
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



March 29, 2020 – Lent 5

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 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing VU 326

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.**
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.**
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**
- 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!**

**5 *My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.***

Call to Worship *adapted from christianaid.org*

One: Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus
alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our
neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together
more tightly than ever before.

As we worship and pray in our individual homes –
around the nation and around the world – we are
united as one family.

So, let us join together – wherever we are –
and lift up our hearts together.

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by James Taylor*

One: From the bottom of a deep black pit, God,
I scream at you.

**All: The walls rise above my head,
shutting out the sun.**

One: Can you hear me, God?

All: I can't get out by own efforts. I've tried and tried.

One: I climb part way out,
and then I slide back again to the bottom.

All: Without your help, I'm sunk forever.

One: Don't judge me – forgive me!
Free me from my secret faults.

All: Give me another chance!

One: I shall lie down here
in the depths of the pit and wait.

**All: You are my only hope.
I shall wait for your response.
I know I will not be disappointed.**

One: Put your home in the Lord.

You will not be disappointed either.

**All: God can free us from our failures,
and save us from our successes.**

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 **It's a Good Feeling** © 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 11:1-45

Anthem **Just a Closer Walk** (arr. Jack Schrader)

Reflection **The Gospel According to Fred: *It's a Good
Feeling***

Hymn **Now the Green Blade Rises** VU 186

**1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

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 Laura Kelly Fanucci

One: When this is over,
may we never again take for granted:
A handshake with a stranger,
full shelves at the store,
conversations with neighbours,
a crowded theatre...
Friday night out,

the taste of communion,
a routine checkup,
the school rush each morning...
coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring,
each deep breath...
A boring Tuesday,
Life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be...
we were called to be....
we hoped to be and may we stay that way...
better for each other because of the worst. Amen

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **We Shall Go Out** VU 586

***1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.***

***2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.***

Commissioning *adapted from a prayer by Jessica Kantrowitz*

One: Peace to those who did their best today
kept doing the next thing & the next

Peace to those who were so overwhelmed
that they were frozen, in fear or confusion

or just the exhaustion that comes
from holding the unknown, moment by moment.

Peace to all of those
somewhere in between.

*** 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