

---

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



---

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2  
519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

---

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH  
GRACE UNITED, TAVISTOCK**

*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

Call to Worship

One: We gather from far and near, young and old,

**ALL: Through the marvels of technology, we  
come as one people**

One: We come to hear the stories of our faith  
ancestors

**ALL: Through the wisdom of the ages, we are  
connected as one people**

One: We come ready to be open to grow in faith  
and understanding

**ALL: Let us be guided by the light of Christ**

Invitation to Light the Christ Candle

Hymn      **I Love to Tell the Story**      VU343

***1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.***

***Refrain I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

***2 I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies  
of all our golden dreams.***

***I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy Word. Refrain***

***3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. Refrain***

Prayer of Approach

**All: God of the Living Word, we give you  
thanks for the stories of our ancestors.  
Forgive us for the times when just hear  
them as ancient texts. Open our ears to  
hear you speaking in a fresh new way, and  
give us the courage of Esther to follow  
Your voice calling to us today. In the One  
eternal God we pray. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

VU959

**All: *Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.***

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
for the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture: A retelling of the story of Esther in first person \**apologies there wasn't a transcript for this*

Hymn

**God of the Bible**

MV28

Words © 1996, Hope Publishing, Music © 2002, Hope Publishing. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense A-724253

**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.**

**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

Time for Young and Young at Heart: **Courage** by  
Bernard Waber.

From

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMR7j6aBdQY&ab\\_channel=KathrynGodbout](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMR7j6aBdQY&ab_channel=KathrynGodbout)

Message – The Story of Esther - Rev. Gail Fricker  
*\*apologies there wasn't a transcript for this*

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

Prayers of the People

One: Ever present God, we come to you and pray for your world. We pray for places where there is fear due to violence and war. We pray for places where there is fear due to racial and sexual discrimination. We pray for places where there is fear due to political and religious persecution. We are a world that is surrounded by fear. Give us the courage to speak up and be the voice of change. Help us to bring hope and healing to those around us. Holy One, give us courage.

Response                      **Don't Be Afraid**                      MV90  
***Don't be afraid, my love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear***  
***Don't be afraid, my love is stronger, and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

One: Jesus, you came bringing us hope. We pray now for all those that need to know the comfort of your healing presence. In the silence of our hearts we name those that are grieving (pause) those that are sick in body or in mind (pause) those that are lonely, anxious or just lost (pause). Surround all those that we have named, and those that have no-one to pray for them, with your unconditional love. A love that can overcome any fear.

Holy One, give us courage.

Response                      **Don't Be Afraid**                      MV90

One: Spirit of change, breathe courage into your church, and into this community of faith. As we walk with our indigenous brothers and sisters, help us to hear their stories of pain, and work towards healing and reconciliation. As we celebrate Gay pride month, help us to be radically welcoming as a church, sharing your love with all. With the courage of Esther, help us to step up and work to bring your Kingdom here on earth. Open our hearts to be filled with Your Spirit, and work through us to be agents of change.

Holy One, give us courage.

Response

**Don't Be Afraid**

MV90

One: We pray in the name of the Holy One, Holy Three, Holy Divine. Amen.

Life and Mission of: Grace United -Other KW churches

Minute for Mission

Giving to God

Response

**Grant Us God, the Grace**

VU540

***Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.***

## **WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS**

Closing Hymn **Spirit God, Be Our Breath** MV150

***Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Our world seems inward, defensive,  
withdrawn...  
Spirit God, be our song.***

***Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.  
Comfort us.  
When we know you are near we grow more  
certain, our vision is clear.  
Patient God, calm our fear.***

***Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.  
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,  
We seek your guidance through friendship and  
care.  
Loving God, be our prayer.***

***Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet  
the new dawn.  
Spirit God, be our song.***

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude

