
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



April 4th, 2021 – Easter Sunday 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 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: This day is like every other day.

All: Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed.
Breakfast was eaten. Weary bodies came to life.

One: And yet this day, is like *no* other day—

All: For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle.
The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.

One: So again and again we say—

All: The longest night is over. Death has lost its sting.
Jesus is among us. Alleluia! Amen.

One: Again and again and again—

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Opening Hymn **Jesus Christ is Risen Today** VU155

1 *Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!*
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

2 *Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!*
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinner to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

3 *But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!*
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!

***now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!***

***4 Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!***

Call to Confession

Friends, had we been there that first Easter morning, it is likely that many of us would have been with the disciples—Hiding out in fear, locked behind doors, alone with our thoughts in the upper room. I wish I could say that I would have gone with the women, that I would have been brave and determined. I wish I could say that I would have held onto my faith, but the truth is, we'll never know. What I *do* know is that Jesus came back for all of us—not the few who had maintained faith or the few who stayed with him until the end. He came back for the broken and the afraid, for the cowardly and the greedy, for the women in the garden, and for the disciples hiding in the upper room. He came back for those who betrayed him and those who worshiped him. He came back for you and for me. So join me in the prayer of confession, knowing that no matter where we are on the spectrum of faith, Jesus lived, loved, and returned for us. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

One: Beloved Community, before God and before you, my family, I confess:

I have seen the sun rise and withheld my praise.

I have seen my neighbour suffer and withheld my aid.

I have seen love extended and chosen to walk away.

I have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.

All: **We hear you. We see you. You are forgiven.**

God's love is like the sun.

No matter how lost we are in the night,

Day after day, the light will find you.

Rest easy. You are held in God's warmth.

One: Thanks be to God. *Silence*

For we must pray.

All: Beloved friend, before God and before each other,
we confess: We have seen the sun rise and
withheld our praise. We have seen our
neighbours suffer and have withheld our aid.
We have seen love extended and chosen to walk
away. We have seen divisions deepen and
managed to remain unfazed.

One: I hear you. I see you. You are forgiven. God's love is
like the sun. No matter how lost we are in the night,
Day after day, the light will find you.
Rest easy. You are held in God's warmth.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, amen.

Hymn

In the Bulb there is a Flower

VU703

1 *In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

2 *There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

3 *In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (NRSV) Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Anthem

Reflection Love Builds Up – Celebration and Commitment

Music Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory Doxology

Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: There are a million ways that you speak to us,
God of the garden, and God of the empty tomb.
You speak to us in rituals, both formal and organic—
In water on foreheads, in vows said before God,
Through pieces of bread dipped in ordinary wine,
And through candlelight on Christmas Eve.
You speak to us in nature— your artistry showing up
in starry nights, in the smell of pine,

In rushing water and in most every sunrise.
You speak to us through our relationships—
The comfort of a loved one, the laughter of our friends,
the security of those who support us and cheer us on.
You speak to us in so many ways,
and we are grateful for them all.
However today, we just need one. That would be enough.
So lean down and breathe life into these sacred acts.
We are craving to hear and experience your word
like never before. We are craving to understand,
to see ourselves in the story.
We are craving proximity and closeness to you.
There are a million ways that you speak to us.
Today, we just need one.
With hearts full of gratitude we sing,

***O holy, holy holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!***

Even with a song in our heart,
We know the fear of the upper room.
We know the feeling of hard days and long nights.
We know the grief of the tomb,
And the particular ache of saying goodbye.
We know the pain of Good Friday,
And we know the darkness before dawn.
And still, and still...we believe.
We believe that again and again, the sun will rise.
Again and again, God will draw near.
Again and again, we will march toward justice.
Again and again, the tomb will be empty. Love will win.
God will lead the church. Again and again, we are loved.
For this is the mystery of our faith:
***For Christ has died, Christ is Risen,
Christ will come again.***

The journey will not be perfect.
We will need to rise before the dawn.

We will need angels along the way.
But again and again, the sun will rise.
For even still, the Risen Christ calls us to believe.
As we gather around this table, in the mystery of our
separateness, we are brought together.
In the crumbs of these morsels of food, we are filled.
In the brokenness of bread and the poured-out-ness
of wine, we are made whole.
Bless these gifts as we have been blessed this Easter
day, to know that you are with us, til the end of
the ages.

For in these sacred acts of coming together, Jesus'
presence is made known, in these signs of life and
love, thankful for hope, thankful for all that God brings
in this prayer may the universal Christ be present:

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 **Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!** MV121

Refrain ***Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!***

Hey now! The morning has come

Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun

1 Jesus loved people and he made them friends

Hey now the tomb was empty

He called all the children and the women and men

Hey now the tomb was empty Refrain

2 Jesus healed people and he helped them be well

Hey now the tomb was empty

He taught about God in the stories he'd tell

Hey now the tomb was empty. Refrain

**3 Jesus loved people and they said he was a king
Hey now the tomb was empty
He turned all the tables on everything
Hey now the tomb was empty Refrain**

**4 Jesus had power and they took him away
Hey now the tomb was empty
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day
Hey now the tomb was empty**

**5 Jesus loves people and he lives again!
Hey now the tomb was empty
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friend
Hey now the tomb was empty. Refrain**

Commissioning

One: Go now as those who have met with Christ
in the morning of this day.
Go now as those whose hearts have burned within them,
as the Scriptures were fulfilled.
Go now as those
who have been touched by resurrection.
And may the blessing of God
be upon you, body, mind and spirit,
as you leave this place...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

Announcements

Upcoming Services following Easter

April 11 – Holy Humour service with Teresa Carse, LLWL

April 18 – Earth Day service

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