
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



February 28th – Lent 2 – 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: Today in worship, we will be reminded that again and again, we are called to listen. This is part of our invitation as people of faith—to not only speak, pray, and sing, but to listen. And I will be the first to say, listening is hard. From our toddler years on up, we struggle to listen, particularly when we don't know what we're listening for or we don't agree with what we're hearing. So for just a moment, as we gather ourselves for worship, I want to invite you to join me in a kinesthetic call to worship by embodying our prayer as I prompt you. Let us listen, let us pray:

Family of faith, I invite you to close your eyes.

Rest your feet on the floor beneath you.

Release any tension you are holding—

In your jaw, your neck, your shoulders, your hands,
your legs, your feet.

Take a deep breath in and slowly let it out.

The Hebrew word for breath (*ruach*) is the same word for Spirit.

So as you breathe, imagine that it is God who is filling up your lungs with energy and love. Trust that God is as close as your very breath.

Now I invite you to still your mind.

Imagine your mind as a river.
Thoughts will drift into view; they always do.
However, instead of holding onto those thoughts,
allow yourself to let them float by. And listen.
Listen deep. Listen far. Listen wide.
Listen.
The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine.
This is a holy space.
Let us worship God.

Call to Confession

Often the first step to change is listening. We have to listen to those we've hurt. We have to listen to creation as she cries. We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed, if we ever hope to make things right. So today as we begin our prayer of confession, we will start with a moment of silence—a moment to listen. And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us, and that God's ears listen with love. So let us confess, silently and then together...
Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

One: Listening God,

**All: Take what is closed in us and open it.
Take what is distracted in us and settle it.
Take what is hurting in us and hold it.
Take any and all parts of us that create distance
from you. For we are like Peter, O God.
We argue what we don't know.
We fear what we cannot see. And we almost
always speak sooner than we listen.
So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.
We long to hear you more clearly.
We long to know you more fully.
With hope we pray, and with gratitude we confess.
Amen.**

Silence

One: Siblings in Christ, we confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us.

No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand. So rest in this good news:

**All: God invites us in. God meets us where we are.
God hears our prayers. God forgives us.**

One: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Hymn

Deep in our Hearts

MV154

***Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.***

***Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony..***

***Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.***

***Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.***

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (CEB) Mark 8:31–38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their

cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Anthem **Lord, I want to be a Christian**

Reflection **Love Builds Up – Transfiguration**

Music **Whitney Phipps – Black Keys/Amazing Grace**

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: Creator God, we cannot hear the trees growing—nor the seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun. And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many. We cannot hear the weight of people’s grief, a burden that so often is silent. And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can. You hear it all. So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts, asking that you would lend us your ears. Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live as you lived. We are listening.

All: We believe.

One: Sometimes our belief is confident,
Like a child on a dance floor—
Unashamed and wildly genuine.

Sometimes our belief is distant,
Flickering and calling out to us
Like a lighthouse on the sea.

All: We believe.

One: Sometimes our belief shows up as passion, guiding the way we vote, shop, give, live, trust, and hope.

Sometimes our belief is like a shadow—
Faith stitched to our heels, unmoveable, unloseable,
A gift for winding journeys.

All: We believe.

One: Sometimes our belief exists like growing pains.

We step forward. We fall back.
But again and again,
Jesus invites us to listen,
To grow, and to take another step.

All: So again and again, we speak these truths out loud: we believe.

One: We believe, and live into this belief as we pray 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

Hope of the World

VU615

Sung to 491 – O Perfect Love

- 1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.***
- 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end its bitter strife.***

3 *Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light;
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.*

4 *Hope of the world, who by your cross has saved us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
we render back the love your mercy gave us;
take now our lives, with them your kingdom build.*

5 *Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign has conquered grief and pain,
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious.
You are our Lord! You shall forever reign.*

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



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

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! This is created by saltproject.org

Waterloo Regional Food Bank It is obvious during this difficult time, with unemployment rates very high, the Waterloo Regional Food Bank is experiencing larger than usual groups of people suffering food shortages within their families, and in need of help. Therefore, SJRUC will be holding its first "food drive" in 2021 for the Waterloo Regional Food Bank beginning Sunday, February 28th and ending Thursday, March 25th. Since the doors of SJRUC remain closed at this time, it is hoped during this 3½ week food drive members of our congregation will save up as many food items as possible each week, and deliver their collection to the church parking lot on **March 25th, between 6:00 PM and 7:30PM**, to completely fill the back of a parked pickup truck for delivery the next day. Also, during this 3½ week food drive, it is hoped many members of our congregation will decide to deliver financial donations in support of the Waterloo Regional Food Bank to our church. When doing so, make sure you clearly identify yourself, and the destination of your donation.

Kenyan Students Deadlines for making a contribution - for students entering NYATI; MARCH 3, 2021.

2021 World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 5th - The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (www.wicc.org) invites you to join in three ways. 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 – please contact the churches below: Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church 9am office@stirlingmennonite.ca or St Matthews Lutheran Church 11 AM info@stmattskw.com or St John the Evangelist Anglican Church 1pm acw@stjohn316.com St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 7pm 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.