
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



January 10, 2021 – Defiant Love

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

Call to Worship

One: With stars still in our eyes, the reality of the
world wakes us: suffering and injustice,
political unrest and pandemics...
the mystery of Christmas
seems like a far off thought.
But the work of Christmas is just begun –
as we follow the Christlight into the dark
corners of our lives, and so in this time,
may we welcome the light, so let us worship!

Opening Hymn I am the Light of the World VU87

'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.***

***1 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***

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

**3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! Refrain**

**4 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 colours of the earth! Refrain**

Opening Prayer *written by Glenn Mitchell*

One: O Star-flinging God, whose light dances
across eternity, dazzle us into your presence
this new year. Open our hearts to the mystery
of your love.

Awaken us to your presence, knit to the
ordinary. Reveal to us what is possible, but
not yet present. Heal us, that we might be
healers.

Reconcile us to you and to ourselves,
that our living might be full of reconciliation.

Rest on us, often, we pray
with news that is good, with hope that holds
with truth that transforms with a Word
tailored to this trail we're on.

May the word of your grace guide our steps
like the sun by day, and the north star by night
as we travel into the gift of this new year. Amen

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (CEB) Mark 1:1-13

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, ² happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:

Look, I am sending my messenger before you.

He will prepare your way,

³ *a voice shouting in the wilderness:*

"Prepare the way for the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴ John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. ⁵ Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. ⁶ John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹ About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. ¹¹ And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

¹² At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

Anthem Loving Spirit

Reflection Defiant Love

Hymn When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized VU 100

***1 When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.***

***2 The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.***

***3 He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.***

***4 O Spirit help us be like Christ:
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.***

***5 We praise you, God, source of all life,
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;
your triune presence fills our world.***

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

One: God who shows no partiality,
show your favoritism on all your people.

Send forth your justice for all to see.

Save us your people.

Empower us to preach and testify to your great love
and mercy.

God who makes and keeps covenant with your
people,

You called us to be a light to the nations,

to open the eyes that are blind,

to set the prisoners free,

Help us to answer your call that these things come
to pass.

When this work seems daunting,

when we'd rather turn tail and run,

when the act of caring seems to much,

may we hear your proclamation: be love...

God of grace and glory,

We pray for those who suffer from pain and sorrow.

We pray for those whose hearts are broken.

We pray for those whose families are fractured.

We pray for those whose lives are ravaged by war.

We pray for those who struggle with poverty, and
starvation.

We pray for right relationships with all people,

those we understand and those we don't,

those we know as beloved

and those we look down our noses at.

Help us to listen and love with deep respect,

and share all that we have with one another.

For you look on each of us,
And cause each of us to hear:

You are my child.

You are beloved.

With you I am well pleased. **Amen**

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

Forever and ever. **Amen**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Hymn I Have Called You By Your Name MV161

I have called you by your name, you are mine;

I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you;

all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen;

you are mine.

***I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.***

***Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.***

***I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.***

***Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.***

***I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.***

***With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.***

Commissioning

*** Choral Benediction**

*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

Announcements

Unified Board Meeting this Tuesday, January 12 at 7pm on Zoom. Watch your emails for the link!

Faith Study We continue with our Faith Study on Wednesday night at 7pm with "You are Never Alone" by Max Lucado. We'll be joining together over Zoom, but instead of publishing the Zoom link, please contact revchris@sjruc.ca to be added to the email list.

Executive and Unified Board - The Executive and the Unified Board have been meeting regularly over the past few months in spite of the lockdown. At this time we are looking for new Board members to replace those who have served their terms. There is a need, especially during this time of COVID-19, for a strong Unified Board to continue the work of the church. And we need many hands to accomplish this goal. Please prayerfully consider how YOU can help to keep our church vital and relevant. If you think you could serve on a committee or as a committee chair please contact Rev. Chris, Lynda Perkes chair@sjruc.ca or any member of the Board. We would be very happy to have you! And, as a bonus, you would get to keep in touch with others in our church family at the same time! Thanks for considering how you can help.

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.