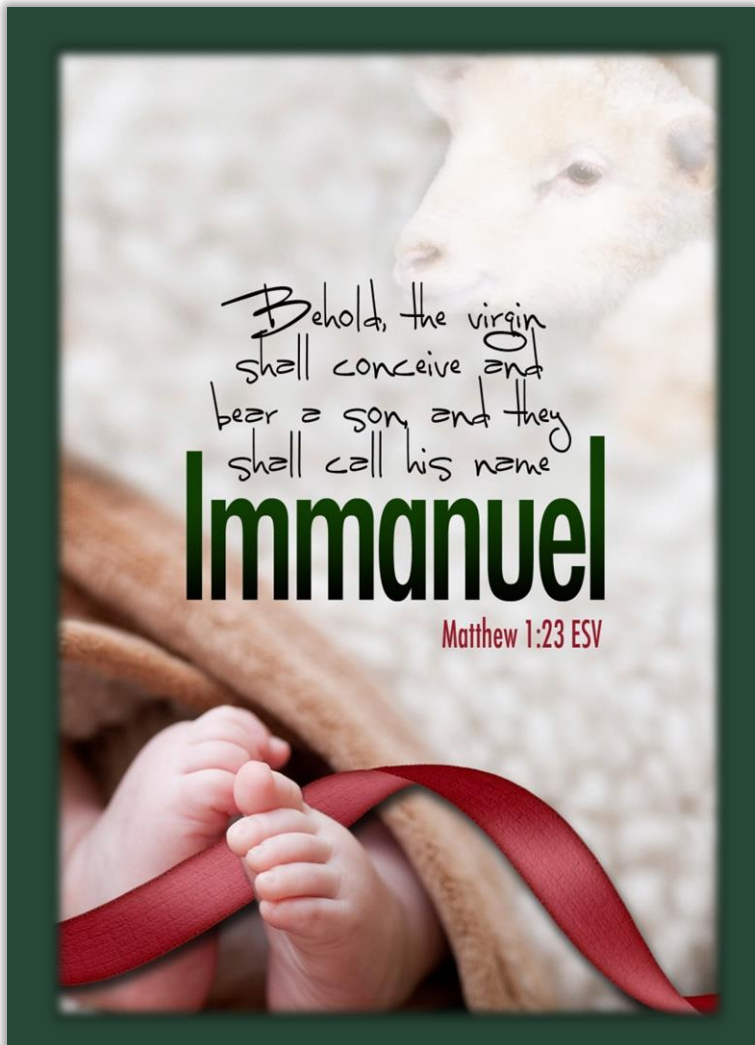

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

~ God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith ~



December 24, 2015 – Christmas Eve 10:00 p.m.
Communion Service
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

Prelude **In Dulci Jubilo** *(Johann Michael Bach)*

* Processional Hymn **O Come, All Ye Faithful** vs 1-3 VU 60

Call to Worship:

Lighting of the Advent Candles and the Christ Candle

One: We're here! It's Christmas Eve! It's time to celebrate!
To begin our celebration we light the circle of candles
in our Advent wreath.

The candle of Hope, of promise....

The candle of Peace, of justice...

The candle of Joy, rejoice!...

The candle of Love, of open hearts...

And now, the moment for which we've been
preparing. We light the Christ candle! This is the
candle at the center of our Advent wreath – the
candle whose flame says, "God is with us." Tonight
we light the Christ candle to proclaim Jesus' birth,
once again, into our lives.

All: Thanks be to God!

Opening Prayer: *(unison)*

**Infant God, newborn, yet of the ages, we gather
now to welcome you, for it is you who give us
hope and strength to carry on, you who live in the
goodness of our souls, you who are deeper in us
than our truest selves. With wonder and
thankfulness, we approach your manger and bow
our heads. We pray in your name...**

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.**

* Hymn **O Little Town of Bethlehem** vs 1,4 VU 64
O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

* Hymn **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** vs 1,2,4 VU 44
It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.
For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel: **Luke 2:1-16 Jesus Is Born!**

Anthem: **Born This Night**

(Mary Lynne Whyte)

Meditation: **“Jesus is Love”**

Prayers of the People

* Hymn **Angels We Have Heard on High** vs 1 & 3 VU 38

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

* Hymn **Away in a Manger**

vs 1-3 VU 69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Offering of our Many Gifts

Offertory Music: **I Wonder as I Wander** *(arr. John Jacob Niles)*
Dave Davidson

Offering Response: **What Can I Give Him?** vs 4 VU 55

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti, Tune: Gustav T. Holst

* Hymn **Joy to the World** vs 1-3 VU 59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:

let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as, the curse is found

Christmas Eve Communion

Breaking of the Bread:

One: May the bread of life give life to each of us.

Pouring of the Wine:

One: May the cup of blessing be the wine of salvation for each of us.

Prayer following Communion:

One: As we share our celebration of Christ's birth, may we remember not just the birth of a baby, but your love made manifest to us. May this bread and wine nourish our bodies and souls and give us courage to be followers of Christ. Amen.

**Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in
heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the
Savior is born.**

**Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord
at thy birth.**

Blessing and Sending Forth

One: As we go from our worship this night:
May the joy of the angels sing in our voices;
May the hope of the shepherds enliven our minds;
May the strong faith of Mary and Joseph strengthen
our spirits; and may the love of the Babe shine in our
hearts. God's blessing be upon you all, this holy night
and forever. Amen.

Postlude: **Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day**

(trad. English arr. Douglas Wagner)

* * *



In Memory of family & friends flowers have been placed in the sanctuary by:

Ena A.	Lynda Barnaby & Joan S.
Janice B.	Teresa & Jim C.
Gordon & Shirley D.	Bill & Dianne D.
Nancy, Collin, & Heather E.	Margaret H.
Terry & Sandra J.	Wally & Joan K.
Bob & Betty M.	Jim & Norma M.
Doug & Alison R.	Jean S.
Elizabeth T.	Janet T.
Corinne W.	Don & Anne W.
Carol & Christopher W.	Ted Y. & Family



Johann Michael Bach was uncle and also father-in-law of Johann Sebastian Bach. He was town organist at Arnstadt castle chapel, an organ builder and town clerk. His most performed work is 'In Dulci Jubilo', for many years attributed to J. S. Bach.

Mary Lynne Whyte (Born This Night) grew up singing in church and school choirs in Listowel, Ont. After graduating from the University of Western Ontario in Voice Performance she sang with the Elmer Iseler Singers, one of Canada's most renowned professional choirs. For several years she participated in the musical community of Guelph as Music Associate at Dublin St. United Church and as a member of the Guelph Chamber Choir. She now resides in British Columbia.

**We're so glad you joined us for this special
Christmas Eve service!**

**If you're visiting with us today, we'd love to see you
here again.**

**We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and we
welcome you to join us.**

Visit our website for upcoming events: www.sjruc.ca

Questions?

**We can be reached by email at mail@sjruc.ca
and by phone at 519-742-1002**





Thanks to our Volunteers

AV Crew
Greeters

AV Team
Doug & Alison R.
Marion M. & Fran C.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:



Dec. 27 **Hymn Sing Service** 10:30 a.m.

Church Office will be closed the week of Jan 28th - Jan 1st



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.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR