
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



May 16th, 2021 – Easter 7 - Ascension
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

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship adapted from a liturgy for Region Weekend

One: The risen Christ invites us into this digital space, welcoming us into community through virtual connection.

All: We come, but it just doesn't feel the same for the second year in a row. We come weary, worried and wondering if we make much of a difference. After all, the distance and the dislocation drain our souls.

One: Come, then, to rediscover meaning and purpose while following the Way of Jesus, re-mem-bering we support one another beyond each isolated community of faith.

All: We come, but it's hard to keep proclaiming the good news in a pandemic. We feel daunted by the demands of our mission, so we want to run away.

One: Come to return to our prophetic calling of loving justice, of seeking kindness and of walking humbly with our God. Come to face what seems like the end of the road, pressing forward in faith.

All: We come, yet why does it always seem that we're the ones who have to make all things go? We just want to turn away, to walk away, to flee the demands.

One: Then be in this moment, breathe deeply of the presence of God, and know that you are not alone.

Opening Prayer

One: Life-giving God, your love and light guides us on the path of

courage, compassion, generosity, and grace.
Lead us we seek to follow your transformative love
that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope.
Fill us with courage like air fills our lungs.
Help us embrace your guiding love that
calls us to live as your faithful witnesses,
who reflect your grace and redemptive love.

**All: God, open hearts to receive your gracious love,
and strengthen us, to carry the Good News of
your healing power found in the light, love and life
of Jesus the Christ. Amen**

Opening Hymn Loving Spirit VU 387

**1 *Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
 you have chosen me to be,
 you have drawn me to your wonder,
 you have set your sign on me.***

**2 *Like a parent, you enfold me,
 love, protect, and help me grow,
 when I wander, may your grace be
 ready to welcome me home.***

**3 *Friend and lover, in your closeness
 I am known and held and blessed;
 in your promise is my comfort,
 in your presence I may rest.***

**4 *Source of strength and life-breath in me,
 fill my soul with hope divine,
 that I may know your great purpose,
 help your people all to shine.***

**5 *Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
 you have chosen me to be,
 you have drawn me to your wonder,
 you have set your sign on me.***

Story Time Breath Prayers

Hymn Breathe on Me, Breath of God VU 382

**1 *Breathe on me, breath of God,
 fill me with life anew,***

*that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

2 *Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.*

3 *Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

4 *Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (CEB) John 17:6-19

⁶“I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹“I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. ¹²When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³Now I’m coming to you and I say these things while I’m in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. ¹⁴I gave your word to them and the world hated

them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁷ Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.

Anthem

Reflection

Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

VU 678

1 *For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.*

2 *Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.*

3 *All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.*

4 *You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory I'll follow you into the dark

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

*Today we are using our breath to form our prayers to God.
As you breathe, pay attention to your connection to the
divine.*

Lord's Prayer *(read and prayed slowly together)*

All: **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. For ever and ever. Amen.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Hymn

You Call Us Out

VU 569

- 1 *You call us out to praise you,
the God who gave us birth,
to gather in communion,
and treasure your whole earth;
we are your living story,
to hear and to be heard;
we praise your name, who writes us,
the author and the word.***

- 2 *For varied hues and textures,
new patterns, still you search,
to weave your seamless garments,
the fabric of your church;
our tattered faith you cherish,
reclaim from wear and moth;
we praise your name, who twines us,
the weaver and the cloth.***

3 *The church that speaks forgiveness,
confesses its own need;
the church that feels its hunger,
finds grace to care and feed;
our famished world is crying,
its future filled with dread;
we praise your name, who fills us,
the baker and the bread.*

4 *The church that offers healing,
discerns its wounds and loss;
the church that faces dying,
shares life beyond the cross;
to people torn and broken,
your mercy is revealed;
we praise your name, who loves us,
the healer and the healed.*

5 *Our feeble voices struggle,
to sing your justice clear;
the world has sunk in silence,
each discord echoes fear;
one voice alone is ragged,
together we are strong;
we praise your name, who breathes us,
the singer and the song.*

Commissioning *from A Song of Faith, United Church of Canada*

One: The Spirit breathes revelatory power into scripture,
bestowing upon it a unique and normative place
in the life of the community.

We are called together by Christ
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved, living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place.

Go, and be doers of the word, and not hearers only.
Go, and breathe deeply the presence of God.
Go, and know peace enough to share it with our earth.

* **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

May 23rd – Pentecost

May 30th – Trinity Sunday

June 6th – Communion

June 13th – Celebrate our Children – In addition to our regular Youtube Service – we'll have a Zoom gathering with kids at 11am! Link to follow–watch your email!

June 20th – Father's Day and First Nations Sunday

June 27th – Hymn Sing Sunday – Zoom link will be provided!

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. **We are currently holding off announcing yet-another-rescheduled drop off since the lockdown has been extended.**

Shared Summer Services - Over the month of July and August, we are partnering with local churches in the area to share services. We will host a wide variety of preachers in order that we can travel the region from the comfort of our couches! We are grateful for all those joining with us together in worship – as we share the faith that unites us! Rev. Chis will be off for the month of August, with Rev. Tim Graham providing pastoral coverage during this time.