
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



March 7th – Lent 3 – Love Builds Up – Communion
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: Again and again,

All: We come to this space.

One: Again and again,

All: We gather as a community.

One: Again and again,

All: We move closer to God's love.

One: And again and again,

All: God is here.

One: We are met and heard.

All: We are supported and strengthened.

One: We are shown the way.

All: So again and again, let us worship holy God.

Call to Confession

Science tells us that a person makes about 35,000 choices in a day. 35,000 choices each and every day! In the prayer of confession, we pause to take a moment to think and to ask: How many of our decisions are choices God would have us make? How many are not? So let us pray together, knowing that we need guidance, and trusting that even if we fail, even when we fail, God is showing us the way.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

One: God of Justice, we are guilty of building tables.

**All: We have built tables that oppression dines on,
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

One: God of Justice, we are guilty of forgetting where we are,

**All: Of turning faith into a negotiation tool
And the church into a place for insiders.**

One: God of Justice, we are guilty of ignoring the point;

**All: For you taught that the temple was for worship
And your message was for all.**

One: God of our hearts,

All: Be in our decision making.

One: Draw near to our choices.

All: Forgive our mistakes.

One: And as you do,

**All: Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that
needs adjusting.**

One: With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

Silence

One: The good news is that God took on flesh and walked
this earth to show us the way.

God took on flesh so that we could see what it looks
like to disrupt and overturn systems of corruption.

God took on flesh to teach us another way.

God took on flesh to show us how love is enacted in
our world.

God took on flesh to point us to restoration.

God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven.

Friends, we are held, loved, and forgiven by a just
and merciful God.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Hymn

As the Deer Pants

VU866

**1 As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.**

Refrain **You alone are my strength, my shield
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.**

**2 I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy;
you alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye. Refrain**

**3 You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything! Refrain**

Story Time

Hymn

Love is the Touch

MV89

Sung to 642 – Be Thou My Vision

***Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

***Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

***Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road;
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

***Love is the Maker, and Spirit, and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the pathway the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.***

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (CEB) John 2:13-22

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of

the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Anthem Ubi Caritas

Reflection Love Builds Up—Complaining and Standing Up

Music We are One in the Spirit

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Lord's Prayer

One: Creator God, we don't just want to listen,
We want to hear you. We want to know you're near.
We want to taste your goodness. So turn our hearts
toward you, just as you turned strangers into disciples.
Turn our ears toward you, just as you
turned tables in the temple. Turn our hearts to you,
that we may learn the way of life you offer.
We are listening.
We've heard the story - now let us hear our place in it.
For we believe in a God who knows holy rage—
a God who stands with the underdog,
who passionately protects the suffering,
and who overturns systems of corruption.
We believe in a God who does not reside in temples –

for God travels in the temple that is you;
you are the body of Christ.

We believe in a God who leads by example—
Feeding the hungry, welcoming the children,
offering water to the Samaritan,
eating with the tax collector, healing the sick,
preaching from the mountaintop, a living love,
offering second chances.

We believe in a God who knew
that we would lose our way,
And still said, “This is my body broken for you.”
We believe in a God who knew that we would struggle
to put our money where our mouths are,
And still said, “This is my love poured out for you.”

We believe in a God who knew our ability for mistakes
And still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.”
In Christ, we give thanks for the mystery of our faith
saying, Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Because of this unending love, we believe that God
shows us the way, leading us to this table,
leading us to this moment, preparing us for the future.
Again and again, we declare, thanks be to God.

One: For in this act of communion, and in our prayers,
we are made one, using these words or words more
familiar to us as 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**

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

VU686

Sung to 651 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.**

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. We'll collect in 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.

Irish Stew Drive Thru – Thank you to all those who signed up for the drive thru! Remember to pick up your meal in the church parking lot on March 13 between 4 and 5!