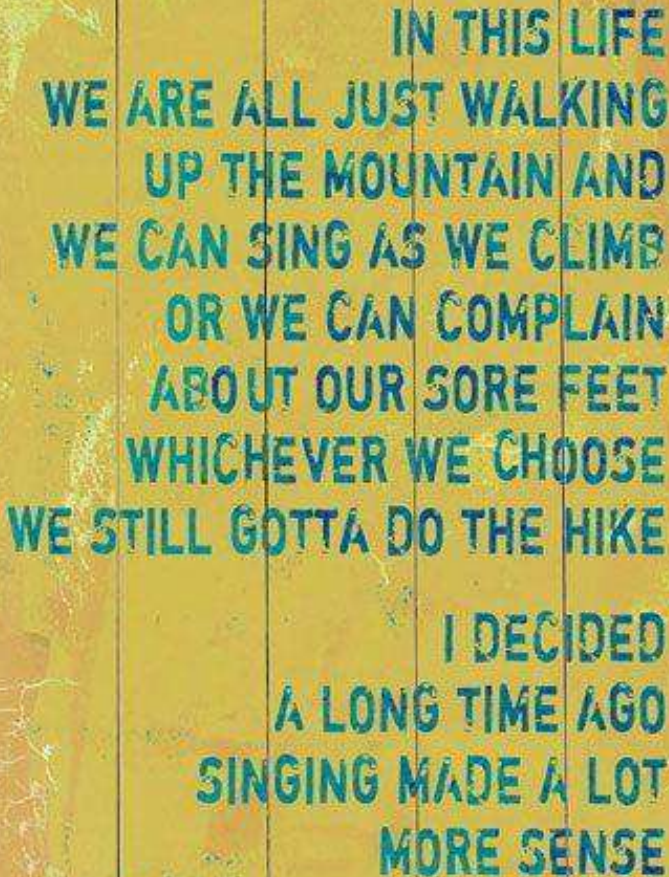

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

A wooden sign with a yellowish-brown background and vertical wood grain. The text is stenciled in blue, uppercase letters. The sign is divided into two sections by a horizontal gap. The top section contains the lyrics of a hymn, and the bottom section contains a personal reflection.

IN THIS LIFE
WE ARE ALL JUST WALKING
UP THE MOUNTAIN AND
WE CAN SING AS WE CLIMB
OR WE CAN COMPLAIN
ABOUT OUR SORE FEET
WHICHEVER WE CHOOSE
WE STILL GOTTA DO THE HIKE

I DECIDED
A LONG TIME AGO
SINGING MADE A LOT
MORE SENSE

June 27th, 2021 – Hymn Sing Sunday
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.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

One: As I write this service, it was just announced about yet another mass grave found at a Residential School in Saskatchewan. Today's service was meant to lift our spirits in praise and thanksgiving with the songs of our tradition. However, much like our scripture reading, perhaps all we feel is lament. Knowing this, you may want to turn this off – sit in silence – light a candle that light may shine in this darkness, pray and offer words of sorrow as we discover that our Canada is not the one that makes us celebratory or particularly thankful this year. This will, or should, continue all summer and for as long as it takes, to ensure that those still suffering from the loss of their children can finally find peace. As a country we go forward, committing to do better, promising to treat one another better, living the beliefs that see life and love flourish, learning from the past in order that we do not repeat it, and especially in this time, giving space for those grieving and listening to their heartache. It is up to us. For our faith that assures us that we are not alone – even in profoundly devastating moments. As we worship today, we do so grateful for our God who doesn't gloss over our faults or sins, but helps us find wholeness beyond them into new life. And so, as we open our service with O Canada, we do so with renewed purpose to commit to stand on guard for all people.

O Canada

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Thom Shuman*

One: Sing praises to our God:

All: who heals us and makes us whole.

One: Sing praises to our God:

All: whose joy rises in our lives each and every day.

One: Sing praises to our God:

All: God's kingdom is near to us; God's peace resides in our hearts. God's song rises in us!

Opening Prayer *adapted from A Song of Faith, United Church*

One: We gather to celebrate and joyfully sing to our God!

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving.

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery, of living things, diverse and interdependent, of complex patterns of growth and evolution, of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls, we sing of God the Creator, the Maker and Source of all that is.

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator, who is both in creation and beyond it. All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related. All creation is good. We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and move and have their being in God. Together, in harmony with one another, we worship. Amen

Opening Hymn **small things count**

VU 361

**1 Small things count, so Jesus said:
cups of water, crumbs of bread,
small things done because we're kind
count as big things in God's mind.**

**2 Small things make the big things grow:
grains of yeast inside the dough,
puffs that fill a big balloon,
notes that make a happy tune.**

**3 Every hair that's on our head,
every sparrow, Jesus said,
God takes care of, counts and knows,
God loves us from top to toes!**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from Scripture (The Message) 2 Samuel 1:1-2, 17-27

¹ Shortly after Saul died, David returned to Ziklag from his rout of the Amalekites. Three days later a man showed up unannounced from Saul's army camp. ² Disheveled and obviously in mourning, he fell to his knees in respect before David.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Then David sang this lament over Saul and his son Jonathan, and gave orders that everyone in Judah learn it by heart. Yes, it's even inscribed in The Book of Jashar.

¹⁹⁻²¹ Oh, oh, Gazelles of Israel, struck down on your hills, the mighty warriors—fallen, fallen! Don't announce it in the city of Gath, don't post the news in the streets of Ashkelon. Don't give those coarse Philistine girls one more excuse for a drunken party! No more dew or rain for you, hills of Gilboa, and not a drop from springs and wells, for there the warriors' shields were dragged through the mud, Saul's shield left there to rot. ²² Jonathan's bow was bold—the bigger they were the harder they fell. Saul's sword was fearless—once out of the scabbard, nothing could stop it.

²³ Saul and Jonathan—beloved, beautiful! Together in life, together in death. Swifter than plummeting eagles, stronger than proud lions. ²⁴⁻²⁵ Women of Israel, weep for Saul.

He dressed you in finest cottons and silks, spared no expense in making you elegant. The mighty warriors—fallen, fallen in the middle of the fight! Jonathan—struck down on your hills! ²⁶ O my dear brother Jonathan, I'm crushed by your death. Your friendship was a miracle-wonder, love far exceeding anything I've known—or ever hope to know.

²⁷ The mighty warriors—fallen, fallen. And the arms of war broken to bits.

Hymn **Those Hearts We Have Treasured** VU 494

1 *Those hearts that we have treasured,
those lives that we have shared,
those loves that walked beside us,
those friends for whom we've cared,
their blessing rests upon us,
their life is memory,*

*their suffering is over,
their spirits are set free.*

2 *They still give hope and comfort,
they did not lose the fight,
they showed us truth and goodness,
they shine into our night.
Remember days of gladness;
remember times of joy;
remember all the moments
that grief can not destroy.*

3 *From hearts that we have treasured,
from lives that we have shared,
from loves that walked beside us,
from friends for whom we've cared,
we've learned to treasure kindness,
we've learned that grace provides,
we've learned to be together,
we've learned that love abides.*

Reflection

Song

Hallelujah

Colin Watts

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

Hymn

In the Bulb there is a Flower
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.*

VU 703

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.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer *adapted from a
prayer by Richard Bott*

One: Shouts of joy! Songs of praise!
Sounds of hope and love!

**All: These are moments of hope –
thanks giving to our God!**

One: Adonai is our God. Our creator.
We are God's people, led by God's love.

**All: These are moments of joy –
thanks giving to our God!**

One: Enter God's house thanks giving.
Enter God's house full of praise!

**All: These are moments of praise –
thanks giving to our God!**

One: God's love is never ending.

All: God is good! Alleluia!

One: Today, may our songs lift our spirits,
as we raise our thanks to God!

**All: We bring the gift of our lives to you, God.
You have brought us into this place and shared
with us the gift of this moment. Bless us with hope,
that we can offer it to our world,
Bless us with love, as we share it with others!
In Christ's name, we ask it. May it be so.**

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

Be Still My Soul

VU 652

*1 Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.*

*Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.*

*Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.*

*2 Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.*

*Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.*

*Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.*

*3 Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.*

*Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

Commissioning

One: Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

All: We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.

One: Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

All: We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.

One: Go into the world:

believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

All: We go with the assurance of your love, O God.

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

July and August – Shared Services with local United Churches

July 11th at 10:30am – Join with us on the labyrinth for in-person worship. Bring your masks, lawn chairs, as we socially distance worship together!

Aug 8th at 10:30am – Join with us on the labyrinth for in-person worship. Bring your masks, lawn chairs, as we socially distance worship together!

Shared Summer Services - Over the months 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.