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



St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH, WATERLOO

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 *Jesus said, "Peace I
leave with you; a peace the world cannot give."
May the Peace of Christ be with you. **And also
with you.** Know that we are holding each other
close in this time of being apart. **Amen***

Call to Worship

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

One: To the awesome God of Resurrected things,
be with us this day as we celebrate the
mystery of your love.

Let the light of your love flood our lives and
then extend outward from us to all those
experiencing rough tides and may our love be
a comforting beacon and a sign of Hope for all
to see. Draw us forward and away from our
limitations and into the immense world of your
freedom. Give us the capacity to even for a
moment taste the richness of your abundance
as feast on your love.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience you in all the people of your creation. Let the waters we endure raise us all to new heights. Amen

Hymn **I Feel the Winds of God Today** VU625

***1 I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.***

***2 It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.***

***3 If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.***

Story for All Ages

The Water and The Whale

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) Jonah 2:1-9

Jonah prayed to God from the belly of the fish:

²“I called out to God in my distress, and I was answered. From the belly of the underworld I cried out for help; you have heard my voice. ³You had cast me into the depths in the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounds me. All your strong waves and rushing water passed over me. ⁴So I said, ‘I have been driven away from your sight. Will I ever again look on your holy temple? ⁵Waters have grasped me to the point of death; the deep surrounds me. Seaweed is wrapped around my head ⁶at the base of the undersea mountains. I have sunk down to the underworld; its bars held me with no end in sight. But you brought me out of the pit.’ ⁷When my endurance was weakening, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, to your holy temple. ⁸Those deceived by worthless things lose their chance for mercy. ⁹But me, I will offer a sacrifice to you with a voice of thanks.

That which I have promised, I will pay.

Deliverance belongs to the Lord”

Hymn

In You There is a Refuge

MV84

***In you there is a refuge,
In you we find our peace.
When all we know is chaos
may our trust in you increase.
In you there is a silence,
In you our minds are clear.
When all we hear is discord
may your quiet draw us near.***

*In you there is a vision,
In you we learn to dream.
When all we see is desert
may you be our living stream.
In you there is a future,
In you we find our way.
When hope has shed its brightness
may you show us a new day.*

Reflection By Way of Water – Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart

Video The Fruitful Darkness

from <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/the-fruitful-darkness>

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Pastoral Prayer

One: Let us Pray, Creator God, as we look back on years gone by, all the mountains standing in our mind we could have folded, we could have turned around, but all good stories have their ups and downs

So, we find our way through, we have to find our way through , The fruitful darkness Is all around us, In bloom

The dark within our dark, Is where we find the light, The fruit becomes the doorway And now it's open wide

Merciful God, sometimes, like Jonah, we stubbornly refuse your word when it comes to us. Instead of dropping our nets and following you, we run in the other direction

When we run away from the tasks that you have given us, life seems to go ok, for a while,

anyway. Then, inevitably, the fabric that is the life we weave apart from God begins to unravel, just a bit, on the edges.

Then, before our very eyes, our life can tear and unwind and be reduced to a disparate collection of strands of thread.

When this happens we ought to remember that we are not alone, you weave us back together strand by strand till we become more than we could have ever imagined

You are our creator, creating fruit from the darkness we endure

Let us pause and hold a moment of silence as we pray the prayers that lay upon our own hearts in this moment

And as we take this moment of silence let our hearts hold vigil over our Muslim and Indigenous communities who are suffering so greatly at this time

Take let us take that moment of silence now

Friends, let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray: For God is to all of us like our Mother and ...

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.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Shall We Gather at the River VU710

**1 *Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide for ever
flowing by the throne of God?***

Refrain ***Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.***

**2 *Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.*** Refrain

**3 *Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.*** Refrain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: For all the ways we are givers and receivers,
we give thanks. May the presence of the Holy
One take what we offer and continue to create
abundance in our lives. May the Love that
lives in the giving ourselves be known to all
who encounter us and may these offering
become a beacon of hope for others. Amen

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Prayer

One: For the Gift of Grace we have received here today we give thanks, for the ways you create possibilities in the midst of the impossible and for the mystery we are called into we give thanks. We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

God, Prepare Me

MV 18

***God, prepare me, to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living,
sanctuary for you.***

Commissioning

One: Let us be changed *by the way of water* because by way of water we are charged with the duty to proclaim God's Love.
So, let us find our way through, for the fruitful darkness is all around us, In bloom
God Loves you, God Keeps you, God's face is forever shining upon you and it is for this reason the peace of Christ is with us all
Go in God, Go in peace Amen