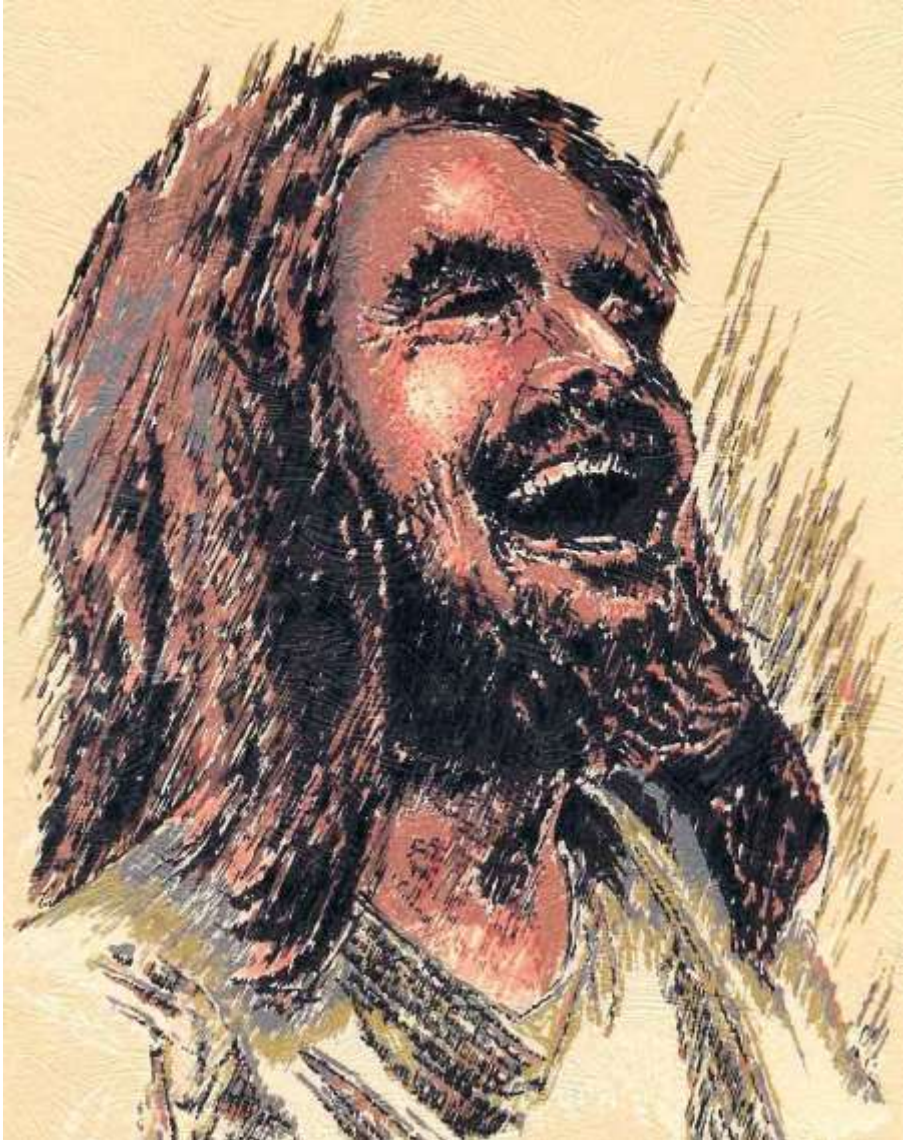

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



April 19, 2020 – First Sunday after Easter

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 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks VU179

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

- 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
firstborn of all creation. Refrain*
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen. Refrain*
- 3 We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live for ever. Refrain*
- 4 Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour. Refrain*

Call to Worship

One: As people of light,

All: we come together.

One: As people of laughter,

All: we come to share joy!

One: As people of the resurrection,

All: we come to worship.

One: As people of the faith,

All: we come together.

One: As people of the good news,

All: we come to share joy!

One: As people of the resurrection,

All: we come to worship.

One: As people of the mystery,

All: we come together.

One: As people to the gospel,

All: we come to share joy!

One: As people of the resurrection,

All: we come to worship.

Opening Prayer

All: Great God of Easter life, fill us with the joy of this season. As our journeys through Lent have drained our hope, may our encounters with the Risen Christ replenish our spirits. May we be lifted from the deep grief of Holy Week into your grace-filled joy and laughter. 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.

Story Time

Hymn All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now*

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now*

*Listen to the top where the little bird sings
On the melodies and the high notes ringing,
And the hoot owl cries over everything
And the blackbird disagrees*

*Singing in the night time, singing in the day,
When little duck quacks, and he's on his way
And the otter hasn't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself*

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing...*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (NRSV) John 20:19-31

Anthem Athiests Don't Got No Songs (Steve Martin)

Reflection Good Medicine

Hymn This is the Day VU 412

*This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.*

*Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,
to your holy place, to your holy place.
Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.
Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.*

*You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.
You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.*

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

One: God of grace, of love and laughter, we thank you for by your great unending love, you inspire in us a spirit of imagination and creativity. Help us to find that spirit to laugh more, to recognize or even create beauty. Remind us to laugh out loud, for doing so will heal some of the wounds within us. Not all, but some.

God, we pray for those who cannot find their laughter today. For those who are grieving, or suffering. Those who are

worried about illness of body, mind or spirit...for those who are lonely, for those who yearn for their community to share in this time of worry and joy together... for those who have not yet moved into this season of Easter, deferring it to a time that we can join together again.

May these and the troubles of all your people be soothed, blessed, and comforted by your holy presence. May we each find the laughter within us that sets our spirits free, and in that freedom, may we take your love into every part of our lives.

The Clown's Prayer

As I stumble through this life,
help me to create more laughter than tears,
dispense more cheer than gloom,
spread more joy than despair.

Never let me become so indifferent,
that I will fail to see the wonders in the eyes of a child,
or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.

Never let me forget that my total effort is to bring joy,
to offer gladness, to help someone forget, momentarily,
all the unpleasantness in their life.

And in my final moment,
may I hear You whisper, O God:
"When you made me people smile,
you made me smile, too." Amen

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* **Closing Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful

VU 232

*Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.*

*All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.*

*You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.*

*Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.*

Commissioning

One: Go to the world with an open heart.

All: We go with God who opens us.

One: Go to the world with a lighter heart.

All: We go with God who shares our burdens.

One: Go to the world with a heart of joy.

All: We go with God who gives us this gift.

*** Choral Benediction Rise Up**

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

Postlude