

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th, 2020**

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

Cawthra Park

*What is faith? Faith is trust, assurance and confidence in God and Jesus
Christ. Living faith is not just believing that God exists. It is
demonstrated by one's service and obedience to God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here this day to hear God's word for us.

It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.

It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or
through a crowded city street.

God meets us here.

We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of
Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.

OPENING HYMN: #296 This Is God's Wondrous World

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world, I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world. God shines in all that's fair,
In the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong. God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, O let the heavens ring!
God reigns, let earth be glad.

OPENING PRAYER

You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds,
experiences, hopes, and dreams, Lord. Be with us as together we
experience your presence and your healing love. Open our hearts and
our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace. For we ask
this in Jesus' Name.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you created us with mouths to speak. You made us able to say kind
words, to talk about important ideas, to laugh together at shared jokes,
and to tell stories of your love. We confess that we often misuse your
gift. We are more quick to use angry, hurting words than kind ones. We
are easily drawn to mean gossip, rumors, and even lies, and we easily
forget to tell about the good that others do. We too often hear ourselves
laugh at people instead of with them. We are truly surprised,
embarrassed, and ashamed of some of the things that come out of our
mouths. Forgive us. Work within us until our words are the words you
would speak, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 133

A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷ “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

MESSAGE: “FAITH AND CRUMBS”

Based on Matthew 15:21-28 They called me a fool for pestering Jesus. I didn’t know what else to do. All the healers, all the prayers, all the incantations over my daughter did nothing. I was going to lose her. Her torments seemed to be getting stronger with each moment. I feared for her life. I love her so much. I needed help. And then Jesus came to town. I knew of the wonders that he had performed. Word gets around. And I wondered if he might be able to help me. I’m not an Israelite. I am a foreigner in this land. My faith background is not the Israelite faith. And they said that I shouldn’t even be there. Who did I think I was? They kept shouting at me. “Get away from Jesus,” they said. You don’t belong here. You are not one of us. I didn’t listen to them, or at least didn’t follow what they wanted. I came to Jesus and tugged on his robes, pleading for my daughter’s restoration. And he looked at me. Even his disciples said that I should be sent away. “Please, please, Lord. Please heal my daughter!” He looked at the crowds and said that he was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. I didn’t care. I took a risk. “Please, help us, Lord.” He said that the bread was for the chosen

people, for the children of God. “It was not fair to take their bread and throw it to the dogs.” I couldn’t believe it. A dog? I was a dog? So I summed up all my courage and told him that even the dogs get the crumbs that are dropped under the table. I wasn’t asking for the whole thing, just some healing for one little girl, that’s all. With compassion in his eyes, he looked at me and said “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish!” Amazed, shocked, I felt as though I was floating! Let it be done for me as I wish? My daughter would be healed? Oh my God! It is true. She is healed! She is well! She is whole! And so am I. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you for having compassion on me, a foreigner in need. Thank you. Thank you.

All she wanted was healing for her daughter. None of the medical experts of her time could or would do anything. There was no recourse. Then suddenly she heard about Jesus. He healed people. He healed people who weren’t even Israelites. “Maybe, just maybe”, she thought, “He can help my daughter.”

It took a lot of courage for this Canaanite woman to come and confront Jesus. She was risking her life. In this society women did not openly speak up to men in public and women from other cultures and races certainly were not welcome in conversation out in the public dominion. But this Canaanite woman had great courage — she was willing to risk her life, trade it for her daughter’s healing. Matthew’s Gospel says that Jesus ignored her at first and then she was told that he had come for the house of Israel. He said that it was not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs. She countered with “But even the dogs gather the crumbs that fall to the floor”. With that bold proclamation, she announced her courage and her faith and Jesus was amazed at her faith, her persistence and her deep love for her daughter. Jesus then tells her: “Let it be done for you as you wish.” And immediately, her daughter was healed! With that in mind, what really transpired in this passage? Jesus waits for His disciples to react to the woman, and then seems to validate their dismissive reaction, even to the point of suggesting the woman was a “dog” for being a Gentile. This allows the woman to remind Jesus — and His disciples — that even the Gentile nations were meant to be fed from the same table as their “masters” in Israel, who were called to the banquet first among all others. With that argument, and that lesson ringing in the ears of the disciples who tried to get Jesus

to dismiss her, Jesus instead heals her daughter and praises her great faith.

Her words demonstrate that the boundary separating her from the house of Israel must be reconsidered. With a faith so pure, how can she be deemed unclean? The encounter with the Canaanite woman prepares the reader for Jesus' great commission to go and to make disciples of all the nations.

In this day and time we are called to reach out in compassion to our brothers and sisters around the world. We are in this life-thing together. We are drawn together. God is God! God's love is poured down on each one of us — it is not portioned out according to our race, cultural background, religion, gender, political followings. Come together in God's love, dear friends. Come together, work together in the witness of Christ and all those through whom God has spoken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together in cords that cannot be broken!

HYMN: #672 Take Time to Be Holy

- 1 Take time to be holy, speak of with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.
- 2 Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.
- 3 Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.
- 4 Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, what a blessing it is to come together in this community of faith. We listen, we read this message from all walks of life, from different ages and stages, and are welcomed in your love and your presence! Today we bring before you the names of loved ones who are struggling with loss, with illness, with depression, with addiction, with alienation from those that they love. Be with each of them. Lay your hand of healing gently over their lives and pour out your balm of peace on them. Help us to reach out to be of service to each other in Jesus' name. Breathe your spirit into each of us as face another week, for some of uncertainty, others loneliness and others to be who you call us to being in our jobs, our homes or wherever you take us. Keep our hearts and minds open for your reconciling word for us; for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #657 He Leadeth Me

- 1 He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
- Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.**
- 2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me. Refrain
 3. Lord, I would place thine hand in mine
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see
Since 'tis thine hand that leadeth me. Refrain

SENDING FORTH

Now go, to serve as God's people.

We will work to remove all that divides us from others.

Now go, to share the grace of Jesus.

We will love others just as we are loved.

Now go, to be the Spirit's community.

We will invite everyone to join us in this life of faith and service.

CHORAL AMEN

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Sunday Humour on Aging

The older we get, fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me! I want to let people know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of algebra.

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery, and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.

As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best, and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come live with you and your wife."