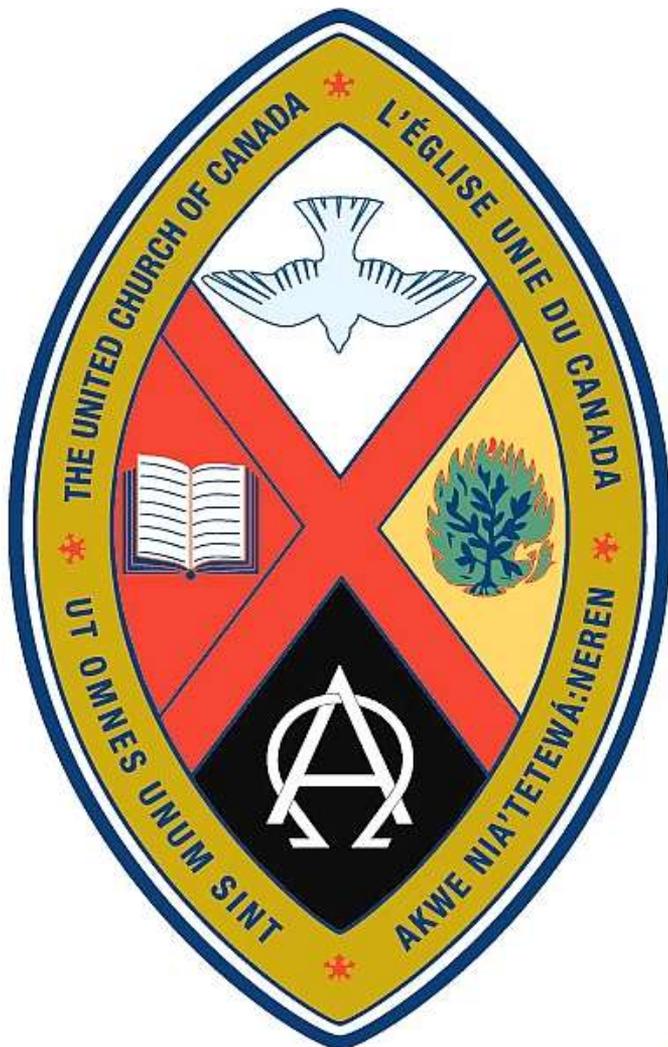


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Western Ontario Waterways  
Regional Summer Service  
<https://wowruc.ca/>



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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.*

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Christine Longhurst*

One: We've come to worship God,  
who loved us before we were yet born,  
who knows us even better than we know  
ourselves, whose presence never leaves us,  
and whose love for us never ceases.  
This is our God, whom we worship together!

Prayer of Approach *adapted from a prayer by John van de Laar*

One: O Divine Love, your life pulses in each of our  
hearts, and you permeate each of our lives.

**All: We, your daughters and sons, praise you.**

One: Your care sustains us in each moment,  
and your compassion guides us each moment.

**All: We, your daughters and sons, praise you.**

One: When we fall, you lift us,  
when we fail you restore us,  
When we are wounded, you nurse us,  
when we grieve, you weep with us.

**All: We, your daughters and sons, praise you.**

One: But, we have failed to love as you do,  
**we have abused our bodies and those of  
others, we have filled our minds with  
selfish dreams, and violent plans, we have  
made our hearts cold and empty of  
compassion, we have chosen who to love,  
and who to not, we have forgotten our  
spirits, and distorted your image within us.**

One: Guide and shape our growing; with  
compassion love and accept us as we are,  
forgive us and love us into new life.  
Lead us to reconciliation with one another,  
and with your world that you love so  
desperately. In the name of Love we pray,  
**Amen.**

### **Hymn I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry VU644**

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permission. Reprinted under OneLicense A-724253

- 1 *I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.***
- 2 *I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.***
- 3 *When you heard the wonder of the word,  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.***
- 4 *If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,***

***I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.***

***5 In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.***

***6 When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.***

***7 I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.***

Story for All Ages *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes*  
Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein  
from <https://youtu.be/1Kzat0SvPyk>

## **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 Rebekah – Genesis 24-27**

Hymn **Wherever You May Go** MV216

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Refrain ***Wherever you may go, I will follow  
And your people shall be my people too  
Wherever you may go, I will follow  
For I would be faithful, loyal and true***

***Say the word and I will stay  
I will never go away  
We will travel side by side  
And God's love will be our guide*** Refrain

***From beginning to the end  
I will always be your friend  
When you need me I'll be there  
You can trust my faithful care*** Refrain

Reflection If you're not yelling at your kids...  
...you're not spending enough time with them

Song My Wish – Rascall Flatts  
from <https://youtu.be/kRpvDeLJnZI>

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

Minute for Mission

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

Offertory

Pastoral Prayer

One: *Mother, Friend, and Comforter*

*Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of  
Love, and in other ways that speak faithfully of  
the One on whom our hearts rely, the fully shared  
life at the heart of the universe, we pray to you.*

We admit to you our shortsightedness.

Living out our limited love has hurt others.

We have denied more than allowed.

We have turned your blessing into something  
for some, instead of all.

We have repeated sins of the past rather than  
break the cycle. This is not who we want to be.

And so, humbled, we come before you now,  
placing our faith wholly in you,  
trusting that you know those needs  
which are obscured to our short-sighted eyes,  
believing that in your love and mercy

you will reach out and touch the lives we cannot comprehend.

As we pray, Holy One,  
we feel your call on our lives.  
Our souls resonates with the challenge to shift  
our focus, to see all that we've overlooked  
We know with every fiber of our being  
that you are calling us to be part, somehow,  
of your healing, life-giving work,  
both in our community and around the world.  
Give us the strength to listen  
and follow your call.  
That this prayer, through your grace, become  
for me the way we are connected through  
your love with all creation.

May our prayers transform our lives,  
to be the start of your renewed hope in us,  
And may all my words and deeds, all of my  
being, be an offering to you. Amen.

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      **O God Who Shaped Creation**      VU276

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**1 O God who shaped creation  
at earth's chaotic dawn,  
your word of power was spoken,  
and lo! the dark was gone!  
You framed us in your image,  
you brought us into birth,  
you blessed our infant footsteps  
and shared your splendoured earth.**

**2 O God, with pain and anguish  
a mother sees her child  
embark on deadend pathways,  
alluring, but defiled;  
so too your heart is broken  
when hate and lust increase,  
when worlds you birthed and nurtured  
spurn ways that lead to peace.**

**3 Although your heart is broken  
when people scorn your ways,  
you never cease your searching  
through evil's tangled maze;  
and when we cease our running,  
your joys, O God, abound  
as of a searching woman  
when treasured coin is found.**

**4 In mercy and compassion  
your goodness is revealed;  
with tenderness you touch us,  
and broken hearts are healed.  
You claim us as your children,**

***you strip our prideful shame;  
with freedom born of mercy  
we bless your holy name!***

### Commissioning

One: Go into your week, knowing that you are embraced by the love of God; a love that is sweeter and more complete than any you have ever known. Go to share this love with others, and may peace prevail.

### 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.***

### Postlude

