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# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



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**March 29, 2020 – Lent 6  
Palm Sunday**

## **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      Hosanna, Loud Hosanna      VU 326**

**1      Hosanna, loud hosanna  
the happy children sang;  
through pillared court and temple  
the joyful anthem rang;  
to Jesus, who had blessed them  
close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises,  
the simplest and the best.**

**2      From Olivet they followed  
'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victory palm branch waving,  
and singing clear and loud;  
the Lord of earth and heaven  
rode on in lowly state,  
content that little children  
should on his bidding wait.**

**3      'Hosanna in the highest!'**  
***That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer;  
earth, let your anthems ring.  
O may we ever praise him  
with heart and life and voice,  
and in his humble presence  
eternally rejoice!***

**Call to Worship** *adapted from a prayer by Ann Siddall*

One: Though we have known hardship and pain,  
though life has not always turned out as we had  
hoped, we will faithfully declare:

**All: God's steadfast love endures for ever!**

One: Though life becomes more complex,  
the deepest questions remain unanswered,  
and the mystery of faith deepens, we will say:

**All: God's steadfast love endures for ever!**

One: And though the pain of the world  
often seems more than we can bear or address,  
we will stand firm in our faith and say:

**All: God's steadfast love endures for ever!**

**Opening Prayer**

One: Let us remember Jesus:  
Who, though he was blessed and favoured,  
for our sakes became poor and dwelt among us;

**All: Who was content to be the child of a poor family;**

One: Who lived the common life,  
earning his living with his own hands  
and declining no humble tasks;

**All: Whom the common people heard gladly,  
for he understood their ways.**

One: Let us remember Jesus:  
Who was mighty in deed, healing the sick and  
afflicted, using for others the powers he would not use  
for himself;

**All: Who was Messiah and friend to his disciples,  
teacher, and as one who served.**

One: Let us remember Jesus:  
Who loved people, yet spent time apart to pray,  
rose a great while before day,  
watched through the night,  
stayed in the wilderness,  
went up into a mountain,  
sought out a garden;

**All: Who prayed for his tempted disciple,  
and for the forgiveness of all who rejected him,  
and for the perfecting of those who received him;**

One: Who observed good customs,  
but defied conventions that did not serve the  
purposes of God.  
Who hated sin because he knew the cost of pride and  
selfishness, of cruelty and impurity—the cost to  
humanity and to God.

**All: May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.**

One: Let us remember Jesus:  
Who, when he was reviled, did not retaliate,  
and when he suffered did not strike;  
who emptied himself and followed love  
to the point of death, even death on the cross.

**All: May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.**

One: Let us pray for Christ to dwell within our hearts.

**All: O Christ, our only Savior, so come to dwell in us  
that we may go forth with the light of your hope in  
our eyes, and with your faith and love in our  
hearts. 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**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Minute for Mission**

**Readings from the Scriptures** (NRSV) Matthew 21:1-11  
Read by Anthony DeStefano, *The Donkey No One Could Ride*

**Anthem**        **My Song is Love Unknown**        (arr. Molly Ijames)

**Reflection**    **The Gospel According to Fred: *Won't You  
Be My Neighbour***

**Hymn**                            **Lean On Me**  
***Sometimes in our lives we all have pain  
We all have sorrow  
But if we are wise  
We know that there's always tomorrow  
Lean on me, when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need  
Somebody to lean on***

***Please swallow your pride  
If I have things you need to borrow  
For no one can fill those of your needs  
That you won't let show***

***You just call on me brother, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on***

***I just might have a problem that you'll understand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
Lean on me, when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on  
For it won't be long  
'Til I'm gonna need  
Somebody to lean on***

***You just call on me brother, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
If there is a load you have to bear  
That you can't carry  
I'm right up the road  
I'll share your load  
If you just call me (call me)  
If you need a friend (call me) call me uh huh(call me) if  
you need a friend (call me)  
If you ever need a friend (call me)  
Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me...***

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE**

**Invitation to Offering**

(Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://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:** We pray for those who struggle.

We pray for those who struggle at this time of huge uncertainty; for political leaders faced with unforeseen challenges, uncharted ways, difficult decisions,

**All: Holy One, we will acknowledge wise choices, we will offer words of support.**

One: We pray for those who struggle. We pray for those in situations never before experienced.  
We pray for moms and dads and all caregivers who struggle with having children at home all day.  
It is difficult to find new activities;  
it is hard to stay creative.

**All: Holy One, we will listen carefully to the challenges, we will encourage fresh ways of communication with good friends.**

One: We pray for those who struggle,  
We pray for those whose day is radically different.  
We pray for those who must leave their usual work,  
for those breadwinners who must work at home.

**All: Holy One, we will support the new priorities, we will not intrude into the working hours.**

One: We pray for those who struggle.  
We pray for those who have lost their jobs  
We pray for those whose financial security has gone,  
who have anxiety around paying rent or providing for family needs.

**All: Holy One, we will be there in the testing times, we will assure them of their self-worth.**

One: We pray for those who struggle.  
We pray for those who have been affected by the Covid 19 virus.  
Those who are sick at home and those who have been hospitalized, and those who offer care, in their suffering, and in their fear.

**All: Holy One, we will hear and respond to their distress, we will be a safe but compassionate presence to their loved ones.**

One: We pray in the midst of uncertainty – between the palms of Sunday and the passion of Friday,  
as we live in this uneasy time.

**All: Holy One, journey with us, stay with us, for now and forevermore. Amen**

## **WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS**

\* Closing Hymn

**Stay with Me**

***Stay with me,  
Remain here with me,  
Watch and pray.***

### **Commissioning**

One: May God go before you to lead you,  
even into those moments of distress and worry.  
May God go behind you to encourage you, though the  
path ahead is uncertain and unsure.  
May God dwell beneath your feet, to remind you of  
the holy ground which you stand, that you might walk  
upon paths that generations have traversed before.  
May God dwell beside you to befriend you in this time  
of loneliness and fear. Do not be afraid.  
May God watch over you, until we are blessed to  
meet again.  
And may the blessing of God Creator, Son Redeemer  
and Holy Spirit Sustainer be with you now and forever  
more, do not be afraid – go in peace to love and serve  
the Lord. Amen.

\* 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 in silence as we conclude  
our service with the postlude.*

**Postlude**