

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 2021**

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REGIONAL COUNCIL PRAYER CYCLE

Niagara-On-The-Lake: Grace

“Love the Lord with all your heart”

CALL TO WORSHIP

*From the song ...Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)
by Casting Crowns*

One day when heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men my example is He
The Word became flesh
And the light shined among us
His glory revealed

Living He loved me dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
O glorious day!

OPENING HYMN: And Can It Be? (Amazing Love) by Charles
Wesley, 1738

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,

That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: th'Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Still the small inward voice I hear,
That whispers all my sins forgiven;
Still the atoning blood is near,
That quenched the wrath of hostile Heaven.
I feel the life His wounds impart;

I feel the Savior in my heart.
I feel the life His wounds impart;
I feel the Savior in my heart.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving and living Lord,
as we welcome you into our midst
we call upon you to bless us in this time:
that we may know your blessing
and you may know our devotion;
that we may know your presence
and you may know our worship;
that we may know your will
and you may know our willingness;
that we may know you in the silence...
and you may know us in our praise.
That we may know your love and be that love to others.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG – Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong

**Refrain: 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
Light and love to all who live. **R.**

Jesus loves me He will stay
Close besides me all the way
Thou has bled and died for me
I will henceforth live for Thee. **R.**

PRAYER: Calling us to Love
God calls us to a ministry of love.
Beloved, let us love one another.
We are called to love our parents and our children,
our friends and our neighbors.
Love is from God.
We are called to love the neighbor that hurt our feelings,
the parent who was cruel,
and the co-worker who is selfish.
Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
We are called to love even the people we cannot see....
For there are so many who need a pray of love....
The hopeless, the helpless, the hungry, the lost,
those alone and so many more.
Those who love God must love their sisters and brothers also.
May we accept God's call to this mysterious ministry of love.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends: let us **love** one another, for **love** comes from God.
Everyone who **loves** has been born of God and knows God. Whoever
does not **love** does not know God, because God is **love**. This is how
God showed his **love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the
world that we might live through him. This is **love**: not that

we **loved** God, but that he **loved** us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so **loved** us, we also ought to **love** one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we **love** one another, God lives in us and his **love** is made complete in us.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8; 13

Love is patient, **love** is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **Love** never fails.... And now these three remain: faith, hope and **love**. But the greatest of these is **love**.

MESSAGE: Jesus Showed us How to Love

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38

Today, we celebrate a special holiday. It's Valentine's Day. I like Valentine's Day because it is a time when everyone stops what they're doing in their busy and hurried lives, and they tell the people who are important to them that they love them! I don't like Valentine's Day because this is something God wants us to do every day.

Most people do more than just tell those special people that they love them ... they do something to show their love for them. They might give them a fun gift like a teddy bear. They might give them a special valentine's card, or they might prepare a special meal for their sweetheart. They might even write a love letter to that special someone. But ... God has written a love letter to each one of you? The Bible is God's love letter for us. The Bible tells us that God created each of us, and that He loves all of us no matter what! It doesn't matter how many mistakes we make or what kinds of bad choices we make, God will still love us. So simple and so amazing at the same time.

As Christians we know that God loves us so much that he sent His son Jesus to live and walk here on the earth. During his years of ministry, Jesus taught us a great deal about love. Still today, Jesus teaches us that it is not only important to love others, but it is also important to show our love for others. To be examples ... and in this moment in time that is so, so important.

The life of the Christian shouldn't be characterized by how we dress or the things we do with our time, but by the way we act out God's love. Christ's lessons on life enable us to respond to the love we've been shown with good deeds that put love into action. Here are 3 simple ways to show others about Christ's love.

#1 Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm. "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord." In other words be full of life to the best of your ability, yes we're all human and things get us down but try your best, that is all Jesus is asking.

#2 Patience

Patience is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Well, patience is not an easy one but... I have an answer so simple and it's from a hymn ... "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged." Why? "Take it to the Lord in prayer."

#3 Generosity

The Christian definition is; To offer my time, attention, resources and forgiveness generously. This is the generosity that God offers to us. And yes it is not always easy to give of your time, or attention or even resources but I think the hardest one is forgiveness because we are human. In saying that, God offers to us time and understanding, to work on that one.

Wow... I have laid a lot on you today, but if success is ever to be realized, our generations must work together and listen to each other, which is one of the first requirements of loving one another as Jesus loves us.

From John 13:34 : A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you.

I know that there are many people in your life that you love... and I know there are many people in your life that ... well you have a dislike for. I hope that you will do more than just tell those people that you love them. I hope you will find ways to show all persons that they are loved by your actions of enthusiasm, patience and generosity! And I also want you each of you to remember that God has sent you a love letter, and in that letter, God promises that He will love you...NO MATTER WHAT!

HYMN: #606 In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, then, peoples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north:
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Wonderful God, God of laughter and promises and love,
Source of joy and source of hope: hear our prayers.

In the calm of this beautiful space, we are mindful of those who do not know the beauty of friendship and community, the calm of daily bread, the peace of life without violence of war.

So, we lift up to you those people around the world who suffer this day – the poor, the hungry, those facing widespread disease and fear. We lift

up to you those places torn apart by war and conflict and by natural disaster. As if we need to lift them up to you – you are already there God. Help us to follow your example, and to help as we can.

In the calm of our worship space, we are mindful of those in our community who are wracked with worry and anxiety – about their health of the health of those they love; about work and finances; about their kids' well-being and their education and their social lives and their education. We lift up to you all who are anxious about so much, as if we need to lift them up to you – you are already with them, the still small voice in the midst of the storm, reminding them to breathe and to trust. In the calm of this beautiful space, we give you thanks for this time, for this time set apart to worship. We lift up to you all our praise for the good in life and for the struggles that help us to grow; we lift up to you that which we cannot name aloud. We lift up to you our hearts, knowing that you have had them all along.

We offer our prayers in Jesus' name...Amen

CLOSING HYMN: #602 Bless Be the Tie that Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

2 Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 The glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.

SENDING FORTH

God of power and might, Thank you for the gift of Love
This Valentine's Day, and for all the people
Whose love shines in my life. Continue to fill
My heart with Your love and let me share that love with the world
this Valentine's Day and always.

CHORAL AMEN

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