
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

~ God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith ~

In Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus asks questions and offers peace:
Are you tired? Worn out? Burdened?

Come to me.

Get away with me and you'll recover your life.

I'll show you how to take a real rest.

Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.

Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.

Keep company with me
and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.



December 13, 2015 – Advent 3
Worship Leader: Rev. Meg Masterson

**Large Print Bulletins & Hearing Devices
are available: Please ask an usher**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Please Rise in Body and/or Spirit when you see this symbol ()

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Hymn: **I, the Lord of Sea and Sky** VU 509

Call to Worship

One: Advent is a season of waiting.

All: But we do not wait alone.

One: God is with us.

**All: We gather with those who have seen the signs,
heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.**

One: God is birthing Joy into this waiting world.

**All: We gather this morning to worship with hearts
open to Joy.**

Advent Candle Lighting

Jean Hamilton Gathering Drama file ACE2015; used with permission

Candle Lighting Song

MV #59 vs 2

(adaptations for Advent by Alison, Meg & Teresa)

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Introduction to White Gift Sunday

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to the Offering of our Weekly & White Gifts

Offertory Music: **Prepare the Royal Highway** (*arr. Lee Dengler*)

Offering Response: **When Heaven's Bright Mystery**

vs 4 VU 93

**When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.**

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**God of abundance and joy, we thank you for all
your gifts to this world, and to each one of us. We
share as we are able, not only gifts to our family
and friends, but also through our white gifts and
weekly offering we share with those in our area and
around the world, who lack proper food, shelter,
and necessities. May our gifts bring hope and joy to
all who receive them. Amen.**

* Hymn: **Halle, Halle, Halle** x 2

VU 958

Children Go to Classes

RECOGNITION OF BLUE FEELINGS AT CHRISTMAS

Psalm 22:1-2 and Reflection on the Weight of Our Burdens

Reflective Music

Psalm 62: 5-7 and Reflection on God as Our Rock

Anthem **God in the Darkness**

MV 17

Matthew 11:28-30 and Reflection on Letting Go

Invitation to Come to the Table

Reflective Music

Closing Prayer:

All: God of comfort and hope, Christmas can be such a hurried time, a time of unrelenting good cheer and activity, and yet it is also a time when we feel losses even more deeply. Many emotions that are not supposed to be a part of this season seem closer to the surface at this time: pain, grief, loneliness, and loss. We know that you understand all of these complex feelings, that you can share them with us and lead us through them. Be with each one of us. May we feel your presence of love, may you comfort us and let us see the light of new hope. We thank you for this quiet time of reflection, and ask for your healing and blessing upon us. We pray in Jesus' name, who brings us new life. Amen.

*(Sourced from Keltie van Binsbergen, Gathering, Advent 2008, p. 54.
Used with permission.)*

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn: **Like a Rock** x 3 MV 92

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

("Go Now in Peace" Written by Besig & Price ©1988)

Postlude: **Wake, Awake for Night is Flying** (arr. John Carter)

* * *

***Please join us for Gather n' Gab
after today's service!***

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Prayer Cycle for the United Churches in Hamilton Conference:
Freelton and Strabane United Churches, Hamilton Presbytery

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'Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme' was first published in 1599. It appears in German hymnals and in several English hymnals in translations such as "Wake, Awake for Night is Flying" or "Sleepers, Wake" (VU 711). The hymn is the foundation of J. S. Bach's cantata of the same name, as well as being the foundation of settings by many other composers. Phillip Nicolai wrote the hymn in 1598, a time when the plague had hit his hometown. The opening of the hymn calls for us to make ourselves ready for the coming of Christ.

IN OUR CHURCH:

Sanctuary Christmas Flowers: Donation deadline is today.

To remember a loved one by contributing to the Christmas Flower Fund, please fill in your name on the form in the Narthex or on bulletin board by the church office door. Please put your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place it on the collection plate. A tax receipt will be issued. Please contact the church office.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank You! To all our bakers, donors, volunteers, & buyers who supported our fund raiser. The Cookie Walk & Silent Auction on Dec. 5 & 6 raised \$1732.45 to support the Christian Education Committee. We appreciated your support!



Christine, Norma, Ena

Mission & Service Giving In 2014, our gifts totaled \$29,559.65 (\$24,559.65 from congregation; \$5,000 from the UCW).

At October 31, 2015, we have given of October 2015 \$20,259 (from the congregation) toward our goal of \$30000. Our gifts for Mission & Service and from people all across the United Church achieve more that we could alone. Please join us and make giving for Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. Through Mission & Service we share compassion, build community and bring hope. Mission and Service changes peoples' lives.

Your Mission and Outreach Committee – Maureen, Doug and Lynda



½ Price Sale! in the Library Cellar from December 1st to December 25th. All books will be 50¢ each. Get your holiday reading now!

“Uppity” means rebelliously self-assertive not inclined to be tractable or deferential. It meant survival for Ruth and Naomi. Join us beginning **Wednesday, January 6th** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for four weeks as we take a look at two more “uppity” women of the Old Testament - Esther and Judith. Please sign the sheet on the Narthex table if you plan to attend. Thanks!

Book Nook: **Kneeling in Bethlehem**, by Ann Weems. Borrow this book of poetry for 3 weeks. On display. Many other books on display to help you for your advent reading!

Annual Reports: It's that time of year again! Annual Reports are due January 4th. Please Email reports to: mail@sjruc.ca Thank you!

Bulletin information submissions due in writing or email by 12:00 noon on Wednesdays. Keep announcements under 100 words in length. Include contact information, date, time & location of event.



Thanks to our Volunteers this week!

AV Crew	AV Team
Greeters	Betty M. Marion M. & Fran C.
BookNook	Norma M.
Nursery	Margaret S., Sr.
Counters	Candy D., Donna S., Nancy S.
Ushers	Bob & Gail C., Donna S., Freddi M.
Gather 'N Gab	Nancy E.
Lay Reader	Valerie H.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Community Concert & Carol Sing featuring Inshallah with Choir of St. Peters. **TODAY Dec. 13, at 3 p.m.** at St. Peter's Church, 49 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Freewill offering supporting Hospice Waterloo Region.

Christmas Oratorio Spiritus Ensemble performs Bach's Christmas masterpiece parts 1-3, **TODAY Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4:00 p.m.** at St. John's Lutheran Church, 23 Willow St. Waterloo (note the change from our usual location). Soloists Sheila Dietrich, Jennifer Enns Modolo, Steve Surian, Bud Roach and Richard Hryszak will be accompanied by an expanded choir and orchestra, Kenneth Hull conducting. Admission \$30 Adults, \$25 Seniors, \$15 Post-secondary students, \$5 high school and children 12 and under. Tickets available at the door and at Eventbrite.ca.

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

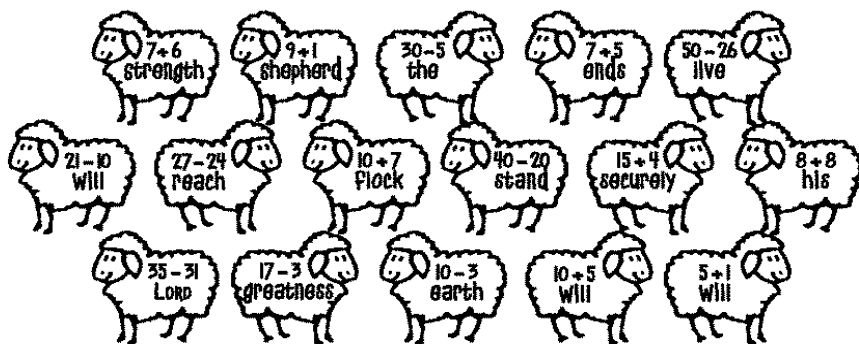
For the young at heart!

PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He 15 and 20 his 10 17

in the 13 of the 4 And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



24th Kitchener Scouting Family
23rd Annual

Christmas Tree Sale

At Canadian Tire Victoria Street North

Starting Sat. Nov 28

M-F 5:30 – 9 Sat 9-9 Sun 11-7



trees.24th.ca

Let us become one of your Christmas Traditions

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:



- ☐ Dec. 17 **Choir Rehearsal** - 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room
- ☐ Dec. 20 **Friendship Lunch** join us for lunch after the service!
- ☐ Dec. 24 **Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Service** 7 p.m.
- ☐ Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Communion Service** 10 p.m.
- ☐ Dec. 27 **Hymn Sing Service** 10:30 a.m.



***Remember to check the website and
bulletin boards
for more information & events!***

SJR Church Staff:

Rev. Meg Masterson, Minister of Worship

revmeg@sjruc.ca Office: 519-742-1002

In the office Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

For Pastoral Care Emergencies call:

The church office

Alison Vicary B. Mus., B.Ed.

Organist & Choir Director

music@sjruc.ca

Monica Mahn, Secretary

Church Office: 519-742-1002 mail@sjruc.ca

Office hours: Tues. - Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



We Share The Air!

SJR is a smoke-free & fragrance-free facility.

