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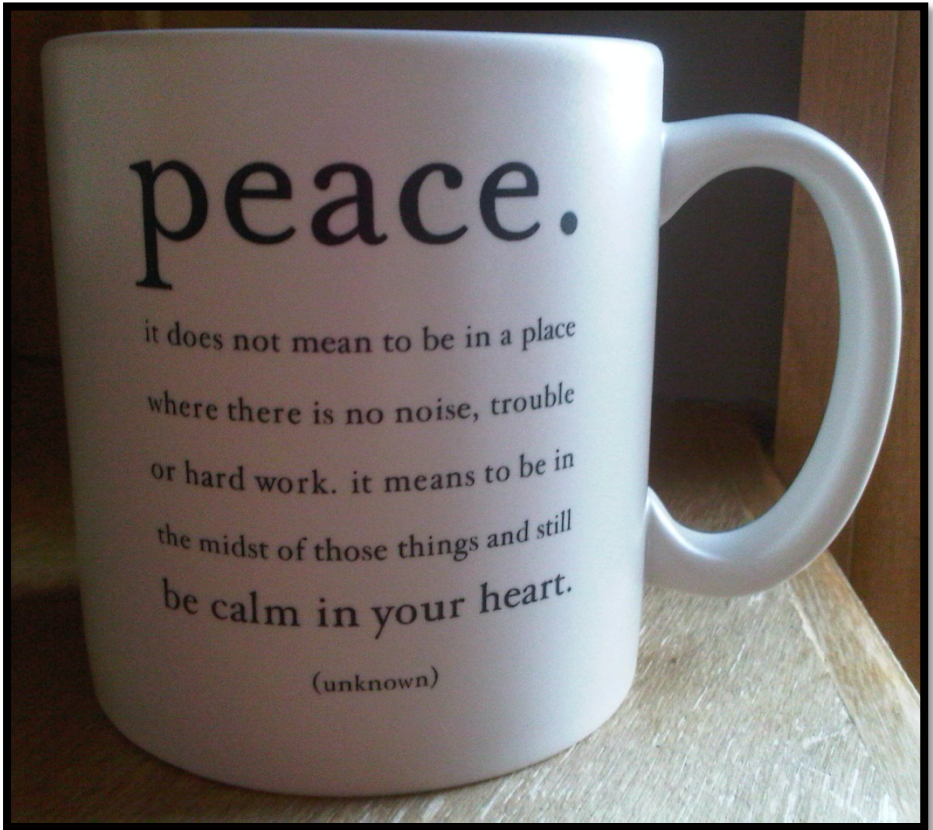
# St. James'~Rosemount United Church

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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**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Advent 2 – Peace  
White Gift and Communion**

## **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 Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

**Opening Carol Come, Thou Long Expected**

**VU2**

**1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free:  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**3 Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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

One: We come to prepare the way;

**All: the way for Christ –**

One: the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

**All: to enter our world, to enter our hearts.**

One: We cry out together in the wilderness:

**All: The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

One: We come to be part of the light–

**All: the light that draws others to new life.**

### **Lighting our Advent Wreath – Peace**

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 and Peace.

The resurrected Christ offers us peace. In times of trouble, we can count on that peace deep within our hearts and we can share it with all those around us. We take this moment to think of those who are working hard to battle the pandemic. May they feel your deepest peace!

### **Light two purple candles – Hope and Peace**

**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**

**Opening Prayer** *adapted from a prayer by Loren Richmond*

One: God is with us in our suffering,  
loving us, walking with us, comforting us,  
bringing us peace.

I do not believe God is the cause or author of  
our suffering, I do not believe God “allows”  
bad things to happen.

I can't imagine why God would “allow”  
us to suffer.

I believe in a God who is always  
working for good,  
a God who is somehow able  
to take horrible, rotten things  
and create something out of the rubble.

God came into the world  
amidst violence, oppression, and despair  
and was able to bring life from that darkness,  
and I believe that God is with each one of us  
in our challenges and suffering,  
comforting us and consoling us  
and trying to bring good  
out of that which was so bad.

And that is what I think makes God, God.  
And that is what gives me hope...and peace.

**Story Time**

**Anthem      God, Help us to Treasure**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Minute for Mission - oneRoof**

## **Readings from Scripture from the Messiah (KJV)**

Recit and Air (Numbers 2 and 3 – Comfort Ye/Every Valley)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

**Reflection**            Peace is not the absence...

**Song**                    Peace Child                    *Indigo Girls*

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

### **Invitation to Offering**

(Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca))

**Offertory**                    **O Joy of God**                    *VU407*

*Sung to 491 – O Perfect Love*

**1 O joy of God, we seek you in the morning  
and long to see the glory of your face:  
rise on our darkness  
with your sun's new dawning.**

***Flood all our being in this feast of grace.***

**2 O life of God, for you our spirits hunger;  
unless we feed on you we surely die:  
with love and faith renewed  
and hope grown younger,**

***send us from here to serve you, God most high.***

**3 O peace of God, you pass our understanding;  
safe through each moment keep us every day:  
with joy divine and mercy never ending,  
direct our path and prosper all our way.**

### **Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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

**Hymn**                    In the Darkness Shines                    *VU92*

**1 In the darkness shines the splendour  
of the Word who took our flesh,  
welcoming, in love's surrender,  
death's dark shadow at his crèche.  
Bearing every human story,**

***Word made flesh reveals his glory.  
2 Light of nations, veiled in history,  
born of woman's flesh and blood,  
calling to the depths of mystery  
restless hearts that seek the good.  
Healing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.***

***3 Broken bread, sustaining us in sorrow,  
wine poured out to toast our joy;  
exodus and new tomorrow,  
life's full promise to enjoy!  
Gladdening every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.***

***4 All God's people, sing in jubilation  
of the birth that sets us free,  
telling of the revelation:  
Jesus, God's epiphany.  
Celebrate the human story!  
Word made flesh reveals our glory.***

**Commissioning** *written by Wendell Berry*

One: When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life  
    and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water,  
    and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars

waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

May you find peace amongst the wild things of  
this world, and may rest and grace bless you.

## Postlude

### Announcements

**Marg Ellis** – It is with sadness that we share the news of Marg Ellis' death this week. Please keep Marg's family in your prayers. Details about the visitation and service can be found at [www.henrywalsler.com](http://www.henrywalsler.com)

**Ornaments** – if you didn't get a chance to put your loved ones name on the tree – please send a note to Rev. Chris.

**White Gift** – Thank you to all those who donated in support of oneRoof over the last month. We'll be having a special White Gift drop off **TODAY**, Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> at SJR from 2-3pm.

**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>

**UCW Christmas Service** – Our service will be posted on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Turkey Trot - THE SEQUEL: SOLD OUT!** Thank you to all those who made our second dinner a success! Pickup is Sat. December 12 at SJR!

**Breakfast with Santa** - We will be planning a ZOOM Breakfast and Visit with Santa on December 12 at 9am for those who Signed up.

**Lessons and Carols service** – December 13<sup>th</sup> – Join us for a special celebration of hymns and carols and special guests as we explore the power of music!

**Love and Memory Sunday** – December 20<sup>th</sup> – as we remember those who have died this past year, if you have special prayers you would like included, please send a note to Rev. Chris. When praying for others, please check with them first to ensure we're allowed to use their name.

**Christmas Eve** – While online services will be available, we are still waiting to see if the Waterloo Region will be in lockdown before announcing in-person Christmas Eve services. If we are allowed we are planning brief,



outdoor services to welcome the light and share in the good news of the Christmas story. Please continue to watch the website and your email for news!