
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



September 27, 2020

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

Prelude

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Joanna Harader*

One: We come to hear the stories
of other people, in another world
long ago.

We come to hear the stories
that are also about us, today, in this place.

God, give us ears to listen, eyes to see,
and hearts to accept, that you have always been
leading your people to new life.

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Rev. Karla*

One: Holy Watering One, Fount of Every Blessing,
we come to you this morning,
opening our parched places to receive
the springs of living water you offer to us.

These last few months have dried up our bones;
we miss the life-giving presence that others bring.
These days we don't know the deep dehydration
that scours our bones and parches our hearts.

Sometimes, when our thirst pangs emerge,

we draw from the enticing wells
of the world's offering of power and profit,
which leave us even more empty.

Still us, God so we might listen to you speaking to us,
knowing us, seeing us, loving us.

Fill us with your Living Water
that will transform our spirits and souls
into springs that burst forth with life and love
for your people, for ourselves, and for our world.

Opening Hymn Come, O Fount of Every Blessing VU 559

- 1 *Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.*
- 2 *Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.*
- 3 *O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.*

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the Lord commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?”

³ But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?”

⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. ⁶ I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the Lord, asking, “Is the Lord really with us or not?”

Reflection Is God Really With Us or Not?

Hymn Be Not Afraid

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

One: Whatever we encounter in this life,
whomever we meet,
may Grace be our guide.

May this grace point out that which we’ve missed,
that which has gone unseen,
those forgotten by the ever-rolling stream of time,

and our crisis-riddled minds and hearts.
May we learn to live into the fullness of grace, mercy,
and love –
and may these gifts flow from us into the world,
as freely as they have been given to us.
And may the God of Love inspire us,
that a lightness of being might lift us all.
In the great worries of the world,
where injustice spirals out of control,
when hope is fleeting and despair commonplace,
may we find the courage to make our lives
and our loves a blessing.
May God's peace be ours, and may the peace enfold
the earth, we pray, in the name of the Creator,
we pray, who prized this creation so dearly
Jesus took upon our atoms, our lifeblood, our lives,
in order that we might love.
United by his life, we pray..

Lord's Prayer

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn **All the Way My Saviour Leads Me** VU 635

*1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

*2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!*

*3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'*

Commissioning

One: May springs of living water
come from places you least expect,
that you come to expect God's presence
in each and every thing.

*** Choral Benediction**

Postlude