

HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH & SPRINGVALE

UNITED CHURCH SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 2020

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God Ministry of

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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Pelham Community

*Wherever you go, nomatter what the weather, always bring your own
sunshine!*



CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

P: We look around and wonder where God is.

L: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

P: God surrounds us with love and courage.

L: Come, let us praise God for God's abiding presence.

**P: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don't
recognize your loving presence.**

OPENING HYMN: #235 O Worship the King

Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above,

Oh, gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;

Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,

Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Oh, tell of His might, oh, sing of His grace,

Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;

His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,

And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?

It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;

It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,

And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,

In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;

Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,

Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

OPENING PRAYER

We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S STORY- What's in a Name?

This morning I want you to think about your name. Were you named after your mother or your father? Do you like your name? Does the meaning of your name reflect your personality? Would you change your name if you could?

I found this little bit of History on origin of names very interesting and so I share it with you.

Many of us have surnames passed down to us from ancestors in England. Last names weren't widely used until after the Norman conquest in 1066, but as the country's population grew, people found it necessary to be more specific when they were talking about somebody else. Thus arose descriptions like Thomas the Baker, Norman son of Richard, Henry the Whitehead, Elizabeth of the Field, and Joan of York that, ultimately, led to many of our current surnames.

There are perhaps 45,000 different English surnames, but most had their origins as one of these seven types.

Occupational

Occupational names identified people based on their job or position in society. Calling a man "Thomas Carpenter" indicated that he worked

with wood for a living, while someone named Knight bore a sword. Other occupational names include Archer, Baker, Brewer, Butcher, Carter, Clark, Cooper, Cook, Dyer, Farmer, Faulkner, Fisher, Fuller, Gardener, Glover, Head, Hunt or Hunter, Judge, Mason, Page, Parker, Potter, Sawyer, Slater, Smith, Taylor, Thatcher, Turner, Weaver, Woodman, and Wright (or variations such as Cartwright and Wainwright) — and there are many more.

This kind of name also gave a clue about whom a servant worked for. Someone named Vickers might have been a servant to Mr. Vicker, and someone named Williams might either have served a William or been adopted by him.

From a geographical feature of the landscape

Some examples are Bridge, Brooks, Bush, Camp, Fields, Forest, Greenwood, Grove, Hill, Knolles, Lake, Moore, Perry, Stone, Wold, Wood, and Woodruff. Author Margaret Atwood is probably descended from someone who lived “at the wood.”

Jesus was walking one day with his friends. He was curious about what people thought of him. He asked his friends “Who do people say that I am”. Some said the prophet Elijah, others that he might actually be Moses. But Simon said that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the Living God. That was true! Jesus was not Elijah or Moses or any other prophet — he is God’s Son. Jesus said that it took courage to say that and he told Simon that he would now be called Peter — the rock — the strong one. The rock won’t be destroyed. He would rely on Peter to tell others and help others, just like Jesus did.

CHILDREN’S SONG

MORNING PRAYER

God of love, open our hearts to each other. Give us the courage to resist oppression. Help us protect the world from evil. Give us the wisdom to see ourselves as we truly are. Give us the vision to see you and hear your voice. Give us the courage to answer your call. Grant us the endurance to use our gifts for the purpose of your realm. Work your transforming love within us that we may know your will and serve you with joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.^[b] **2** Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

3 Because of the privilege and authority^[c] God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.^[d] **4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **5** so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **7** If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. **8** If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Matthew 16:13-20

New Living Translation

Peter’s Declaration about Jesus

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”^[a]

14 “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

15 Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah,^[b] the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John,^[c] because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. **18** Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means

‘rock’),^[d] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell^[e] will not conquer it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid^[f] on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit^[g] on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

²⁰ Then he sternly warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MESSAGE– Moving Forward as One Body

Today I thought I would reflect on the passage from Romans a passage that we all know very well. Paul is talking to the followers about the fact that we are all parts of the one body, We all have many talents and we are to use them for the glory of God. As I'm out walking this morning and I'm thinking that this, I started thinking that it has been a very hard 5 months for many people in many different ways. And for the church it's been something that never happened in history. With all the world wars and all the events that have happened before including major viruses, the Depression and other world events the church has never closed its doors.

And these thoughts that I'm sharing with you, come from my heart, observations that I have listened to and heard from other people.

In all of this, I do want to uplift and praise what the church has been in the last 5 months. We live in an age of technology and I thank God for that. After the first week of no worship service myself and many, many other ministers, pastors, lay people started streaming messages through online Worship, emailed Sunday services, created YouTube channels and were able to reach their congregations and beyond. Also, within that live streaming the opportunity arose to play old hymns, new worship music, new artists, old artists to help you celebrate God's presence in your lives. And going farther and beyond that, I know that God was working in you and through you because each of you were supporting each other in many different ways. Through phone calls, dropping off food at people's door steps, supporting one another by emails, sending cards and letters, Tuesday morning coffee chats and Facebook pages. I can honestly say, even though the church doors closed God did not go on vacation. He was present in each and every one of your lives. The Dynamics for each person and situation may have been different but the

spirit of God was within your homes, within your work places, within these times of uncertainty, God was there.

As we prepare to reopen our doors, we know that things won't be the same because of the rules that had been laid out that we have to follow. In saying that, we will still worship, uplifting praise, uplifting thankfulness and celebrating God's presence in our world. We are all parts of the body of Christ as Paul tells us that “...even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don't have the same function”, “so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another”.

Being a part of God's family is like being a part of a stained glass window. We each have an important gift that is needed to fit into the frame of the church. We may have the ability to teach or lead or minister to others. We may have the gift of caring and cheerfulness and be able to give encouragement. Your gift is special and is just for you. Finding and using your special gift is an adventure that helps you understand “what is the will of God” for your life.

When our individual gifts are combined with the gifts of other Christians, we have the ability to make something very beautiful. God's light transforms us, just like sunlight causes our stained glass windows to sparkle and glow.

Remember that God is present in everything we do, everything we see and through our voices as we share.

Amen

HYMN- To God be the Glory!

To God be the glory!
Great things He hath done!
So loved He the world
that He gave us His Son;
Who yielded His life
an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate
that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son:
And give Him the glory!
Great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus
a pardon receives.**Refrain**

Great things He hath taught us,
great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport
when Jesus we see.**Refrain**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, we hear the wonderful words from Matthew's gospel in which Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ, the son of the living God. He is given the name Peter, the rock upon whom the church will be built. We would like to be the kind of "rock" that Jesus could count on – to be strong in the face of adversity; brave when danger is present; compassionate when sorrow and strife prevail. You have called us to be your church and we ask for your transforming love that we might be better witnesses for you. Today we name in our hearts before you people that we love who are dealing with sorrow and illnesses; people who feel abandoned and alone; parents and young people who are making the decision about going to school, those who are entering universities and colleges for the first time and struggling with online courses, those entering the workforce and those who are just struggling with life. We also name those people and situations filled with joy and hope; a new home, the birth of a child, celebrations of special occasions, and often

just a beautiful day. Hear the cries of our hearts to you, O God. Heal and transform lives. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #579 The Church is Wherever God's People
The church is wherever
God's people are praising,
singing God's goodness
for joy on this day.
The church is wherever
disciples of Jesus
remember his story
and walk in his way.

The church is wherever
God's people are helping,
caring for neighbours
in sickness and need.
The church is wherever
God's people are sharing
the words of the Bible
in gift and in deed.

SENDING FORTH

Resist the powers that use people.
Hear the cries of the weak.
Dare to work for justice.
Know that God—Source, Word, and Spirit—
is your help, will keep you safe,
and will bring you new life.
You are blessed by God and sent to serve.
Amen

CHORAL AMEN