
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



November 22, 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 acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract, traditional
territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Praise the Lord the Almighty

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Thom Shuman*

One: We come, for God gathers us here,

with that community called faith:

where the hungry are served first,

where the thirsty drink life's water.

We come, for God welcomes us here into that home
called grace:

where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;

where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost
prodigal.

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and
brothers in that family called love:

where the imprisoned model justice,

where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Cheryl Stenson*

One: Dear God, you have given us life for reasons we
cannot fathom. Jesus is the hint you have given us of
the lessons we are here to learn. Let us learn them.

We live in times we cannot comprehend, much less
condone. Jesus is the guide you have given us to
help love conquer chaos. Let us follow him.

We are often confused and afraid. Jesus transformed defencelessness and vulnerability into power, power beyond the limits of earthly time. He is the guidepost you have given us as we seek a path higher than the one that we can see.

We can learn from Jesus' anger at injustice, and work to right systemic wrongs. We can feed from Jesus' love to cherish and include. We can follow Jesus' path by manifesting love in *action*, not just thought.

We can use our hands and feet and our voices.

We can hold each other up. We can laugh together.

We can cry together.

We can reflect in a real world the real power and love that is you, O God. Just as Jesus did.

Let it be so.

Opening Hymn Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100) VU 820

Colin Watts, soloist

Refrain:

Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

Know that your God has made you.

Know it's to God we belong.

And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.

Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

Enter these gates, thanksgiving.

Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.

Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

Ages through endless ages,

seasons of endless years,

the love of our Maker ever shall endure.

Worship your God with a song! *Refrain*

Words © Linnea Good 1991; Music Linnea Good 1991, arr. David Kai 1994

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (CEV) **Matthew 25:31-46**

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, ^[a] you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Reflection

I just want to be a sheep

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

God calls us: to respond in faith, to be stewards of great resources, to live responsibly and responsively, to share love and grace. Let us present our offering this day including the offerings of hands, hearts, and lives.

Anthem From All the Earth Send Up the Song

Colin Watts and Madison Marino, duet

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, as we continue our journey through this uncertain and often lonely time, we give thanks for your steadfast love. We give thanks that you are always with us.

God of Compassion, we pray this day for those who are hungry; we pray harder for those who will not feed them.

We pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills; we pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.

We pray for those who are homeless; we pray harder for those who deny them shelter.

We pray for the sick and lonely; we pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

We pray for those who cry out for dignity; we pray harder for those who will not listen.

We pray for those oppressed by unjust wages; we pray harder for those who exploit them.

We pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice; we pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

We pray for those whose basic needs are denied. We pray harder for officials who seem to cater to the wealthy, ignoring those who are imprisoned in an unjust system.

God of life and love, help us to see you in the face of our neighbor, discovering the joy and glory of your kingdom in caring for others

Adapted from prayer written by Rebecca Sutton

Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.
For ever and ever. Amen.*

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn

I Am the Light of the World

VU 87

Colin Watts and Madison Marino

Refrain:

I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home.

The work of Christmas is begun! *Refrain*

To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! *Refrain*

To free the prisoner from all chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To call a man your brother everywhere *Refrain*

To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! *Refrain*

Commissioning

One: As we leave our time together this morning,
I invite you to notice!
Notice the sky that brightens,
the earth that provides,
the air that invigorates,
the flowers that praise,
the smiles that warm,
the people who love.
Notice the rivers that flow,
the snow that blankets,
the rhythm of seasons.
Take in the beauty of creation with every breath.
Notice, and discover in the noticing,
our call to care for God's gift of creation.

Adapted from prayer by Bob Root

*** 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)

Postlude

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Announcements

Edna Rhoda - Edna is turning 100 on November 23rd! But SHHHH...we have a surprise for her. Join us for a **drive-by birthday celebration for Edna Rhoda on Sunday, November 22nd**. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:45pm and drive around the block past Edna's house on Chelsea at two. Her son Bob will have her standing in the front window as we drive by. Please consider decorating your car or having signage to wish Edna a happy birthday! We would also like to encourage everyone to send Edna a birthday card. It would be great if she could have 100 cards for her 100th birthday. This is to be a surprise so please don't say anything to her....just come and help celebrate!

Advent Candles - We have purchased taper candles (3 purple, 1 pink, 1 white) for people to light Advent candles as we journey towards Christmas. If you're interested in a set of candles - please sign up here or email/call the office! <https://forms.gle/si6VzD12TDHgJaRL7> (It will also ask if you're interested in filming yourself/your family with a cellphone or tablet reading the Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy that we can use in Sunday worship)

Scout Christmas trees are now on sale at Home Hardware on Victoria Street, Kitchener. New this year – pay by cash, debit or credit! We expect sales to be brisk, possibly (hopefully) resulting in an early sellout. Don't be disappointed – come early to get your real tree and support your 24th Kitchener Scouting Family. COVID safety measures are in place at the tree lot. Questions? Email trees@24th.ca

November 28th – *We had previously invited you to* Join us at 2pm at SJR as we put up the outdoor Christmas tree, indicating that moving to the 'red' COVID category would force us to cancel and make alternate plans. **As you know, our region is now in Red, so unfortunately, this event is cancelled.** Watch for details on the alternative arrangements.

November 29th – Advent 1 – Our Hanging of the Greens Service is now virtual! Some of you already have your Christmas trees up, and between now and the next two weeks might be decorating your home in anticipation of Advent and Christmas. We'd love to include you in our Hanging of the Greens service. All you need is a cellphone or tablet to record yourself/your family decorating your homes, and if you're interested we'd love if you'd read a passage highlighting one of the symbols in your house (ie: Christmas tree, wreaths, poinsettias, etc). If you're interested in reading, please send a note to Rev. Chris, and when you're finished your videos you can email them either to Chris or the office.

oneRoof - We continue our collection in support of oneRoof today until November 26. They are in need of money or gift cards to grocery stores, toothbrushes (no toothpaste), underwear, socks, bottled water, pump soap refills (not bar soap), dixie cups/those little paper cups like McDonalds uses for ketchup dispensing. Thank you for your continued support of those in our community.

Turkey Trot - THE SEQUEL: We will have a drive-through take-out dinner in the parking lot at SJR on Saturday, December 12. If you missed out the first time, or if you want a second helping, now's your chance! The menu is once again a complete turkey dinner, with mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade dressing, homemade cranberries, vegetables in season & raspberry macaroon butter tart. The meals will be (cold) packed into containers and ready for you to pick up at the time you choose. The cost of the meal is \$20 for an adult meal. We are limiting the number of pre- orders so please get your order in early. ***Order online or call*** Muriel at 519 - 893 - 8124 or Ellen at 519 - 745 - 3098 by Friday, December 4th. For payment options and arrangements, contact Muriel or Ellen.

Breakfast with Santa - We will be planning a ZOOM Breakfast and Visit with Santa. Sign up and details will be available soon!