
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



February 21st – Lent 1 – Love Builds Up
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

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.

Prayers in this service are adapted from prayers by Sarah Are |
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: God meets us in the night—

**All: Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.**

One: God meets us in the light—

**All: Where joy is effervescent,
Where laughter is contagious,
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
And where people gather around the table.**

One: God meets us at the threshold—

**All: At the edge of the water,
At the beginning of the wilderness,
At the start of something new,
On the edge of faith.**

One: And if God meets us in all those places,
Then surely God meets us in between—

All: Staying with us through the wilderness.

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.

Call to Confession

Again and again, God meets us where we are. God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and

easy for us to forget. Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone. And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

One: God who meets us where we are—
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."**

One: We know that you are with us too—
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—
But so often we act like we are alone.

**All: Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
We hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

One: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you
While living like you are nowhere to be found?

**All: Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you
are there.**

One: You are the God who meets us where we are.

**All: Before and behind, above and below, within and
around. Amen.**

Silence

One: If you hear nothing else today, hear this:
God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God
meets you at the edge of every new beginning,
And God calls you beloved.

**All: We are washed by the water.
We are called beloved.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Hymn

Come, My Way, My Truth

VU628

**1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.**

**2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.**

**3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.**

Story Time Hair Love

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (CEB) Mark 1:9-15

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. ¹⁴ After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, ¹⁵ saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!" ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept it to themselves, wondering, "What's this 'rising from the dead'?"

Anthem Wade in the Water

Reflection Love Builds Up – Self Confidence

Hymn Spirit, Open My Heart MV79

Refrain ***Spirit open my heart,
to the joy and pain of living.***

***As you love, may I love; in receiving and in giving.
Spirit open my heart.***

**1. God replace my stony heart,
with a heart kind and tender.
All my coldness and pain
to your grace, I now surrender.** Refrain

**2. Write your love upon my heart,
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
May my living bring you glory.** Refrain

**3. May I weep with those who weep;
share my joy with sisters, brothers.
In the Name of Christ,
May we welcome one another.** Refrain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory **Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

One: Holy God, if I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands. No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through—like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart. This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more. In the challenge of this moment, meet us in our hope and our heartache. meet us in our fear and our joy, meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists. And even if the water keeps running, And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity, Or a tangible sense that you are near; Even if we do not hear the words, "This is my beloved," ringing in our ears, we will trust that you are near, always and forever meeting us here, running toward our hearts.

For in heartbreak and high hopes,
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,
In joy and in suffering,
In loneliness and in connection,

In sanctuaries and in living rooms,
In marches and in waiting rooms.
We believe that nothing we do or leave undone
Can distance us from God's love.
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.
For we hold close to us those who are dear,
praying for Lois Chambers in her journey towards
health, praying for Maureen Dennie and Troy and
Nico as they move out east, praying for Nelson Grigg
and family, for all needs shared and unshared
Again and again, God meets us where we are
And invites us into wholeness.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Thankful for this ever-present love, we pray

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 was there to hear your borning cry** VU644

**1 I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

**2 I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.**

**3 When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.**

4 *If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.*

5 *In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.*

6 *When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.*

7 *I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.*

Commissioning

One: As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm— Again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen.

*** Choral Benediction** ("Go Now in Peace" Written by Besig & Price 1988)

*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.*

Postlude

Announcements

Faith Study On Wednesday we'll be continuing our Lenten Faith Study entitled *Final Words from the Cross* with Adam Hamilton. We'll be joining together over Zoom, please contact revchris@sjruc.ca to be added to the email list.

Lent – Our theme for Lent is 'Love Builds up.' A special booklet is available on our website!

2021 World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 5th - The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (www.wicc.org) invites you to join with churches around the world in a liturgy prepared by the Churches of Vanuatu, with the theme, "Build on a Firm Foundation." There are three ways that you can participate.

You can watch the video on Rogers Cable channel 20 on Friday, March 5th at either 8:30 AM or 5 PM.

Or you can join a Zoom viewing session, followed by a discussion and prayer session hosted by one of the following churches (please contact to receive the zoom link). Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church – 9 AM (please contact office@stirlingmennonite.ca) or St Matthews Lutheran Church – 11 AM (info@stmattskw.com) or St John the Evangelist Anglican Church – 1 PM (acw@stjohn316.com) or St Andrew's Presbyterian Church – 7 PM (office@standrewskw.com)

Or you can go directly to www.wicc.org and view the video any time after February 15th! Donation information can be found on the website. Thank you for joining us!

Irish Stew Drive Thru – Join us on March 13 as we again support the Mission and Service Fund with a hearty meal! Signup and more details available on our website.



**The building is closed but church isn't!
Visit sjruc.ca for online services and information.**
