

**HAGERSVILLE UNITED CHURCH &
SPINGVALE UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MAY 17th, 2020**

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

Port Dover-Woodhouse

*Live in God's love! Let that love be poured out for all God's people!
And bring hope and peace to all whom you meet.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord has been our refuge and our keeper.

P: It is God who has kept us from falling and saved our lives.

L: Let our thanks and praise resound throughout wherever we worship

P: Let our love and gratitude be shown in all that we do.

L: Open your hearts and spirits to God this day.

P: Lord, be with us and place your hand of healing in our lives

***OPENING HYMN: #289 It Only Takes a Spark**

- 1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.
- 2 What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees
are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:

2

you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

- 3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where
you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of wondrous light and power, we come to you this day to learn of
your will for our lives. Heal our wounds; lift our spirits; give us courage
and confidence to boldly serve you in all that we do. AMEN.
Children's experiment and Children's song

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, You have set before us the path but we have wandered
on our own to try to find our way. Sometimes we are like toddlers
and we hear Your call and come back. Other times, we are children
testing boundaries, ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look
back.

And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be
cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need to seek Your
wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults and have figured it all
our and know our own way, only to stumble and stray so far.
Remind us, parental God, that we are always Your children, that we are
never fully grown up in Your sight, that we always have much to learn.
Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your
wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with
You. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of
faith, we pray. **Amen.**

CHORUS: #381 Spirit of Life

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion,

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
 move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
 Roots hold me close; wings set me free:
 Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:15-21 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁵"If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

1 Peter 3:13-22 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear,^[a] and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence.^[b] Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered^[c] for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you^[d] to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for^[e] a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has

gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

MESSAGE: You are the Holy Spirit ... Now that's Cool

Have you ever seen the Holy Spirit? (No, that's not a trick question.)

Seriously, then: have you seen the Spirit?

The best we get in the Bible are descriptions of tongues of flame (Acts 2) or a freely blowing breeze (John 3). I think that's what makes preaching on -- or for that matter even talking about -- the Holy Spirit so difficult. We don't know what the Spirit looks like.

Except....that might not be true...

In this week's reading we get two very helpful clues that, together, they offer a pretty good picture of just what the Holy Spirit looks like.

Clue #1: The Holy Spirit looks like an Advocate...the one who stands up for you when you need it; the one who speaks on your behalf; the one who lends you a helping hand, takes your side, and won't leave you while you're down.

Clue #2: The Holy Spirit looks like Jesus. The Spirit is "another advocate" because Jesus is the first. The Spirit, Jesus goes on to say, will abide with us just as Jesus the Word made flesh has abided with us. The Spirit is sent in Jesus' name and reminds us of what he taught (14:25). In a very real way, the Spirit mediates Jesus presence and helps to keep his promise that he will not leave us orphaned and will come to us.

In summary, the Holy Spirit is an advocate that looks a whole lot like Jesus. Which means that we've actually seen the Spirit lots of times.

Anytime, in fact, someone stands up for another... Anytime someone acts like Jesus... Anytime someone bears the love of Christ to another... we've seen the Holy Spirit.

No wonder, then, that Jesus says, "you know him." Because, as it turns out, the Holy Spirit at one time or another has probably looked a lot like you, even a lot like me, and definitely a lot like all of us when we do these things that reflect the face of Christ.

So, what would it be like, if I told you that the Holy Spirit looks a lot like YOU... look in the mirror ... see that reflection ... that is the person Jesus wants to make a difference in the world. the person that reflects what Jesus taught us to be.

Or, what would it be like to take a few moments right now and think about where you have seen this Holy Spirit in the world this week, either

through the good you have been blessed to experience or what you have done for others or heard on the news or in the world that is happening right now. These are all sign a where the work and presence of the Holy Spirit in the world. This song, Spirit of Life:

Spirit of Life, come unto me.

Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion,

Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;

move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.

Roots hold me close; wings set me free:

Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

Has always meant so much to me. It is a prayer to call the Spirit into our lives, it is a chance to come to that quiet time and think about where the Spirit has worked in your life...it is opportunity for you to think when the Spirit has held you close and let your fly on your own accord. Most of all if allows us to call upon Jesus, through the Holy Spirit his advocate to be with of in all times and spaces of our lives.

Today I just want you to reflect in this time of uncertainty and questions that we are not alone that there is a God! And that God is alive and well through the work of Holy Spirit...that God is Alive and well in you... so today keep thinking about how the Holy Spirit is at work in you and through you for all the world.

Now that is pretty cool... that you are a reflection of Jesus alive in this world and doing the work of the Holy Spirit!

Thanks so much for your faithful ministry, because whether you know it or not, the Holy Spirit is not only working through you but also looks a lot like you, right now, as you prepare to bear witness to Jesus. Very, very cool.

***HYMN:** There's Within My Heart a Melody

1. There's within my heart a melody

Jesus whispers sweet and low:

Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,
in all of life's ebb and flow.

Refrain:

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,

sweetest name I know,

fills my every longing,

keeps me singing as I go.

2. All my life was wrecked by sin and strife,
discord filled my heart with pain;
Jesus swept across the broken strings,
stirred the slumbering chords again.

(Refrain)

3. Though sometimes he leads through waters deep,
trials fall across the way,
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,
see his footprints all the way.

(Refrain)

4. Feasting on the riches of his grace,
resting neath his sheltering wing,
always looking on his smiling face,
that is why I shout and sing.

(Refrain)

5. Soon he's coming back to welcome me
far beyond the starry sky;
I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown;
I shall reign with him on high.

(Refrain)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord of love, you have asked us to keep your commandments. In your life you demonstrated the power of love to effect healing, redemption, and hope in the lives of all your people. Yet we are so unsure of the gifts that you have given us for ministry that we wonder if we can really do what you want us to do. We are a strange mixture, Lord. Sometimes, we are arrogant in our demands of your mercy and timid in our awareness of the blessings and gifts you have given to us. That's why we're here today. We really want to sense your presence and receive courage truly to be your people in this world that you have loaned to us. Remind us when we bring names and circumstances before you that we also bring our own needs and concerns. Lay your healing hand upon our hearts and spirits. We place our lives and our trust in you, O Lord. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

SENDING FORTH

Being washed in the love of Christ, now go into this world with the healing love of God to be given generously in peace and hope. God's peace will always be with those who live in God's love. AMEN.

CHORAL AMEN

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Church One-Liners

These sentences appeared in church bulletins or announcements.

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall.
Music will follow.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.