
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



January 3, 2021 – Epiphany
Worship Leader: Teresa Carse, LLWL

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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(First United Church Bell Choir; arr. K. King Martin)

* Opening Carol

Joy to the World

vs 1, 2, 4 VU 79

Call to Worship

adapted from prayers by Richard Bott

One: In the year gone by, in the year to come,
and right at this moment, you are with us, Holy God!

All: We come to give you thanks.

One: For your leading and loving,
for your teaching and caring,
for your changing love at work in all of us,

All: we come to give you thanks.

One: In your love, you hold all of creation.
In your hope, you give new life.
In your peace, you begin again!

All: We come to give you thanks.

One: So, for the year gone by,
for the year to come,
and for this moment right now,

**All: in hope, peace, joy, and love
we proclaim Alleluia! Thank You, Holy God!**

Opening Prayer

adapted from prayers by Beth Johnston

One: God of the Ages, you called the magi to travel from far
away to find Jesus. In the same way, you call us to
journey into the unknown. We know that you go with
us even if the steps we take are new and sometimes
uncertain and unfamiliar.

Assure us, in this time of worship, that you are always with us. Grant us the courage to open our lives to all of the opportunities that lie ahead.

God of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, as we enter this new year, this new decade, we place ourselves into your keeping, dedicating our lives to your service. In thanksgiving, we continue praying together the words given to us by your son, Jesus:

Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

Carol **Away in a Manger**

VU 69

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Other Wise Man

The Other Wise Man: By the Waters of Babylon

The Other Wise Man: For the Sake of a Little Child

The Other Wise Man: A Pearl of Great Price

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND LOVE

Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offering Carol **We Three Kings**

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **The First Nowell**

VU 91

* Commissioning

One: As we prepare to journey into a new week,
a new year, a new decade, we go remembering that
God is there before us;
God is here beside us;
God is the path we follow, the light that guides us, and
the love that sustains us.
Thanks be to God.

* 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