

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPRINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 14th, 2020**

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

Brantford: St. Andrew's

*From the comfort of our homes we gather to worship.
Whether through printed word, or through the gift of technology
we are a community of faith.
Come, let us worship God wherever you are ... we are together.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 100)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Bring your silence and your shouting, as introverts and extroverts.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Bring your songs and your stories, your struggles and your sacrifices.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

He designed and created us, he understands us and is intensely interested in us.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Bring your gifts and your personalities, your strengths and weaknesses.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

He is just and wise, honest and true, caring and compassionate, eternal and holy; he is God.

***OPENING HYMN:** Psalm 100 Make a Joyful Noise pg. 820-821

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song! R

2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song! R

3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song! R

OPENING PRAYER

God of life, God of hope, God of all
Lift us on your love like eagle's wings
Sustain us, guide us, heal us,
Then send us forth into the world
That we may love as you love.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

CHILDREN'S SONG

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, like a shepherd, You never stop searching for Your people,
Your care for us anticipates our need. Before we recognized we needed
Your grace, in love, Jesus gave His life for our forgiveness.

We confess that we need Your forgiveness, we confess our sins:
You are the shepherd and we are Your flock, but we admit the times we
have tried to take Your place and take control ourselves.
We admit that we have not always trusted Your good news to be good
for us.

At times we have pleaded with You to care for us, but we have
held back from caring for others and ignored the needs of others.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us in the name of Jesus.
Loving shepherd, teach us by the Holy Spirit to follow You in the days
and places of the weeks ahead. Through Jesus Christ we pray, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 5:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Peace and Hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have
gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b]
boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we^[c] also glory
in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces
perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope
does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into
our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.
6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ
died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous
person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.
8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still
sinners, Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35-10:8 New International Version (NIV)

The Workers Are Few

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their
synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing
every disease and sickness. **36** When he saw the crowds, he had
compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like
sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest
is plentiful but the workers are few. **38** Ask the Lord of the harvest,
therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to
drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called
Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother
John; **3** Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;
James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; **4** Simon the Zealot and Judas
Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go
among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. **6** Go rather to
the lost sheep of Israel. **7** As you go, proclaim this message: 'The
kingdom of heaven has come near.' **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have
received; freely give.

MESSAGE

"To Go into the World and follow the Footsteps of Jesus we need
Compassion and Motivation."

Good morning!

I have a strange question for you – why do you eat?

Because it tastes good (sometimes) and because it keeps you healthy and
alive, right?

I would say that those are very good reasons for why you eat.

Here's another question for you, why do you sleep?

I, would say.... Because we get tired, not able to stay awake, we want
to be rested for the next day, and your body needs sleep to stay healthy.
These reasons about why you eat and sleep can sometimes be described
by the word *motivation*.

Remember, *motivation* describes the reasons we give when asked about
why we do what we do.

In today's scripture story, Jesus shares his *motivation* for why he has
disciples and why he is teaching them what he is teaching them.

What we hear is that Jesus has compassion on the crowds of people. We
hear that he sees them as lost sheep and that he needs help in providing
God's care, healing, and teaching to those crowds.

Then hear Jesus tell the disciples that that's exactly what they are going
to do: They are going to go out as pairs, and they are going to care for
others with God's compassion, healing, and authority.

Remember: The disciples are still learning at this time.

So I think what Jesus is doing is giving the disciples a chance to experience the reasons for why they are learning what they are learning, which will then increase their own motivation to keep learning and truly have compassion.

In saying that, even today we are still like the disciples in many ways. Learning about compassion and to have the motivation to do the will of God.

Let's talk about "compassion". I am not always sure Christians understand the full weight and work of its meaning. Being compassionate is not always easy. I remember growing up hearing the phrase "moved to compassion". Compassion is often described as a state of being or feeling in which something has occurred to move someone to feel sympathy, empathy, perhaps even pity for someone or something else.

Christians have struggled with their role in shaping a society that cares for those who are sick and in need. In essence, we have struggled to understand the work and responsibility of Christian compassion. In today's Gospel we see Jesus not only teaching and proclaiming, but also doing works of healing. His heart was filled with compassion for the crowds because "they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:36). He chose twelve apostles to go out and do the same—to proclaim the good news of God's reign and to bring healing, life, and freedom to those in need.

Notably absent from Jesus' instructions to the disciples as they went out is any mention of teaching. They were to proclaim the reign of God and perform the acts of compassion that reveal it: "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons" (Mt 10:8). Not until the very end of Matthew's Gospel does the risen Christ give them authority to teach: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20). Only those whose hearts have been shaped by doing the works of compassion can teach others the way of discipleship.

Over the past weeks we have witnessed compassion in the words and actions of those who are speaking up to expose the racism in our society and standing with and praying with victims of injustice.

During these past months we have learned much about the love of Christ in the example of family, friends, health care workers, pastoral

ministers, and others in their care for the sick, the dying, and the grieving. The compassion they have shared strengthens our hope and reminds us that God's reign is near indeed. They have **not** merely taught us about Jesus. They have shown us Jesus. Even though they might not realize it . . . it is God's hand at work.

I want to encourage us . . . to use Jesus' belief in us . . . as some of our own motivation in continuing to learn, to receive and then share God's compassion, love, and healing with others because this world needs that compassion, love, and healing just as much now as it did when Jesus was teaching his first disciples.

HYMN: #638 God, Take My Hand

- 1 God, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favour I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour, and lead the way.
- 2 God, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.
- 3 God, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
and nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Let us now pray to the Creator of light that we may truly become the salt and the light of the world. Let us say:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more love on earth, Lord, we ask you to help people to be more understanding and friendlier to one another and to share more readily with those in need, so we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be greater justice on earth, Help our governments and public officials to make room in their priorities and budgets for the socially deprived and those out of jobs, we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more peace on earth, help all nations to put an end to words of hatred and threats of revenge, we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more joy on earth, help all those who follow your Son to show sympathy and affection to one another, to be faithful in our friendships and concerned about our communities, we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

That there may be more faith on earth, help all your sons and daughters to live as children of light before you and in the sight of people, we pray:

Lord, let your light shine in us.

Lord God, we pray that your light may shine on all the earth. However limited we are, let our words and actions reflect the light of your love, in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #635 All The Way My Saviour Leads Me

- 1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
 what have I to ask beside?
 Can I doubt his tender mercy
 who through life has been my guide?
 Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
 here by faith in him to dwell,
 for I know, whate'er befall me,
 Jesus doeth all things well.
- 2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
 cheers each winding path I tread,
 gives me grace for every trial,
 feeds me with the living bread.
 Though my weary steps may falter,
 and my soul athirst may be,
 gushing from the rock before me,
 lo, a spring of joy I see!

- 3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
 O the fullness of his love!
 Perfect rest to me is promised
 in my Father's house above.
 When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
 wings its flight to realms of day,
 this my song through endless ages,
 'Jesus led me all the way!'

BLESSING

God knit us together in the womb, and knows each and every part of us. God calls us by name and breathes life into our fragile bodies. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Open our hearts to know this. Know how much you are loved, and needed. Go with the grace, peace, and forgiving love of God, to bless and forgive and love others. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

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My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My father taught me LOGIC

"Because I said so, that's why"

My mother taught me FORESIGHT

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My father taught me IRONY

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about WEATHER

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"

My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION

"Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION

"Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING

"You are going to get it from your father when he gets home!"

My father taught me HUMOUR

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me GENETICS

"You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM

"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."

My father taught me about JUSTICE

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"