
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



September 26th, 2021 - Truth & Reconciliation 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

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: The land on which we worship is land that has been walked on, hunted on, and lived on for many generations. It is the traditional land of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. It is with humility and respect that we give thanks that we are here, in the space where we are in touch with God, the Creator, who made it and who made us. May our worship honour the relationships that are celebrated and invited here. May we always remember the stories of this land, the people who live here and the call to live with respect and thanksgiving. May the light of Christ be our guide.

Prelude

Call to Worship *written by Rev. Susan Beaver*

One: We gather in God's name, as people of God to offer our praise and wonder.

We gather on this Sabbath to be kept holy in mind, body and spirit.

We gather to remember a painful history and an inspired response.

We come to seek your healing as the body of Christ. We come to give thanks, to confess, to love, to be loved, and to be a church in the world that is an instrument of healing and justice and reconciliation.

We come once again to dedicate ourselves and our lives to the one who created us, the one who calls us, the one who sustains us, and the one who guides us in the way of love.

Let us worship our Creator with one mind and one heart in peace.

Opening Prayer

All: God of the kin-dom, send your Holy Spirit upon us.

We welcome your Spirit into our minds as our thinking;

we welcome your Spirit into our senses as perceiving;

we welcome your Spirit into our throats as our speaking;

we welcome your Spirit into our hearts as our loving;

we welcome your Spirit into our bodies as our moving, all so that we may love and serve your world, your church and your people.

God of hope, you entrusted us with knowledge of justice; help us as we seek it.

You entrusted us with knowledge of injustice against Indigenous peoples in and through the church; help us as we repent of the past and go forward in solidarity and with love.

You entrusted us with knowledge of wounds around us and in our church that need healing; help us as we minister in your name and affirm your goodness and grace in the world. This we pray in and through the name of Jesus Christ.

Lord's Prayer (read/prayed slowly)

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.

**1 We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.**

**We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.**

**2 We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.**

**We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.**

**3 We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.**

**We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.**

**4 We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.**

**We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.**

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) **Mark 9:38-50**

³⁸ John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name, and we tried to stop him because he wasn’t following us.”

³⁹ Jesus replied, “Don’t stop him. No one who does powerful acts in my name can quickly turn around and curse me. ⁴⁰ Whoever isn’t against us is for us. ⁴¹ I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded.

⁴² “As for whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to trip and fall into sin, it would be better for them to have a huge stone hung around their necks and to be thrown into the lake. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It’s better for you to enter into life crippled than to go away with two hands into the fire of hell, which can’t be put out. ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It’s better for you to enter life lame than to be thrown into hell with two feet. ⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out. It’s better for you to enter God’s kingdom with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two. ⁴⁸ That’s a place *where worms don’t die and the fire never goes out*. ⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? Maintain salt among yourselves and keep peace with each other.”

Reflection

Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

VU 307

**1 Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.**

**2 We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!**

**3 Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.**

**4 God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

*** Offering Response ***

***We bring our gifts to share, and lift our grateful prayer
That with our faithful care, our world will grow.
Through work of minds and hands
in gestures small or grand,
Let willing hearts expand the love You sow.***

Words & music © A. Baer, 2013, arr. S. Porter

***Dedication of the Offering**

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

*** Closing Hymn O God, Our Help in Ages Past VU 806**

**1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:**

**2 under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure,
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**4 A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**5 Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.**

**6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

*** Commissioning**

*adapted from Toward Justice and Right
Relationship: A Beginning (UCPH, 2003)*

One: Holy One, Creator God, God of many tribes and nations
by every name you are known, you bless the earth!
By your spirit and imagination
light the path to right relationships.
Break the stereotypes, banish inaction, bring justice.
End the long apart-ness that has twisted our souls.
Help us to understand each other clearly
and rejoice in one another's strength;
help us to listen to each other deeply
and join in the dance of friendship;
help us guard each other's rights
and walk long together in good company.
Help us find your direction for us.
Help us risk building right relationship.
And give us courage, creativity, and commitment for
our journey.
Help us keep faith with each other and so with you.
Holy One, Creator, God beyond tribes and nations,
be with us all. Amen.

*** Choral Benediction Go Now in Peace**

*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.*

("Go Now in Peace" Written by Besig & Price ©1988)

*Please remain seated in silence as
we conclude our service with the postlude.*

Postlude

Announcements



Next Week Outdoor Worship: Worldwide Communion Sunday - We will be sharing Communion - BYOB - Bring your own Bread (and Juice!) Bring something you can eat and drink as we celebrate communion in-person outdoors on the labyrinth **at 10:30 a.m.** Bring a lawn chair, mask, (and maybe an umbrella just in case). We will be contact tracing and social distancing while reminding ourselves of the blessings of worshipping with one another. Services will continue to be printed and posted online for those unable to join us in-person.

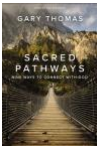
Thanksgiving – Indoor Worship October 10th: - We are currently planning to be in-building for Thanksgiving worship. Sign-up, masks, and distancing required. Attendance will be limited. Watch for sign-up email and instructions.

Christian Education As we prepare to return to in-church worship, we are planning on Sunday School as well! Plans are being developed for the children to use the Downstairs Sunday School room (formerly the preschool) for an hour-long time together. We are hoping to have children dropped off for 10:20 every day for a story time, worship, and play together. To make this happen, we need volunteers. Kids will be playing inside and out, creating crafts, and need caring adults to keep them distanced and safe. If you're willing to help in this way, please speak to Mearle ce@sjruc.ca or Rev. Chris.

Turkey Trot! The UCW is having a Turkey Trot **Saturday, October 9th** Thanksgiving Weekend. Order before Oct 1st and pick up Oct 9th. Complete turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, homemade dressing, homemade cranberry sauce, seasonal vegetables & dessert! Meal comes packaged and ready to heat or can be frozen so you may want more than one. \$22 per meal. **Orders must be placed by October 1st**



Waterloo Regional Food Bank This September, we are again supporting the Waterloo Regional Food Bank. Food items can be dropped off at church, Sunday mornings. Cash donations can be made by cash, or cheque made out to St. James Rosemount United Church, in an envelope indicating "Food Bank" - mailed to the church or placed into the church mail slot. Thank you for ensuring no one goes hungry in our Region!



Faith Study Sacred Pathways - by Gary Thomas. Many of us today think we must approach God in a certain way. This one-size-fits-all mentality typically leaves us feeling frustrated and distant from God. But the truth is that not every person will engage with God in the same way. Gary Thomas uncovers nine of these spiritual "pathways" that people have used over the centuries to grow closer to God. Join us for this five-week study beginning on Wednesday, September 29th to discover the particular pathway that will best help you to experience God's presence. Please contact Rev. Chris revchris@sjruc.ca to join us via Zoom.