
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



May 17, 2020 – Sixth 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

Down in the River to Pray

Opening Hymn

Down to the River to Pray

*As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way
O brother, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O brother, let's go down
Down to the river to pray*

*As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way
O sister, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sister, let's go down
Down to the river to pray*

*As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way
O brother, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O brother, let's go down
Down to the river to pray*

*As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way
O sister, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down,
O sister, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

*As I go down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way
O children, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O children, let's go down
Down to the river to pray*

Call to Worship

One: We worship the God who inhabits our world
and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God,
or only in our churches,
we need only to look around:
within ourselves,
beyond ourselves,
into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
we need only listen to the music of life,
the words of children,
the questions of the curious,
the doubts of the faithful,

the rhythm of a heartbeat.
We worship the God who inhabits our world
and who indwells our lives.

Opening Prayer *a rewrite of Psalm 61*

**All: Hear our cries, God...please...
listen to our prayers!**

One: Scattered, we call out to you,
our spirits are weak, our hearts heavy.

**All: Lead us to that which lifts our heads,
that which allows us to dwell in safety.**

One: Help us to rest. Help us to feel safe.
Enable contentedness even in the midst of confine.
Gather us together even when we're falling apart.

**All: For you, O God, have heard our prayers;
you have watched over us,
we cannot help but sing.**

One: Let this be our song: God has heard our prayers,
and we cannot help but sing of God's love.

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 **Dance with the Spirit**

MV 156

***Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.***

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Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (NRSV) **John 14:15-21**

Anthem **Ubi Caritas Est Vera**

Reflection

Hymn **Come Down, O Love Divine** VU 367

*1 Come down, O love divine,
seek now this soul of mine,
and visit it with your own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.*

*2 O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, my onward path illuming.*

*3 And so the yearning strong
with which the soul will long
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till love creates the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes its dwelling.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory **Our God, He is Alive**

* 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 (Hymn) God Heal our Land
I have felt the heaviness of sorrow
I have heard the cries of hearts that mourn
I have seen a nation weep in sadness
And I long to touch the souls whose hearts are torn**

**I do not know the grief of those around me
I cannot say what others feel inside
I want to reach into their world and them tightly
I long to let them know we're standing by their side**

**God heal our country. God heal our land
Please hear the cries of those that cannot understand.
God heal our country. God heal our land.
We stand apart, but we are walking hand in hand.**

**There is hope for what is yet unseen
There can be peace, even in the pain
There is love beyond what we can fathom
There is One who will help us stand again.**

**God heal our country. God heal our land
Please hear the cries of those that cannot understand.
God heal our country. God heal our land.
We stand apart, but we are walking hand in hand.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Commissioning *written by Rt. Rev. Richard Bott*

One: You may be tired;
you may be frustrated;
you may be stressed, or anxious,
challenged, isolated, or confined;
you may be feeling small or forgotten,
sad, sore, or numb;
you may be one of these things,

or some of them,
all of them or none...

but, hear this -

in the midst of all of that,
you are most definitely one thing more.
You are loved.

You are loved by a Love that is forever,
a Love that will never let you go,
a Love that loves regardless of "worth,"
regardless of "name," or "face," or "standing."

Oh, friend...
no matter what, remember -
you
are
loved.

*** Choral Benediction The Blessing (from Numbers 6)**

**The Lord bless you,
and keep you
Make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face toward you
And give you peace.**

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

Postlude

Amazing Grace