
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



December 20th, 2020 – Advent 4
Love and Memory Sunday

Welcome!

Welcome to worship! We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

** Please remain seated for all of service.**

*We would like to acknowledge that we are on the
Haldimand Tract, traditional territory of the Neutral,
Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Opening Carol

O Ancient Love

VU17

**1 O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:
Refrain O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

**2 O homeless love, that dwells
among the stranger;
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within a manger: Refrain**

**3 O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: Refrain**

**4 O suffering love, that bears
our human weakness;
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:
Refrain**

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by John Birch*

One: In the lonely places
the wilderness
where we stand forlorn
windswept and alone
your voice calls out

All: Prepare a way for the Lord

One: In the dark places
the shadows
in the comfort of the stillness
where we hide our fears
embrace our tears
your voice calls out

All: Prepare a way for the Lord

One: In the holy places
where one life touches another
where something stirs in us
may love heal us
so that even when we feel alone or afraid,
the love of God calls out

All: Prepare a way for the Lord

Lighting our Advent Wreath – Love

One: The Advent wreath is a sign that we await the light of Christ in our lives. Over the last year, people around the world have struggled with the pandemic and understand just how dim the light can be in times like these. In lighting this candle candles, we thank God for giving us: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

The Christ child born in a manger is the image of God's love for all humanity. Throughout his life, Jesus expressed this love through his words and actions, even through his death. In his resurrection,

he bound us to his love, for the love of one another. We feel this connection in our communities, even in pandemic times. We take this moment to think of those who are sad and anxious as they contemplate the future. May that love give them the courage to move forward!

Light two purple candles – Hope and Peace

Light one pink candle – Joy

Light the last purple candle – Love

Candle Lighting Hymn – Hope is a Star VU 7

***1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.***

***Ref: When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.***

***2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.*** Refrain

***3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.***
Refrain

***4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.***
Refrain

Opening Prayer

1 *A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.*

*While angels sing blessings
from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.*

2 *A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

3 *A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder,
and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

4 *A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.*

5 *We honour Messiah with
Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles
glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us,
the Christian's true light.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (NRSV) Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Reflection When Love is Gone...

Song Love Came Down at Christmas

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

Remembering those we Love at Christmas

Epitaph by *Merrit Malloy*

When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old men that wait to die.

And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.

Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live on in your eyes
And not your mind.

You can love me most

By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go
Of children
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away.

Alan Justason

Beloved husband of Mary Lou.

Allan worked for Bell Canada for 34 years. One of his lifelong hobbies was photography and after retirement he also took an interest in woodworking.

Janet Thiessen

Member of Church/UCW?

In our church – for women a part of the congregation, the UCW donates books in memory of the women of the congregation...*Messy Spirituality - God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People* by Michael Yaconelli

Gary Morton

Brother to Mearle Morton

David Bowen

Brother to Judy Mair

Matthew Arnott

Son of Albert Arnott

Dora Bingeman

Mother of John Bingeman - warm, creative, a fun-loving lady who enjoyed time and travel with family, and summers at the cottage. She was one of the last of her class of nurses trained at K-W Hospital and participated actively in building Bingeman's.

Grace Scott

Mom to Lorie, Lois and Brian. Grace taught Sunday school and was a "Life Member" of United Church Women. She loved music and was a devoted member of the choir. The place she gave the most was in her home. She said her greatest success in life was as a mom raising 3 children and worked tirelessly taking care of her family. Despite her arthritis, she still enjoyed quilting, scrapbooking, knitting, sewing and needle work. She loved to garden, especially flowers. *From My Heart to Yours – Life Lessons on Faith, Family and Friendship by Robin McGraw*

Elizabeth Templin

Loving mother of John, Martha, Sarah, Jane ... She graduated in 1951 as a Registered Nurse trained at Toronto General Hospital. Elizabeth tirelessly devoted her time to numerous community organizations. She was a charter member of the Board of Governors of C.C.A.C., as well as a member of Probus and ILC. She loved playing bridge, golf, doing needlework, traveling, and

entertaining. *Room at my table – Preparing Heart and Home for Christian Hospitality* by Evelyn Bence

Diana Whaley

Wife of Dr. John Whaley... was filled boundless love and generosity of spirit. Her smile brightened people's lives, even those she didn't know... "Her smile could light up a room". Diana trained as a nurse at the Catherine Booth School of Nursing in Montreal specializing in maternity care. Her love and support of her four children was both tender and powerful. She was active in the community including delivering Meals on Wheels for many years. *The Art of the Spirit – Contemporary Canadian Fabric Art* by Helen Bradfield, Joan Pringle and Judy Ridout

Shirley Double

Gord died just last year... Shirley and Gord enjoyed square dancing with the Beaux and Belles Square Dance Club for over 40 years. They also enjoyed attending concerts and theatre productions. Gord and Shirley were Charter Members of St. James'-Rosemount United and Shirley also was a member of the UCW for many years. Shirley also volunteered in the gift shop at the Freeport Hospital. *The Stone Carvers – Three Generations of a family* followed by Jane Urquhart

John - Tom Bullas' roommate

Anne Hitchman

Anne leaves behind her children Louise, Gordon, Stephen, and Celia. After an early career as a

medical laboratory technician Anne returned to the lab to work along side her husband at the University of Toronto. She was an excellent seamstress and a prolific knitter. Anne was a very involved community member and sang in church choirs throughout her life and was a member of the United Church Women at churches in Toronto and Kitchener. Anne was involved in amateur theatre groups in both Deep River and in Toronto. In retirement Anne continued with her community support. She volunteered in the palliative care area of the Grand River hospital then moved into the cancer center when it opened. *Knit One, Purl a Prayer – A Spirituality of Knitting – by Peggy Rosenthal*

Tillie Murphy

Children - Lauren, Cheryl, Jocelyn and Richard – her love Harvey ... She was Harvey's lifelong partner in the ministry, taking an active role in their church communities in Empress, Prince Albert, Owen Sound, Niagara Falls, and in their retirement in churches in Kitchener and Cambridge. Tillie was loved by all for her caring nature, utmost kindness, sense of humour, tireless energy and absolutely wonderful baking. She loved to sing, garden, sit waterside, laugh with her family and just enjoy her grandchildren. *More Everyday Parables – Simple Stories for Spiritual Reflection – by James Taylor*

Mary Johnston

We hold in our prayers Richard and her cherished children: Kristen, Rebecca and Pamela. Caring wife and mom – but it didn't stop there – volunteer at at AR Goudie, Sunnyside – loved crafts – especially

quilting – loved baking (baking tons of cookies for our annual cookie walk, known for her “hedgehogs” and she tried to sneak coconut almost any type of baking. *St. James’~Rosemount United Church Women Cookbook (1962-2012)*

Dave Bird

Husband of Joan, dad to Gord, Alison, Christine... He lived here, where he filled the roles of trustee and property chair for decades – he knew every corner of this place. In his work life he apprenticed at Sutherland-Schultz Limited, Kitchener as an electrician, and worked for several companies over his lifetime. He was an active member and Conductor of the Preston Model Railway Club where he indulged his passions for design and restoration often making something out of nothing; an electrician by trade and an inventor by nature. “Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.”

Ken Somers

Husband to Ina... worked for LTL/JET Transport for most of his life, then Golden Hawk before retiring. He spent quite a few years during his retirement doing odd jobs for many, which he enjoyed and did well. He loved his annual fishing trips. He had the ability to hold a conversation with anyone and everyone whether he knew them for a long time or he had just met them. He was always very friendly and welcoming and accepted people as they are. He loved to save a buck and was proud of it, but was also very generous and giving.

Harold Steeb

Brother to Richard - Harold was a Charter President of the Kinsmen Club of Bay Ridges in 1967, a Centennial project of Bay Ridges. He was very generous and always enjoyed helping others and serving his community in many different ways.

Roy Knight

Love of Evelyn Shantz – and his daughters – Roy trained in the army, and his hard work ensured that after the war he was able to find work as a mechanical engineer and later as a stainless steel expert, especially with breweries and wineries and the fabrication of their large tanks. He was the only one, not only in Canada, but also in Europe, who could fix a tank that had caved in. In his mid-80's, when asked if he was going to train someone else to do this tricky work, he said, "No, if I do, they won't hire me."

George Cockburn

George will be remembered most for his easy nature, his love and support of his family, a willingness to help whenever a need arose, and ability to solve problems. Quiet presence in church...But the way he was known was if you ever visited the Cookie Walk – some of George's Scottish Thistle shortbread...

Beatrice Tait

Mom of Jim Tait... As a young lady she was a talented athlete. Bea loved to play softball and was a pitcher, winning championships! Softball brought

her to Kitchener where she met husband. After raising their family, she started working at the Odeon Theatre, later the Hyland Theatre and several other Cineplex theatres as manager until her retirement at nearly 80 years! Nothing gave her more pleasure and joy than being surrounded by her family. She had a great love of animals including her many grand-dogs and grand-cats as well as travelling and exploring the world. Beatrice will forever be remembered for her love, grace and gentle spirit.

Jim Mosgrove

Husband to Norma, well loved by family Charlene, Stephanie and Jennifer - Jim owned and operated Kitchener Scale Ltd., for many years. He had an unwavering belief in his family and a drive to see them succeed. Jim was an avid sports enthusiast and a member of the original Goliaths football team at East York Collegiate Institute, Toronto. Volunteer hours were spent at The Canadian Hearing Services; YMCA, Lucy's Memorial Garden, and Chair of Trustees of St. James'- Rosemount United Church. Jim was very social. The cottage in Georgian Bluffs (Warton area) provided Jim with peace of mind, work projects and time spent relaxing with family and friends. He always had a story to share or an offer of a helping hand if it were needed. He cherished his family, his friends and his helpful neighbours. He was a creative photographer who captured the goodness of life all around him.

Adolph Prachar

Husband to Shirley father to Brian and Nancy...Ed

was a Chartered Management Accountant and worked at Uniroyal for 36 years. After retirement, he volunteered as treasurer at Marmo Travel. Ed loved creation – the gardens that he meticulously cared for – the animals and pets that filled his days.

Marg Ellis

Children - Peter, Kathy, Alvan - Marg was a dedicated Kindergarten and Special Education teacher for 30 years with the Waterloo District School Board. She was an accomplished pianist for many school assemblies, choirs and performances. In her retired years, her love of music continued with her final performance at Laurelwood Retirement Home this November 2020 at their Remembrance Day Service, which was appreciated by friends and residents. Marg and Ed's passion for travel, culminated in them founding the Ontario Trillium Winnebago Association which still operates and celebrate their founders today.

Resurrecting Easter – how the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision – John Dominic Crossan and Sarah Sexton Crossan...

Irv Gendel

Irv is the longtime partner of Velma Cornwell – and Irv would often volunteer to help at our Lunch Sundays – helping in the kitchen, and supporting what he called an important ministry to the community. While he was Jewish – sat through service – and was wonderfully supportive of our yearly Seder Supper– as it highlighted the story of the Exodus out of Egypt – the sharing of our Jewish and Christian stories.

We remember friends of Doug and Alison Riddell from their church in Stirling – remembering Janet and Fiona – the light of their lives shine on.

I asked for prayers for those facing difficult times as well – the worries of both the present and the future hanging before us, and so we light this candle for Clare. We light this candle for Debbie. We light this candle for all those that have gone unnamed – missed – forgotten not because of malice – may this light unite us in love.

God,
this is the season for miracles
and we pray for one today.
Where there is sorrow,
we pray for your grace to light the darkness.

Where is despair,
we pray for your hope to light the darkness.

Where there is hatred,
we pray for your forgiveness to light the darkness.

Where there is war,
we pray for your love to light the darkness.

Where there is confusion,
we pray for your peace to light the darkness.

Where there is injustice,
we pray for your courage to light the darkness.

Where there is fear
we pray for your joy to light the darkness.

We light these candles because across our traditions – be they the celebrations of Hanukkah,

Diwali, Christmas, the Solstice – as even the heavens reflect this with Jupiter and Saturn overlaying in the sky to form what some have called the Star of Bethlehem - across the rich diversity of beliefs – the interplay between light and darkness have given meaning to our lives. In darkness and in light, in loss and in love, may the love that we've received be given away, in order to bring light to the lives of others, that we may know that we are not alone.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Carol Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Let your heart be light

Next year all our troubles will be out of sight

Have yourself a merry little Christmas

Make the yuletide gay

Next year all our troubles will be miles away

Once again as in olden days

Happy golden days of yore

Faithful friends who were near to us

Will be dear to us once more

Someday soon we all will be together

If the fates allow

*Until then, we'll have to muddle through
somehow*

So have yourself a merry little Christmas now

Commissioning *written by Madeleine L'Engle*

One: He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and
doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Postlude

Announcements

Christmas Eve – We are planning for a few options for you for Christmas Eve. In addition to the online services, we are planning an in-person, outdoor Christmas Eve service on the Labyrinth. Come dressed for the weather as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Sign up will be through the website, or by email, or by calling the office. Space will be limited, however, we will continue to add services until all those wishing to gather have found space. As we pray for snow and starlight for that evening, we are also aware that our plans may be cancelled if we go into lockdown. **We are awaiting Monday's decision to decide and release the sign up.** Please continue to watch the website, or check your email for the latest details about this service.

December 27th – Zoom Carol Sing – Bring your requests and your singing voices as we continue the celebration of this season!

Special Gifts Allocations: The Special Gifts Committee invites applications for a share of any interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2021. Please ensure that your application is in writing, is supported by the appropriate church committee, and that you indicate that you will spend any allocation by the end of 2021. Please send your application to Valerie Hoag at mail@sjruc.ca or mail it to her at the church, by the deadline.

Turkey Trot - The UCW would like to thank everyone who ordered dinners for our 2nd Turkey Trot. You helped us reach our 2020 Goal for the M&S Fund of the UCC!!! And we have a bit left over to begin 2021. A big THANK YOU to all those who packed dinners and all those who helped distribute them in our parking lot. A very busy day for all!

December 31st – Please have your year end donations in before December 31st as we want to ensure that your donations are counted for 2020! Thank you for your continued generosity and support.