
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



March 20, 2020 – Lent 4

Welcome!

Welcome to worship!

We hope it will be a quiet space for you as you prepare to spend time with God amid life's busyness and storms.

We honour each other's desire for peace as we gather.

We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or Spirit as you are able.

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract, traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

Opening Hymn **Healer of Our Every Ill** VU 619

Refrain: *Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.*

- 1 *You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.* Refrain
- 2 *In the pain and joy beholding,
how your grace is still unfolding.
Give us all your vision, God of love.* Refrain
- 3 *Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.* Refrain
- 4 *You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.* Refrain

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 23 by Sally*

One: through light and shadow
I am led, I follow,
through the ins and outs
the ups and downs
of these days,
when my heart is failing,
when my spirit rejoices,
when I can barely put one foot
in front of the other
still you beckon me on...
when I stumble you support me,
when I can go no further
you carry me,
through light and shadow,
in death's dark vale,
and on the mountain peaks
you lead me,
through tangled webs,
on rocky ground,
on smoother paths,
through light and shadow
you lead me,
I follow,
may I never
walk alone...

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Johnny Baker*

**All: God of justice, peace and righteousness
come into our midst this evening
Breathe your breath,
your Spirit of prophecy,
your energy,
your enlivening,
your imagination on us.
Wake us up
Open our eyes
Unplug our ears
That we might hear
That we might see**

That we might grieve
That we might dream
That we might follow the ways of your
extraordinary kingdom
Amen

Silence

Lord's Prayer (sung)

VU 959

All: ***Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Hymn **Won't You Be My Neighbour?** © Fred Rogers
It's a beautiful day in the neighbourhood,
a beautiful day for a neighbour.
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbour?

Story Time

Hymn **Sometimes People are Good** © Fred Rogers

*Youth and Children are invited
to head out to Sunday School!*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (NRSV) John 9:1-41

Anthem **Blest are the Eyes**

Reflection **The Gospel According to Fred:** *Sometimes
People are Good*

Hymn **Open My Eyes**

VU 371

- 1** *Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*
- 2** *Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*
- 3** *Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

*** Offering Response ***

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU 541

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.*

***Dedication of the Offering**

Prayers of the People written by Cameron Wiggins Belim

One: May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
Preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
When their schools close
Remember those that have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money
In the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love during this time when we
Cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
Of God to our neighbor. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **Be Thou My Vision** VU 642

- 1 *Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.*

- 2 *Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*

- 3 *Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.*

4 ***Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

5 ***Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.***

Commissioning

* **Choral Benediction Go Now in Peace**
***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)

*Please remain seated in silence as we conclude
our service with the postlude.*

Postlude