, is, and can become. The challenge then becomes for us to take that spiritual vision and make it be so for the betterment of all of us to live together. The challenge becomes uniting this spiritual vision with the will to be Christlike and show the world what it means to follow Christ, be like Christ and believe in Christ.

“Do not be afraid,” Jesus tells the mourning followers. And this is what Jesus tells us today: do not be afraid. I like to add what I think Jesus would say to us today as we isolate in this time of COVID-19... Do not be afraid... God and creation is with you because God made in each one of you. Take for example the birds in the sky...an eagle... as I was walking the other day, I watched an eagle soaring in the sky, letting the wind lift it up to greater heights I thought so will God our Creator, he will lift you in ways that you never knew possible. Look for that miracle and be thankful. But don’t just look for it with your eyes; look for it also with your heart. The answer is there. Share it with all the people, with of all of creation, because we are all made of God. “Do not be afraid”.

I say to all you, believers in the Risen Lord, may you take the celebration of this Easter day and let it warm your heart and soul just as the sun gives you warmth on your back, and energy for a new tomorrow. Embrace the words “He is Risen” for Christ is with us on our journeys of life, on that path that sometimes can be rough, dark, cold, and a challenge. But as a community of spiritual faith, we are not alone because we live in God’s world. The sun will always rise to bring us back to life each day. That is the blessing we receive from God, from the Holy Spirit and from the Son. Do not be afraid, our new day has just begun on this Easter morning. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN: #175 This Is The Day That God Has Made

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice and be exceeding glad!

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah! Lujah!

Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorry, gone the nights,
dawns the morning clear and bright! **R**

Jesus lives who once was dead,
lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour King;
Songs of gladness let us sing! **R**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.

Resurrected Lord of light and life, hear us as we lift to you our hopes and prayers for the church and the world.

Let your grace empower us as people of faith to better serve you in the common places of our lives, and in the people we meet on our faith journeys.

Open our eyes to the living Christ as we pray for and work with the poor, the broken-hearted, the sick and the bereaved.

Hear our prayers for those who are close to our hearts. In your resurrecting power, lift them up and give them renewed strength and hope; and give to us all new faith by which to live our days with you.

Then will our lives be living witness to your resurrection, made whole by your love and care.

In Christ’s Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #166 Joy Comes With the Dawn

Joy comes with the dawn; Joy comes with the morning sun,

Joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,

Joy comes with the dawn.

Weeping may come; Weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**

Sorrow will turn, Sorrow will turn into song,
and God’s laughter makes us strong. **R**

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

SENDING FORTH

(inspired by Luke 24:13-35)

Go now as those who have met with Christ in the morning of this day.

Go now as those who proclaimed “Hallelujah He is risen”.

Go now as those who have been touched by resurrection.

And may the blessing of God be upon you, body, mind and spirit,
as you leave this place, Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

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Coming Events

Tuesday, April 6th: Coffee time at Springvale from 9:30-11am. All are welcome!

Wednesday, April 7th, 2021: Coffee time at Hagersville from 11am-12pm.

Thursday, April 8th, 2021: Ham & Scalloped Potato Supper at Springvale United Church from 4-6pm. This year we will only be offering takeout! Cost is \$15/person and includes ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce & pie. Please call Shirley at 905-981-5455 to preorder your tickets by April 1st.