

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &  
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

Ministry of Caring: The Whole People of God Ministry of Pastoral  
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**OPENING HYMN:** Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings  
I see glory on each face  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

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**REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE**

Japanese (EM)

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Our gifts for Mission & Service fully support the Embracing the Spirit grant program for communities of faith with innovative ideas. Westmount Park United Church in Montreal, Quebec, has been able to grow its initial grant into a Faith in Nature vision of the church—a belief that nature connects us all. As well as monthly Climate Cafés and a cooperative garden on its front lawn, Westmount Park advocates for the environment in its local community. Ginkgo biloba trees have become symbols of hope for Hiroshima survivors because the trees grew leaves again after the atomic bombing of 1945. In partnership with Green Legacy Hiroshima, a Japanese organization that shares seeds across the world for a nuclear-free planet, Westmount Park was one of three faith organizations that received ginkgo seeds that are growing into strong trees. The physical existence and history of those seeds tell a powerful story, and their very presence provides a living link between the people of Hiroshima and Montreal—and Westmount Park United Church. If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to this place with different needs: some of us wrestling with problems that threaten to overwhelm us; some of us crying out for healing, for relevance, for refuge; some of us hungering for what God alone can provide. In this time and in this time of Worship, Know that God is with you and meets us face to face.

In the midst of His children the Lord said He would be  
It doesn't take very many  
It can be just two or three  
And I feel that same sweet spirit that I've felt so many times before  
Surely I can say I've been with the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings  
I see glory on each face  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

There's a holy hush around us as His glory fills this place  
I've touch the hem of His garment  
I can almost see His face  
And my heart is overflowing with the fullness of His joy  
I know without a doubt I've been with the Lord

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings  
I see glory on each face  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

**OPENING PRAYER**

In the darkness of night and the brightness of day, you, O Lord, are present to us. As we are wrestling with situations of this year which has drained some of us of our energy; as we struggle to find out who you call us to be, you reach out to us with reassurance of empowerment and courage for the days ahead. Calm our spirits and prepare our hearts and

lives to receive your awesome grace in this time of worship. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## CHILDREN'S SONG

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, provider of all we need, we are often content to rely on our own devices, our creativity, our cleverness. We congratulate ourselves for our accomplishments, yet we find that these achievements and acquisitions do not fill the deep hunger inside of us. We long for the Spirit bread you alone can provide. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us receive the blessings you offer, that we may be your bread for the world—blessed, broken for all.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news.

God's mercy is plentiful, and God's grace is abundant.

Receive the bread of forgiveness and steadfast love.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Romans 9:1-5**<sup>1</sup>I speak the truth in Christ-I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit- <sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, <sup>4</sup>the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup>Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

**Matthew 14:13-21**<sup>13</sup>When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a

remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." <sup>16</sup>Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. <sup>18</sup>"Bring them here to me," he said. <sup>19</sup>And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup>The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### MESSAGE

"More Than Enough"

Matthew 14:13-21

Our passage today looks at one of the largest gathering every recorded in the bible ( in Matthew, Mark and John) as far as Jesus teaching and feeding the group gathered. Let's be reminded of that day .....

It had been a long day for Jesus and the disciples. After hearing that his cousin, John the Baptizer, has been beheaded by order of King Herod, Jesus is in distress and wants to be alone, so he goes off by boat to be alone to grieve in a deserted place. But by the time he gets there, word has spread and a great crowd has hurried around the lake on foot and is gathered there.

Jesus' compassion for the needs of others overcomes his personal grief and weariness, and he responds to the people in compassion, by teaching and curing those who were sick.

It gets late, and people are hungry. So, the disciples come to Jesus and say, "This is a deserted place, and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves." That sounds like a sensible, thoughtful suggestion. But Jesus has a different idea. He turns to the disciples and says, "We don't need to send them away. You give them something to eat!"

Can you see those disciples, looking at each other, with the question on their faces? "Are you kidding? How could we feed all these people? Out here in this deserted place, with these little resources—where are we supposed to find food for all these people? There were 5,000 men, plus

women and children! We don't have anything here but five loaves and two fishes, that a small lad has brought with him.

Jesus says, "Bring what you have to me." Then he commands the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looks up to heaven, and blesses, and breaks the loaves, and gives them to the disciples, and the disciples give them to the crowds."

The gospel tells us that everybody ate and were filled. But it doesn't end there. They gathered up what was left over of the broken pieces, and there were twelve baskets full of leftovers!

Imagine it

So...what did Jesus really do that day? What happened? We can't really know. But I think the important thing in this story is not how it happened, but why it happened. Somehow—whether we understand it or not—the God of love provided an abundant meal for all. No matter how things may seem, no matter how scarce our resources seem, God is able to provide enough.

The first disciples didn't get it, at least initially. And often we don't get it. We look around and we're certain there isn't enough. Enough people...enough energy...enough creativity...enough resources...enough whatever—to meet some need, to do some task. And yet when we go ahead and give it our best shot, we often find that there was enough after all—and maybe even a basketful or so left over.

Jesus came so that we may have life—abundant life. Looking to heaven and blessing the bread, Jesus reveals abundance where we see scarcity. What seems not enough is blessed, broken, and given back to the disciples for distribution. They give the crowd something to eat, and it ends up being more than enough.

So, I think if we get hung up on the "how" of what happened, we risk what we disciples need to learn as we follow Jesus.

Jesus didn't lecture the thousands of hungry people gathered there on how they should have planned ahead before they hurried around the lake... how they should have packed food to take care of themselves and their family. He didn't ask them if they were working or to prove what their income was. He didn't ask if they were from Galilee or if they were foreigners. And isn't that just like Jesus?

In the church, part of our life of discipleship is learning from Jesus how to trust in the abundance he promises, instead of the scarcity we fear.

In our church, we work together as a community to do things we aren't able to do as individuals.

Did you notice? Jesus prayed that God would bless the food in his hands so it would be enough for all the hungry people. But he didn't pray until after he said to the disciples, "You give them something to eat." Then, after praying, Jesus gave the broken bread and fish and gave it to the disciples, and they started passing them out. They may have been wondering how long the food would last, but they kept going until 5,000 men plus all the women and children were fed. When everyone had eaten, there were twelve baskets left over.

In this gospel reading we can see how God takes care of his people. We can read the feeding in two ways. On the one hand, we can simply take it as a miraculous event, pointing to the divine origins of Jesus. On the other hand, we can see that once the disciples began to share the little food they had with those around, it triggered a similar movement among the crowd, when everyone shared, everyone had enough. A picture of the kind of society the Church should stand for.

God is still at work in and through us today. In the face of all our concerns about not having enough, Jesus takes and blesses and breaks and gives—and transforms everything and everyone. Jesus spread a banquet for thousands of people gathered ... that day long ago, and keeps spreading a banquet before each of us. Like that crowd gathered that day, like his own doubtful followers, Jesus invites us to trust, to accept his invitation, to come and feast bountifully.

Thanks be to God!

Amen!

**HYMN: #365 Jesus Loves Me**

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so,  
Little ones to him belong, in his love we shall be strong,

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved me so long ago,

Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Jesus loves me, still today, walking with me on my way,  
 Wanting as a friend to give love and light to all who live  
**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**  
**Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

As the crowds followed Jesus, eager to be filled with hope, we come this day to this worship, seeking nourishments for our souls. We hunger and thirst for the word of hope and truth, but our lives are battered by anger and hostility. Our hearts are filled with concerns for family and friends, for our country and our world. We don't see how we can be of help to others. Sit us down, as Jesus seated the multitude. Calm us down, as Jesus reassured the disciples that all would receive care. Lift us up, as Jesus encouraged others to reach out in compassion. Give us hearts of confident faith in your presence, O Lord. Place your hands of healing on the many situations which we name at this time with our voices and in our hearts. [at this point pray for those you know need prayers]. Lord, we ask your compassionate goodness for these situations and these loved ones. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

### **CLOSING HYMN: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
 Ye soldiers of the cross;  
 Lift high his royal banner,  
 It must not suffer loss.  
 From victory unto victory  
 His army shall he lead,  
 Till every foe is vanquished,  
 And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
 Stand in his strength alone;  
 The arm of flesh will fail you,  
 Ye dare not trust your own.  
 Put on the gospel armor,

Each piece put on with prayer;  
 Where duty calls or danger,  
 Be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
 The strife will not be long;  
 This day the noise of battle,  
 The next the victor's song.  
 To those who vanquish evil  
 A crown of life shall be;  
 They with the King of Glory  
 Shall reign eternally.

### **SENDING FORTH**

The Spirit sends us forth to serve. Go in peace, knowing that God will always be by your side in all that you do. Go in love, offering healing and hope to others. Go in joy, that others may be lifted and inspired in service. AMEN.

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**WOW!** It's August already! Normally August would be our "vacation month" but nothing about this year is normal. This year we will be working through August to continue to bring you all the bulletins and online services each week. Peggy will also still be available to contact if needed. Enjoy the rest of your summer ☺