
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



January 31, 2021

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 Litany *adapted from a prayer by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel*

One: Brothers and sisters in Christ,
what hopes do you bring to worship?

All: We bring hope for health and wholeness.

One: What afflictions do you bring to worship?
Physical pain?

All: From illness and injury.

One: Emotional pain?

All: From sad and scary life situations.

One: Mental pain?

All: From dis-ease of many kinds.

One: With all of these afflictions,
it's a miracle that any of us have made it to
worship this morning!

All: But where else would we be?

**We yearn to know God's powerful love
and to know that wholeness is possible.**

One: In today's gospel, a person with an "*afflicting spirit*" * interrupts Jesus

All: and Jesus frees him.

One: And where does the miracle of his story and our stories begin?

**All: When we bring all of who we are
—hopeful, afflicted, bold—
into relationship with the Divine.**

One: So come, let us enter this sanctuary, this place, with our whole selves

**All: knowing God invites our whole selves in
—hopeful, afflicted and bold—**

One: Thankfully, let us worship!

Opening Hymn When Morning Gilds the Skies VU339

**1 *When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!***

**2 *To God, the Word on high,
the hosts of angels cry:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:
may Jesus Christ be praised!***

**3 *Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!***

**4 Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song,
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Story Time

Hymn

O Radiant Christ

VU084

**1 O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.**

**2 Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,
too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.**

**3 Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.**

**4 O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (CEB) Mark 1:21-28

21 Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the

synagogue and started teaching. 22 The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. 23 Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, 24 “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”

25 “Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” 26 The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

27 Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” 28 Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

Anthem

Reflection **Live...as if everything were a miracle**

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

One: God,

we thank you for this extraordinary world
and its reminders of resilience, grace, hope and life:
signs of love even in spite of the pandemic,
for when grass shoots break through concrete
when the sun emerges even in the winter,
for when people offer laughter in deep sadness
In these moments we see glimpses of who you are
– and we are grateful.

Yet if we reduce you to being like the cycle of nature

or the best of humankind, we diminish your power to make the impossible real:
to break apart the impenetrable evils of oppression, as we remember the liberation of Auschwitz 75 years ago this week, or the mosque shooting in Quebec city 3 years ago,
to cast out the very real fears that paralyse us, as we continue to worry about not only this pandemic but the toll it is taking upon us,
to banish the insidious demons of judgement and worthlessness

Forgive us God when we do not trust you to deal with the unspeakable awfulness in our lives and world.

In the silence we name the parts of our lives and our world that we believe are too broken to ever be made whole

Speak silence and peace into our hearts,
All: Make us new again

One: Forgive us when contribute to the brokenness of the world and the lives of people around us, when we choose things that make us comfortable but bring suffering to others.

In the silence we name the things we have done that separate us from you and from others

Speak silence and peace into our hearts,
All: Make us new again

One: Forgive us when we trust darkness more than we trust your light.

In the silence we name the things we think we need to keep hidden.

Speak silence and peace into our hearts,

All: Make us new again

One: Scripture says that those who are in Christ are a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, the new has come!

For in the newness of this moment, we pray with words ages old, using these words or words more familiar to us, saying,

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 **Though Ancient Walls** VU 691

**1 *Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!***

Refrain ***Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!***

***Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!***

**2 *When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.*** Refrain

**3 The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new. Refrain**

**4 The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name! Refrain**

**5 This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery! Refrain**

Commissioning

One: Send us forth with Good News,
Christ of our unity.
When we are apart, hold us together.
When we are hurting, bring us healing.
When we are suffering, bring us new life.
For in this broken world, seeking health and
unity, Christ is our liberty. Go into this world
to live and love fully!

*** 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

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.

Annual Meeting The unified board met we have decided (with United Church approval) that our annual meeting will be deferred til further notice. More information and Annual Reports will follow in the coming months!

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.