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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



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**October 31, 2021 - Halloween**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

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***Welcome to worship!  
We're glad you're here!***

## **WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE**

Please remain seated for all of service, as you are able.

*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

One: From the pits of despair we call out:

**All: God be with me!**

One: From places of hurting and places of joy – we call out:

**All: God be with me!**

One: When feeling challenged, for one reason or another.  
On days when we feel there is just too much to  
handle, too much to do. And not enough time or  
resources to get it all done:

**All: God be with me!**

One: In the moments when we feel shackled to our current  
life situation and do not see a way that it could  
change for the better:

**All: God be with me!**

One: May we be aware of the presence of God, now,  
that we may be on the lookout for God each and  
every moment!

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by William Knight*

One: Almighty God, in whom darkness and light is held in  
tension: Grant us your light perpetually,  
and when we cannot see the way before us, when  
darkness surrounds, may we continue to trust in you;  
that so, being guided and guarded by your love,  
we may be kept upon the right path, this day and all  
our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

Hymn

**A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

VU 262

**1 *A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper sure amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing:  
for still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe;  
with power and malice great,  
and armed with cruel hate, on earth he has no equal.***

**2 *Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing:  
dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name,  
from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.***

**3 *And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed  
the truth to triumph through us:  
the prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure, one little word shall fell him.***

**4 That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through Christ, who with us sideth:  
let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still, God's kingdom is for ever.**

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

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) **Mark 12:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord,* <sup>30</sup> and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. <sup>31</sup> The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these." <sup>32</sup> The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, "You aren't far from God's kingdom." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Anthem

**Dry Bones**

Mark Hayes

*There was a man named Ezekiel who lived many years ago.  
He was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord  
to a valley full of old, dry bones.  
Then Ezekiel was asked by the Lord Most High,  
"Can these bones ever be revived?"  
After pondering this question, this is what he said,  
"Only the Lord God knows"  
So the Lord commanded Ezekiel to speak unto these bones,  
"Now hear the word of the Lord!"  
Ezekiel cried, "Dem dry bones..."*

*Ezekiel connected dem dry bones...  
So the bones were connected by the power of the Lord  
when Ezekiel spoke the command.  
But the bones had no breath, so the Lord God said,  
“Call the winds from across the lands.”  
Then Ezekiel called to the spirit in the winds  
to revive those bones on the ground.  
With a mighty sound those bones rose up  
and began to walk around!  
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones...  
Now hear the word of the Lord.  
The toe bone connected to the foot bone...*

Reflection

Hymn **Out of the Depths, O God** VU 611

- 1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.  
Wounds of the past remain, affecting all we do.  
Facing our lives, we need your love so much.  
Here in this community, heal us by your touch.**
- 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.  
Breaking the silences, the searing truth we seek.  
Safe among friends, our grief and rage we share.  
Here in this community, hold us in your care.**
- 3 God of the loving heart, we praise your name.  
Dance through our lives and loves;  
anoint with Spirit flame.  
Your light illumines each familiar face.  
Here in this community, meet us with your grace.**

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

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

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

Abide with Me

VU 436

**1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O Christ, who changes not, abide with me.**

**3 I need your presence every passing hour;  
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**4 I have no fear with you at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?  
I triumph still, if you abide with me.**

**5 Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Library Reopening with Brenda Michi and Debbie Springall!

Commissioning

\* 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

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## Upcoming Worship

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**November 7** - Remembrance Sunday and Communion – Join us as we honour those who served, and consider the call to keep peace in our world. As we are sharing Communion this Sunday, we are asking individuals to B-Y-O-Bread (and Juice). Please bring elements for you/your bubble group for communion.

**Indoor Worship:** We have returned to indoor services! Registration, masks, & distancing are required. Capacity is limited with a waiting list for cancellations. Register online at <https://rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9> or on our website: sjruc.ca

- Sign up your “bubble” Do you drive to church together or socialize outside of church? Register as one group & sit together.
- Phone registrations is available through the office for any unable to access the internet. Leave a message with your phone number so we can confirm your registration with you.
- There is a separate registration in the link for Sunday School (children will be dropped off at the door near the fenced playground upon arrival). Do not include Sunday School children in the sign up for attending in the Sanctuary.
- If the sign-up list for the Worship Service is full, please sign up on the “Wait List” option. You will hear from the church office as spaces become available.
- In the church building please observe the distancing markers on the walls and floors and follow traffic flow indicators. Enter only the Sherwood Ave. doors.

### OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS WEEK:

Dave D  
Dorothy H  
Merle M  
Lynda P  
Christine M  
Alison R

Keith S  
Bernice U  
Francis L  
Joan K  
Ena A  
Debbie S



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## Announcements

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**Christian Education:** Drop your children off at the door near the fenced playground at 10:20 a.m. on Sundays for childrens’ story time, worship, crafts, and

play (indoor & outdoor). We will be using the downstairs Sunday School Room (formerly the Preschool). Masks and distancing required. Please pre-register your children online at [rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9](https://rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9) or on our website: [sjruc.ca](https://sjruc.ca)



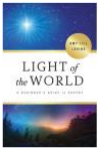
We need volunteers to assist with the activity centers (no requirement to teach content). If you can help, please contact Mearle [ce@sjruc.ca](mailto:ce@sjruc.ca) or Rev. Chris [revchris@sjruc.ca](mailto:revchris@sjruc.ca)

**Library update:** The library will be re-opening November 7<sup>th</sup>!



**Church Mouse:** We are looking for stories of what kept you busy during the last few months! Take any trips? Try a new hobby? We'd love to hear from you! Please send your submissions to [charmianpatrick@rogers.com](mailto:charmianpatrick@rogers.com) by November 10.

**Special Gifts Allocations** - The Special Gifts Committee invites applications for a share of any interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2022. Please ensure that your application is in writing, is supported by the appropriate church committee, and that you indicate that you will spend any allocation by the end of 2022. *Please send your application to Valerie Hoag at [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca) or mail it to her at the church, by the deadline.*



**Faith Study In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*,**

author, professor, & biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. She will guide us as we trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around

connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. Join us for this four week study beginning Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 9pm on zoom. Contact Rev. Chris or sign up on the website.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** We give thanks for the Prayer Shawl ministry that continues to thrive here at SJR after more than 15 years, in spite of - or maybe, in part, because of - the pandemic. If you are interested in crocheting or knitting shawls, please contact Teresa. Yarn is available if you need it. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a shawl - a tangible hug from God, whether it be a hug of comfort or a hug of celebration, or just a hug (there is no wrong reason to give a shawl!) - please contact Teresa. [prayershawls@sjruc.ca](mailto:prayershawls@sjruc.ca)

