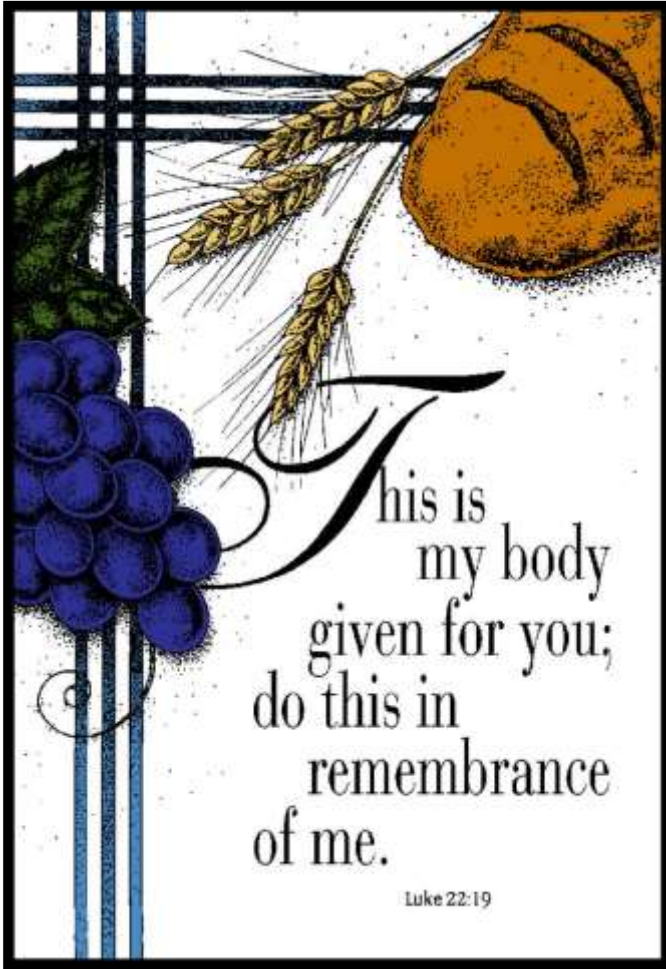

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



May 2nd, 2021 – Easter 5 and 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.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Opening Hymn **Come in, Come in and Sit Down** VU395

Refrain ***Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.***

1 ***You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.*** Refrain

2 ***God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family.*** Refrain

3 ***There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family.*** Refrain

4 ***There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.*** Refrain

Call to Worship

One: We come to this place where God
pours out love on us,

**All: we join our voices in praise,
as our fears are left behind.**

One: We gather with these people,
those who seek to follow Jesus,

**All: so we might walk the difficult path of faith
hand in hand.**

One: We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,

All: so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.

Opening Prayer

One: If we listen closely – God speaks to us, with what we need to hear today. Be it words of encouragement, words of love, words of challenge and call, may God speak to us. *Silence* Amen

Opening Hymn All are Welcome v1-3 MV 1
words and music Marty Haugen (copyright 1994 GIA Publications)

***Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live.***

***A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.***

***Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:***

Refrain: ***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

***Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true.***

***Where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.***

***Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;* Refrain**

***Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine
and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.***

***Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;* Refrain**

Story Time and Holy Communion

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.

After Communion All are Welcome v4 and 5 MV 1

*Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bears the image of God's face;
let us bring and end to fear and danger:* Refrain

*Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:* Refrain

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (NIV) Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This person had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on their way home was sitting in their chariot

reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the person reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” they said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So they invited Philip to come up and sit.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:
*“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told them the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] (Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”) ³⁸ And they gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized them. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on their way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

Prayers of the People – Prayer Shawl Blessing

As we start this week in the United Church recognizing the importance of mental health – we offer these our prayers.

For God cares about the whole person – inside and out – believing, knowing, and living love – that those who suffer should not do so alone...for our brain chemistry is no different than those born with diabetes, or health conditions discovered later in life. For if there is any purpose in our sufferings...they should unite us, as we support one another in love, power, and grace.

Response **Lord, Listen to your Children Praying** VU 400

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

One: Without even knowing who would receive it, this shawl was made specifically for the person who will receive it.

All: May they see the intricate love and care given to this shawl, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

One: This shawl was made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

All: May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

One: This shawl was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

All: May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

One: This shawl was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

All: May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

One: This shawl was made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

All: May they feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance and held up by our support.

Response **Lord, Listen to your Children Praying** VU 400

***Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!***

One: God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, just like at communion, prayers and love are meant for all – for your grace and goodness ensures we offer welcome, acceptance and love for all people. Our prayers are not just for the “worthy” (whatever we perceive that to be). For this ministry enables us to see a world beyond ours: a world of unbounded, unlimited compassion. We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. And may your light shine in them and be a beacon of the hope for all. Amen

Response **Lord, Listen to your Children Praying** VU 400
*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Hymn **Abide with Me** VU 436

1 *Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

2 *Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.*

3 *I need your presence every passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.*

4 *I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.*

**5 Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Commissioning *written by Kerrie Perry*

One: We leave, but we remain – connected, loved and loving.
We leave, and yet Christ abides.
We leave...and are never left.
Thanks be to God.

* **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 9th – Mother’s Day and Christian Family Sunday

Monica Place – (Note the date change for collection) 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 27th, 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 the book Needlepoint Artisans created by Norma Mosgrove, can be found in our weekly email!