

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 2020**

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

Carlisle-Kilbride

Remembrance Sunday

To Ponder

*What does it mean to remember someone? It means to bring them here
with us...to remember them, so that time and space have no meaning.*

*Death itself is overcome. This is the purpose of remembrance in
Canada: to affirm the lives lost in war and bring them here with us as
we worship in freedom and peace. We should never take for granted the
freedom we have to celebrate our diversity in Canada.*

Offering Prayer

We dedicate these gifts to you, Generous God,
even as we dedicate our lives to you.

Keep us true to our promise,
that we may witness to you
with all that we are and all that we do. Amen

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

It is my privilege to welcome you to Springvale / Hagersville United
Church and to this special service of remembrance. It is Remembrance
Sunday once again, and we will as a nation acknowledge the sacrifice of
the people of the Armed Forces throughout history. However, as a
community of faith today, we will be taking some time to reflect on the
sacrifices of Canadians throughout the ages. Members of The United

Church of Canada have served in every major conflict since the church's
formation in 1925 and still do today. And so it is appropriate for us to
affirm the lives lost in war and bring them to mind here with us as we
worship in freedom and peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this Remembrance Sunday we gather to pray

All: for a world where no one will learn war anymore.

One: On this day when the guns once fell silent,

**All: we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart, home and
nation.**

One: On this day of hope,

**All: we come before you, God, to remember all those who gave their
lives so we could be free.**

One: In this time of story, song, and prayer,

help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together.

**All: And so, let echo the old prayers—make us channels of your
peace.**

One: In that spirit, let us join our hearts in song.

HYMN: #684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

OPENING PRAYER

One: Almighty God, We thank you for bringing us together this Remembrance Sunday to recall with tenderness and respect those who lost their lives from this community and the many thousands farther afield in the wars of the last century.

All: We pray for all those still caught up in conflicts across the World and acknowledge what may be our own confusion about war and how we might participate in creating an enduring peace.

One: Help us to meet with you in these moments of worship, Make us ever mindful of your goodness toward us, and strengthen us to be aware of the needs of others. As we pray for peace, may it start with peace in our hearts. Amen

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

SING: O CANADA

READING OF FLANDERS FIELDS

LAST POST

MINUTE OF SILENCE

ROUSE

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

All: We will remember them.

One: Eternal rest grant unto them, O God, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all who laid down their lives for us and others, through your great mercy, rest in peace. Amen.

VIDEO: Remembrance Day Song “Soldier’s Cry”

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]
⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[d] with fire.
¹⁰ He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

REFLECTIVE VIDEO: REMEMBRANCE DAY

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17 ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

REFLECTION

The story of Rev. Harold Appleyard from Christ Church Anglican in Meaford, Ontario

The first Anglican service in Meaford was conducted in Stephenson's Inn in 1856, and six years later, the parish built a frame building on the south side of the Bighead River. In 1876, a more substantial stone church welcomed the congregation, and within 14 years, the stone building had expanded to include a bell tower and a larger building which has now become the parish hall.

In 1938, a young rector arrived at the church, and Reverend Harold Appleyard quickly plunged into working with the congregation, the community, and the building, spearheading the difficult task of excavating under the original church to create a basement with a passage under the church to link it with the parish hall basement

But when war broke out in Europe, it wasn't long before Reverend Appleyard heard the call. He joined the Grey and Simcoe Foresters in 1941 as Chaplain, and on Sunday, March 22, 1942 preached his farewell sermon before leaving to join the Canadian Chaplain Service.

The destruction in England struck him as appalling nearly as soon as he landed. He quickly began to collect shards of stained glass from the shattered windows of damaged churches, and soon began to envision using them for a memorial window at his parish church. On volunteer fire duty one night in the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, he

met an architect responsible for London's ancient churches, who referred him to the Cox and Barnard Stained Glass Works in Hove, Sussex. The firm offered to design and re-lead the glass into windows to fit Appleyard's Meaford church – free of charge in gratitude for the Canadian war effort.

After being shipped to Europe, Appleyard continued his collection, retrieving glass from churches in France, Belgium and Holland, and a year after the war ended, the church unveiled them as memorials to the parishioners and townspeople who had been killed or wounded during the years of fighting.

"During my first few moments in England, the appalling destruction of homes and churches alike, along with the courage of the British people, made it desirable to link their sacrifice with ours," said Appleyard at the service dedicating the memorial windows, his words heard in a broadcast across Canada and Britain.

The Story of Rev. William Alfred Seaman

On the base of one of the 2048 burial markers in the military cemetery located in Bény-sur-Mer, France, these familiar words from the Apostle Paul may be found. "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three but the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13).

They are etched on the gravestone of Honourary Captain, the Rev. William Alfred Seaman, a United Church minister, who is buried beside some of the fallen soldiers whom he himself buried.

Padre Seaman left his congregation in River John, Pictou County, Nova Scotia to serve with the Canadian Chaplain Service during World War II. He and the soldiers of the 5th Field Regiment arrived in France just after D-Day in 1944.

As a chaplain, he could often be found working alongside the Medical Officer at the Regimental Aid Post, assisting stretcher bearers and bandaging wounds—those both seen and unseen—and above all, bringing a sign of God's presence in a broken world.

On July 14 while rushing into battle to retrieve wounded soldiers during the Battle of Caen, he was struck by an exploding mortar shell. The shrapnel pierced his leg, side, and head. He died of an infection a week later, on the date of the tenth anniversary of his marriage to Louise. Together they had two young children at the time, Lorna and Andrew.

Today, as Canadians remember the sacrifices made by so many on the shores of France 76 years ago, we remember Padre William Alfred Seamen, whose response to Jesus' call to "Follow me," led him to a distant shore, and who lies now at rest among those whom he served to the very end. His gravestone reminds us still of God's enduring presence and promise of a life which abides, even in the valley of the shadow of death.

VIDEO: We Remember

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Lord,
we wait for you to come again into our midst.
Sometimes we wait patiently, sometimes not.
Always we are aware of how much the world needs you.
We pray today for those in our community, for our first responders, our care givers, our teachers, our PSW's, Nurses, doctors and all who face the challenge of Covid 19 on a daily bases. We also lift up all those who need your healing and comfort.

(Pause for silence.)

We pray for persons in leadership across our country,
that together we might make wise decisions.
We pray for brothers and sisters around the world,
whose lives are torn apart by war.
We pray for the saints who have witnessed to your love.
We pray, knowing that you are with us now,
and that you will strengthen us to keep awake,
to keep the faith,
to keep working for the time
when Christ will come again to surprise us anew
with love and justice on earth. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: O God Our Help In Ages Past pg. 806

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

- 2 under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

SENDING FORTH

One: Having gathered, remembered, heard, given, and prayed,
All: we ask, Almighty God, for your blessing, and for your continual presence in our lives.

One: Remind us that no matter where we go, you are there.
All: No matter how bleak the world becomes, all it takes is one ray of light for a new day to be upon us once again. Amen.

GO NOW IN PEACE

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