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Western Ontario Waterways  
Regional Summer Service  
<https://wowruc.ca/>



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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

# 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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

One: God calls to the lost, the least,  
and all who long for home;

God calls when we wander from the path  
chosen for us and waste the gifts we have  
been given.

**All: God calls and welcomes us back to  
worship this day; let us celebrate and  
rejoice in God's presence forever;  
let us worship God together.**

Prayer of Approach *adapted from a prayer by Stephen Fearing*

One: Gracious God, today's scripture reminds us  
that words matter and that the way we choose  
our words holds within it the capacity to either  
harm or heal, to wound or welcome.

In this time when words are tossed around so  
casually, may our words be used to build up  
the Body of Christ and share love and  
compassion in a broken and battered world.  
Holy and Merciful God,

**All: hear our prayer. And in your love, answer.  
Amen.**

**Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty VU220**

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
who rules all creation;  
O my soul, praise him,  
at all times your health and salvation.  
Come, all who hear:  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.**

**2 Praise to the Lord, above all things  
so mightily reigning,  
keeping us safe at his side,  
and so gently sustaining.  
Have you not seen how all you needed has been  
met by God's gracious ordaining?**

**3 Praise to the Lord who will prosper  
our work and defend us;  
surely his goodness and mercy  
will daily attend us:  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
who out of love will befriend us.**

**4 Praise to the Lord!  
O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath come now with  
praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:  
gladly with praise we adore him.**

**\*Trigger warning (gunshot)\* Story for All Ages  
Malala: A Brave Girl from Pakistan, Jeanette Winter  
from <https://youtu.be/RXH71z-4iQ>**

# WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (an excerpt from a reimagining by Johnathan Goldstein from *Ladies and Gentlemen, The Bible!*)

## The Story of Delilah – Judges 16

Hymn

**God of the Bible**

MV28

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**1. *God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our center, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.***

**Refrain *Fresh as the morning,  
sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.***

**2. *God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.*** Refrain

**3. *Those without status, those who are nothing,  
you have made royal, gifted with rights,  
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.***

Refrain

**4. *Not by your finger, not by your anger,  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.*** Refrain

**5. *Hope we must carry, shining and certain,  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly, one to the other,  
till our world changes, facing the Cross.*** Refrain

Anthem            Witness  
from <https://youtu.be/TLrs0SPPEHo>

Reflection        Hey there, Delilah

Song                Samson and Delilah – Grateful Dead  
sung by Anthony Arya, from <https://youtu.be/LBd16pQh9WE>

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

Minute for Mission

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

Offertory

Offering Response

Pastoral Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Joan Chittister*

One: Dear God,

creator of women in your own image,  
born of a woman in the midst of a world half  
women, carried by women to mission fields  
around the globe, made known by women to  
all the children of the earth,

**All: give to the women of our time  
the strength to persevere,  
the courage to speak out,  
the faith to believe in you beyond  
all systems and institutions,  
to live beyond the labels attached to them,**

One: so that your face on earth may be seen in all  
its beauty, to embody power and strength in  
the face of adversity,  
to stand up for what they believe in,  
so that men and women become whole,  
so that the church may be converted to your  
will in everything and in all ways.

**All: We call on those holy who went before us,  
channels of Your Word  
in testaments old and new,  
to intercede for us  
so that we might be given the grace  
to become what they have been  
for the honor and glory of God.**

One: And for those men, who seek to grow their  
power by diminishing others,  
who believe they should live only in  
comparison with others,  
may they discover worth beyond strength that  
fades, and vanity that misleads,

**All: We call on those holy who went before us,  
channels of Your Word  
in testaments old and new,  
to intercede for us  
so that we might be given the grace  
to become what they have been  
for the honor and glory of God.**

One: For we pray this in the name of one who  
honoured the lives of past, praying for us in  
this present moment for a future yet unwritten,

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 Thou My Vision

VU642

- 1 *Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.***
- 2 *Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.***
- 3 *Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward,  
O power of my power.***
- 4 *Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***
- 5 *Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.***

Commissioning *from words written by June Boyce-Tillman*

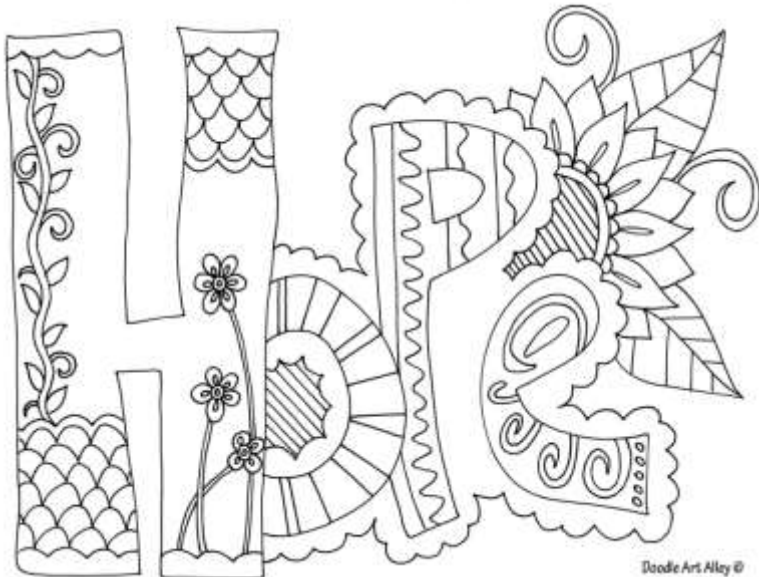
One: We shall go out,  
from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
we'll sing our songs of wrongs

that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts  
that can be healed.  
We'll give a voice to those  
who have not spoken;  
we'll find the words for those  
whose lips are sealed;  
Together, we go, seeking strength, love and  
peace together.

### Choral Benediction      **Go Now in Peace**

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***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.***



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