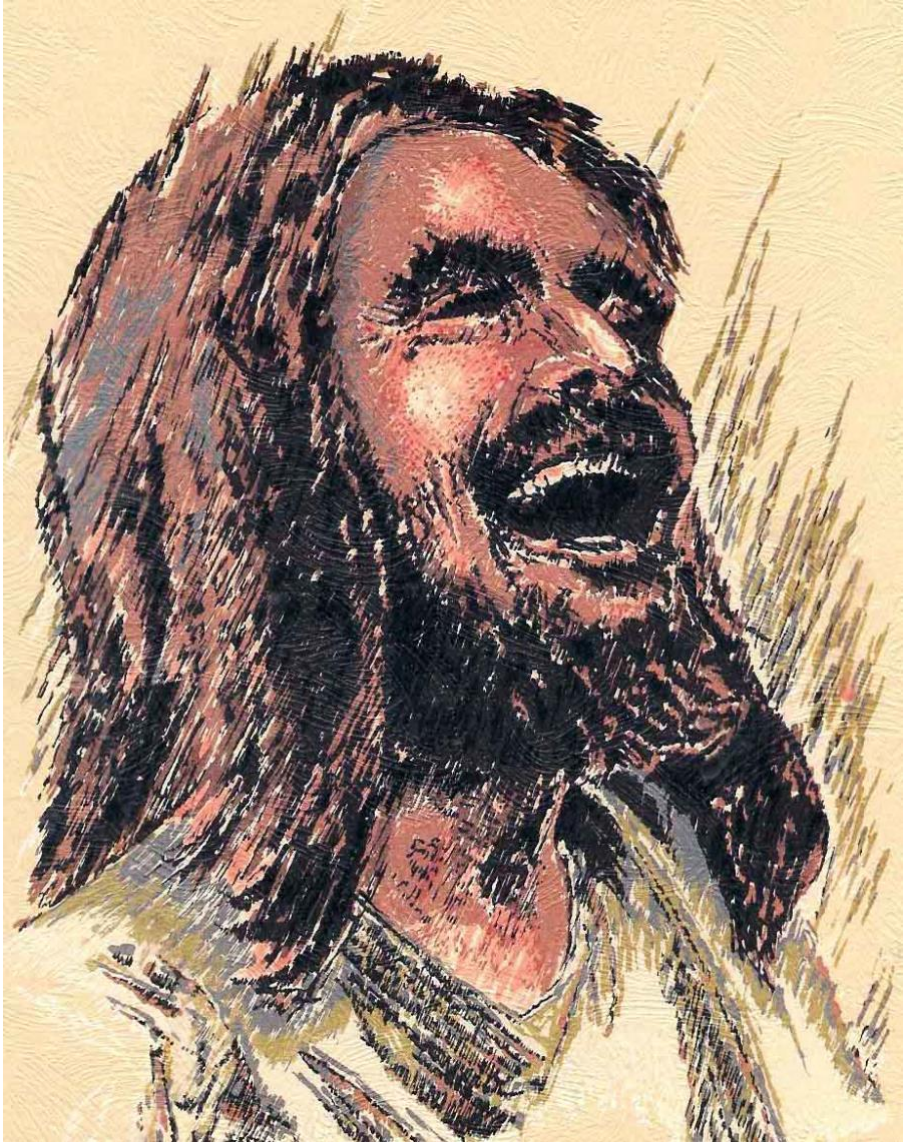

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



April 11, 2021 – Holy Humour Sunday

Welcome to worship!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or bbnbb
able.

*We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and
Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude Psalm 150 by Georgia Choir Boys

Opening Hymn Sing a Happy Hallelujah VU 224

Call to Worship

One: Joy is loose and free-flowing,
in the wiggles of the children,
the whispers of the youth,
the smiles of the adults.
We give thanks for this glorious day.
Let the praise and joy break forth
in the most unlikely places and in silly ways.
Joy and praise fill our hearts and our songs.
Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's children.

Opening Prayer

One: Great and wonderous laughing God,
we come into your presence with joy and longing to
be surprised.
We thank you that you have given to us the gift of
laughter and delight.
These gifts give hints of the nature of your purpose for
us and for all the earth.
May we find that in giving up to laughter there is
healing, hope, abundance and blessing.
On this glorious day that you have given to us, tickle
our hearts and our souls with the brush of your Spirit
to renew our worship and our living.

Let us lift our hearts and voices in song, singing together the prayer that Jesus taught us ...

Lord's Prayer (sung)

VU 959

All: *Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

Leave it to Doug

Story Time The Wonky Donkey

Disciplining a Fur Baby

Hymn All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now*

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher,
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now*

*Listen to the top where the little bird sings
On the melodies and the high notes ringing,
And the hoot owl cries over everything
And the blackbird disagrees*

*Singing in the night time, singing in the day,
When little duck quacks, and he's on his way
And the otter hasn't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself*

*All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing...*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Reading from the Scriptures Psalm 150

Anthem Hallelujah Chorus (Silent Monks)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

*** Offering Response ***

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU 541

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

Quarantine Life (Matthew West)

Prayers of the People

Loving God, giver of our joy and laughter, thank you for giving us these precious gifts.

Thank You for the moments of laughter and unbridled joy that you give to us:

for the opportunities to laugh at ourselves,
for the belly laughs of babies and children,
for friends and family who love us because of our quirks,
and not just in spite of them,
for artists who give us the opportunity to see the world
through the surreal,
for the courage to smile even when difficulties arise,
for those who have hope even when others think there is
no hope,
for saints in the Lord who overflow with laughter and
spread your joy to all of us.

Thank You for the words of Jesus that defy our logical minds;

for teaching us that we can be born again,
for the woman who finds a lost coin and calls her

friends and neighbors to celebrate,
for the absurdity of a camel
trying to fit through the eye of a needle,
for the father of the Prodigal Son who doesn't care how he
looks as he runs to greet his long-lost son,
for the generosity of the landowner who will pay workers a
whole day's wage when they only worked one hour,
for tiny bits of faith that can move entire mountains,
for the reality that nothing can live unless it first dies.

Thank You for the great reversal of the Gospel:
that the last shall be made first,
that those who wish to become great must serve,
that the lost will be found,
that the small will become great,
that though you are Wisdom, you choose to forget our sins,
that when we are weak, your strength shines through us.

Lord, giver of joy and laughter,
we thank you for giving us these gifts.

Thank you for the gift you give us that allows us to enjoy
these things to the fullest. We can laugh because of the
most amazing thing of all –
you conquered death;
the tomb is empty;
the light shone so bright that it overcame the darkness.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Amen.

~ adaptation of prayer written by April Fiet

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* **Closing Hymn** I Danced in the Morning VU 352

Commissioning Not Everything is Locked Down!

* **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

Upcoming Services

April 18 – Earth Day service

April 25 – 67th Anniversary of SJR with Rev. Randy Banks

SJR Reads: Yes, we are still reading and meeting safely by Zoom! Our next book to be discussed is “*The Lorax*”, a Dr. Seuss favourite. To join us, please contact Teresa Carse (filling in for Charmian as she takes time to heal).

Available now to order: “*Needlepoint Artisans*”, a book featuring the needlepoint work in our sanctuary. Photographs of the needlework by Jim Mosgrove; information collected by Norma Mosgrove; book design by Rev. Chris Fickling. Cost \$20. To order your copy, contact Norma.

Faith Study: *Taste and See!* Did you know that God is a foodie? Join us on April 14th, as we stimulate our taste buds while diving into delicious scriptures. We meet on Zoom – and please contact Rev. Chris to be added to the list.

Kenya Committee - We sponsor students at Nyasanda Community High School as well as Nyasanda Technical Institute in Kenya. Several students are also benefiting from partial sponsorship. Become part of this mission! There's still time to help change a child's life. All donations are due by the end of April. Make cheques payable to St. James'~ Rosemount United Church Ugunja Fund as that way we can ensure you receive a tax receipt. For info contact: Les Houston

Sharing the Smiles: As many of you know, we planned to have an outdoor **Easter Egg Hunt** at SJR on April 3. It would be a free event, but pre-registration was required. All COVID protocol measures would be in place, ensuring that no 2 families (in different bubbles) would come within 6 feet of one another at any given time; the shopping was done; activities & games were planned; hiding spots were earmarked23 families with a total of 41 children signed up (sold out!); less than a quarter of the families were SJR members or connected – Amazing!

And then the stay at home order went into affect. We had no choice but to cancel the event.

We were beyond disappointed. But, we quickly made the best of a bad situation. If the families couldn't come to SJR for the Easter Egg Hunt, SJR would take the hunt to the families. So, kits were quickly packed to provide each family with all of the egg hunt and game/activity items needed to do the event in the safety of their own home. Safe porch drop-off deliveries were made. Families were thrilled. Our only ask was for some pictures because we, the volunteers, would be missing out on the fun. Some of the pictures have been included as the visual in today's Prayers of the People.

Here is some of the feedback from our Easter Egg Hunt families:

I can't thank you enough for so well thought out Easter goodies. My kids had a blast doing the hunt.

Thank you again so very much.

Kindness makes our world a better place.

Thank you so much. The girls had so much fun. They wanted to do it again the next day!

Thank you so much to the SJR Easter Bunnies who must have put in hours of work to make the Egg Hunt at home happen.