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# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



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**March 14<sup>th</sup> – Lent 4 – Love Builds Up**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

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# 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 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: Before we were born,

**All: Before we took our first breath,**

One: Before the week started,

**All: Before the year started,**

One: Before we said, "I love you,"

**All: Before we said, "I'm sorry,"**

One: Before we figured out who we really are,

**All: Before we figured out who we want to be,**

One: Before it all—

**All: God loved us.**

One: Unconditionally and freely,

**All: Fully and honestly—**

One: God loved us. God loves us. Again and again, this is  
where our story begins. Let us worship God!

### Call to Confession

We watch Kid President's Letter to a Person on their first day  
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5-EwrhsMzY>  
Some important reminders: You were made from love, to be  
loved, to spread love.

### Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

One: Friends, as Kid President said, we were made from  
love, to be loved, to spread love. That's just another

way of saying God loved first. Our story starts with love. So join me in the prayer of confession as we strive to commit this truth to our hearts. Let us pray. .

**All: God of love, we forget the purpose of the story—  
that love is all there is.**

**We forget that out of that love you created us.**

**We forget that from the very first day,  
you loved first.**

**We forget, because a love like that  
doesn't make sense to us.**

**Forgive our low self-esteem.**

**Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.**

**Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could  
be made good.**

**And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—  
from one person to the next,  
from one generation to generation.**

**Write a new beginning for us that roots our  
confidence in your unrelenting love.**

**With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.**

*Silence*

One: No matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell ourselves— God is love, and God is loving us.

**All: Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven,  
and cared for. In the name of the Lover, the  
Beloved, and Love itself—thanks be to God. Amen**

Hymn                      The Lord is My Shepherd                      VU747

**1 *The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me,  
the quiet waters by.***

**2 *My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
even for his own name's sake.***

**3 *Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill;***

***for thou art with me; and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.***

***4 My table thou has furnished  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.***

***5 Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.***

## **Story Time**

**Hymn**      **Our God, Creation's Loving Source**      VU490

***1 Our God, Creation's loving source,  
in love, for love has placed us here  
that God's own image, which we bear,  
through human loving may shine clear.***

***2 As God is One in Trinity,  
our being - body, mind, and soul -  
is meant for unity and peace,  
a sound and joyful living whole.***

***3 Desire and tenderness and joy  
are holy gifts, and ours to share  
in love that's giving, faithful, kind,  
and grows in mutual love and care.***

***4 Within Christ's body may we find  
our best and truest selves revealed,  
called forth, supported by its love  
to live at peace, made whole and healed.***

***5 Praise God, all living souls on earth  
with strings and trumpets, dance, and song!  
God's all-surrounding love will be  
both home and way our whole life long!***

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Minute for Mission**

## **Readings from Scripture (NRSV) John 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**Anthem                      God So Loved the World**

**Reflection                 Love Builds Up – Gratitude**

**Music                        One Love**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND LOVE**

**Invitation to Offering      (Donate online at sjruc.ca)**

**Offertory                    Psalm 23 – Sung by Bobby McFerrin**

**Prayers of the People** *written by the Rt.Rev. Richard Bott*

Holy One, it's been a year.

A \*year\* since the pandemic hit this part of the world,  
and we realized that - for the safety of each other  
and all of our neighbours -  
we needed to be a congregation  
that wouldn't congregate. Well, not in-person, at least.  
We've found other ways:

Old technologies like paper mail,  
and new technologies like Zoom,  
drive thru Irish stews, and youtube Sunday School,  
we've found ways of being together, with each other

It's not the same - and there are parts of it that we're missing one another, being face to face, to share worship and meetings, lunches and hugs, but...we've found ways to live the ministry you have given us, to be Jesus's disciples, to share your love, with each other and with the whole world.

We remember those who have died from the virus.

We remember those who are ill.

We remember the healthcare workers, the researchers, the grocery clerks, the delivery drivers - all who must work for the care of the world in their own way.

We remember all those who are grieving.

All those who are afraid. All those who wait.

And we pray.

So, on this anniversary, we ask that you would help us to recognize each other and to \*know\* that, in all of this, you have been, are, and always will be with every part of your creation.

Give us strength to keep on.

Give us grace in our frustrations.

Give us hope for tomorrow.

Give us life, and life abundant, that we might be people who live it in the world.

Physically distanced, but socially together;

faces masked, but hearts open;

hands washed, but ready to get to the work you have for us - we pray.

In Jesus' name, carried by the wings of the Holy Spirit enmeshed in the Creator's love, we pray, 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

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

VU333

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**3 Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

### 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

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**The building is closed but church isn't!  
Visit [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca) for online services and information.**

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## Announcements

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**Faith Study** On Wednesday we'll be continuing our Lenten Faith Study entitled *Final Words from the Cross* with Ada Hamilton. Please contact [revchris@sjruc.ca](mailto: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](http://saltproject.org)

**Waterloo Regional Food Bank** Mark your calendar – just a couple of weeks before we'll collect food and donations in the church parking lot on **March 25<sup>th</sup>, between 6:00 PM and 7:30PM.** 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.

**Irish Stew Drive Thru** – Thank you to all those who supported our Irish Stew Drive thru, the UCW, and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada!

**Special Gifts** – The Special Gifts Committee reminds everyone that applications for a share of any interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund are due March 31, 2021.

**Holy Week** – If you are interested in helping out with Holy Week Services please contact Rev. Chris, and for more info about how SJR will share in Holy Week together, please check out our website!



**The Easter Bunny is coming to SJR!** We are planning an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3. Advance sign up will be required. Watch our website ([sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca)) for details & signup.