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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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**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Earth Day**  
**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.*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

**Call to Worship** *The Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue  
of America*

One: Light and Darkness, night and day.

**All: We marvel at the mystery of the stars.**

One: Moon and sky, sand and sea.

**All: We marvel at the mystery of the sun.**

One: Twilight, high noon, dusk and dawn.

**All: Though we are mortal, we are Creation's crown.**

One: Flesh and bone, steel and stone.

**All: We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.**

One: Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace.

**All: Sustain us, Lord; our origin is dust.**

One: Splendour, mercy, majesty, love endure.

**All: We are but little lower than the angels.**

One: Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise.

**All: The grandeur of Creation lifts our lives.**

One: Evening darkness, morning dawn.

**All: Renew our lives as you renew all time.**

**Opening Prayer** *"Wild Things" by Mary Oliver*

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting. You only  
have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

Tell me about your despair, yours,  
and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers. Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -- over and over announcing your place in the family of things. (Amen).

**Opening Hymn It's a Song of Praise to the Maker MV30**

***It's a song of praise to the Maker,  
the thrush sings high in the tree.  
It's a song of praise to the Maker,  
the gray whale sings in the sea,***

**Refrain *And by the Spirit you and I  
can join our voice to the holy cry  
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.***

***It's a call of life to the Giver  
when waves and waterfalls roar.  
It's a call of life to the Giver  
when high tides break on the shore,* Refrain**

***It's a hymn of love to the Lover;  
the bumblebees hum along.  
It's a hymn of love to the Lover,  
the summer breeze joins the song,* Refrain**

***It's the chorus of all creation;  
it's sung by all living things.  
It's the chorus of all creation;  
a song the universe sings,* Refrain**

**Story Time Imagine this apple is planet Earth...**

**Hymn Morning Has Broken v1, 2 and repeat 1 VU409**

***1 Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!***

**2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**(Repeat verse 1)**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **Minute for Mission**

**Readings from Scripture** *adapted from "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson*

And God stepped out on space,  
And looked around and said: I'm lonely—  
I'll make me a world.

And far as the eye of God could see  
Darkness covered everything,  
Blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress swamp.

Then God smiled, and the light broke,  
And the darkness rolled up on one side,  
And the light stood shining on the other,  
And God said: That's good!

Then God reached out and took the light in God's hand,  
And rolled the light around until God made the sun;  
And God set that sun a-blazing in the heavens.  
And the light that was left from making the sun  
God gathered it up in a shining ball  
And flung it against the darkness,  
Spangling the night with the moon and stars.  
Then down between the darkness and the light  
God hurled the world; and God said: That's good!

Then God stepped down-and the sun was on God's right hand  
And the moon was on the left;  
The stars were clustered about God's head,  
And the earth was under God's feet.  
And God walked, God's footsteps hollowed the valleys out  
And bulged the mountains up.

Then God stopped and looked and saw  
That the earth was hot and barren.  
So God stepped over to the edge of the world  
And spat out the seven seas—  
God batted eyes, and the lightning flashed—  
God clapped, and the thunders rolled—  
And the waters above the earth came down,  
The cooling waters came down.

Then the green grass sprouted,  
And the little red flowers blossomed,  
The pine tree pointed his finger to the sky,  
And the oak spread out her arms,  
The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground,  
And the rivers ran down to the sea;  
And God smiled again, and the rainbow appeared,  
And curled itself around God's shoulder.

Then God raised arms and waved hands over the sea  
and over the land, and God said: Bring forth! Bring forth!  
And quicker than God could drop the hand,  
Fishes and fowls and beasts and birds  
Swam the rivers and the seas,  
Roamed the forests and the woods,  
And split the air with their wings.  
And God said: That's good!

Then God walked around,  
And God looked around on all that God had made.  
God looked at his sun, God looked at his moon,  
God looked at his little stars; God looked on his world  
With all its living things, and God said: I'm lonely still.

Then God sat down-on the side of a hill where God could  
think; by a deep, wide river God sat down;  
With head in hands, God thought and thought,  
Till he thought: I'll make me a man!

Up from the bed of the river, God scooped the clay;  
And by the bank of the river, God kneeled him down;  
This great God who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,  
Who flung the stars to the furthest corner of the night,  
Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;

This great God, like a mamma bending over her baby,  
Kneeled down in the dust toiling over a lump of clay  
Till he shaped it in God's own image;

Then into it God blew the breath of life, and man became a  
living soul. Amen. Amen.

## **Reflection Katharine Hayhoe – Climate Change and Faith**

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

**Invitation to Offering** (Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca))

**Offertory Love Song to the Earth**

**Prayers of the People** "Four Directions" by Vera Dery

One: Creator, it is I. Thank you for today's sunrise, for the  
breath and life within me, and for all of your creations.  
Creator, hear my prayer, and honor my prayer.

As the day begins with the rising sun, I ask, Spirit  
keeper of the East, Brother Eagle, Be with me. Fly high  
as you carry my prayers to the Creator. May I have  
eyes as sharp as yours, so I am able to see truth and  
hope on the path I have chosen. Guide my step and  
give me courage to walk the circle of my life with  
honesty and dignity.

Spirit keeper of the South, Wolf, Be with me. Help me  
to remember to love and feel compassion for all  
mankind. Help me to walk my path with joy and love for  
myself, for others, for the four legged, the winged ones,  
the plants and all creation upon Mother Earth. Show  
me it is right for me to make decisions with my heart,  
even if at times, my heart becomes hurt. Help me to  
grow and nurture my self-worth in all ways.

Spirit Keeper of the West, Brown Bear, Be with me.  
Bring healing to the people I love and to myself. Bring  
into balance the physical, mental and spiritual, so I am  
able to know my place on this earth, in life and in death.  
Heal my body, heal my mind and bring light, joy and  
awareness to my spirit.

Spirit Keeper of the North, White Buffalo, Be with me.  
As each day passes, help me to surrender, with grace,  
the things of my youth. Help me to listen to the quiet,  
and find serenity and comfort in the silences as they  
become longer. Give me wisdom so I am able to make  
wise choices in all things which are put in front of me,  
And when time for my change of worlds has come, Let  
me go peacefully, without regrets, for the things I  
neglected to do as I walked along my path. Mother  
Earth, Thank you for your beauty, And for all you have  
given me. Remind me never to take from you more  
than I need, and remind me to always give back more  
than I take.

## **WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS**

**Hymn                      Praise with Joy the World's Creator      VU312**

**1 *Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love, and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
God whose grace shall never cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.***

**2 *Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:  
friend and stranger, guest and host.***

**3 *Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:  
foolishness none dare deride.***

**4 *Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.  
This the world shall see reflected:  
God is One and One in Three.***

## **Commissioning** *Lokah – A Vedic Mantra to Heal our Planet*

One: May our whole world be established with wellbeing and happiness. May our thoughts, words and actions also contribute to the happiness and wellbeing of all.

### \* **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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### **Announcements**

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#### **Upcoming Services**

April 25 – 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SJR with Rev. Randy Banks

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion Service

May 9<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day and Christian Family Sunday

**Food Bank** – We reported that we collected 305lb of food, but in addition, \$1595 dollars was collected for the Food Bank of the Waterloo Region.

Thank you!

**Monica Place** – It is hoped congregational members, during this time span, will be able to purchase cherished items required to support the women and children under the care of this wonderful organization. As usual typical items for donation would be diapers (newborn to 6) diaper wipes, diaper rash cream, new clothing for babies and toddlers, gift cards. Cash donations are obviously greatly appreciated. If paying by cash make sure you identify yourself, and the purpose of the donation. If paying by cheque, once again clearly identify the purpose, but make the cheque out to SJRUC. All financial donations can be dropped into the church mail slot anytime during the time span of this fundraiser. On Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, a pick-up truck will be parked at the church parking lot from 6:00PM to 7:30PM to collect items destined for Monica Place.

**Further announcements concerning Kenyan Students, and the book Needlepoint Artisans created by Norma Mosgrove, can be found in our weekly email!**