
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



November 28, 2021 – Hanging of the Greens
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: From a branch sprouting

All: hope is coming.

One: The heavens are shifting,

All: hope is coming.

One: A troubled world waits.

All: Hope is coming.

One: Lord, we, your people, wait patiently, hanging on with
Advent hope. Lord, we bring you ourselves,

All: we bring you our worship.

Lighting our Advent Wreath © enfleshed 2018, Rev. Anna Blaedel

One: The Hope of God-With-Us does not come with a
guaranteed outcome, a predetermined plan, or even the
promise of a happy ending.

Hope cannot be imposed from on high.

Hope cannot be commanded.

The Hope of God-With-Us is courageous, risky,
unfolding, indeterminate. The Hope of God-With-Us is
collective, liberating us from deadly complacency.

Hope is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly.
Hope invites our expectation, and demands our
participation. Prepare the way, for hope with courage.
May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us,
this Advent.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...

Light the Candle of Hope

Candle Lighting Hymn – **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And with your people always dwell.
We mourn in lowly exile here,
until the Lord of Life appear.***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come again and with us ever dwell.

Opening Prayer

One: God of the cosmos, of earth, moon, and sun,
God of the distant, of galaxies and big bangs,
God of the past, of history's story passed down to us,
God of the future, still to be written, still to be cast,
may we approach afresh the old, old story of
incarnation: God with us.

Give us the enthusiasm and excitement of a child
opening the first door of their new Advent calendar.

May we see beyond the story to the timeless hope
and expectation that you are with us, always,
no matter what.

May we see in the signs around us glimmers of you at
work, and may we never cease in anticipating that
your kingdom will come and your will be done.

Where clouds darken the skies may we never give up
hope but look to the coming of the Son, in this day
and every day.

Lift our souls and spirits as we bring our praise to you.
Check our hearts and minds as we acknowledge how
much we still have to grow into your likeness:
that day by day we have opportunities to reveal your
care and love for all creation and yet we take
advantage of it, abuse it, and treat what is precious
and valuable as if it has no intrinsic worth.

Forgive us, Creative One, and help us see the signs
all around us calling us to do better, to be better. Amen.

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

VU 62

***1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.***

*Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

2 *He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

3 *For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.*

4 *And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission – **OneRoof**

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) **Luke 1:5-24a**

⁵ During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. ⁸ One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. ⁹ Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. ¹⁰ All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. ¹¹ An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear. ¹³ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his

birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. ¹⁶ He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers^a back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old." ¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in God's presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. ²⁰ Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn't believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen." ²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered why he was in the sanctuary for such a long time. ²² When he came out, he was unable to speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he gestured to them and couldn't speak. ²³ When he completed the days of his priestly service, he returned home. ²⁴ Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant.

Anthem **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

(Marty Wheeler Burnett)

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Reflection

Hymn **Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring** VU 328

***Jesu, joy of our desiring,
holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by you, our souls aspiring soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown,
soaring, dying round your throne.***

***Through the way where hope is guiding,
hark, what peaceful music rings;
where the flock, in you confiding,
drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
You, forever, lead your own
in the love of joys unknown.***

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offering Response **O Little Town of Bethlehem v3 VU 64**

***How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.***

***No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.***

Prayers of the People

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.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn **Will You Come and See the Light VU 96**

***1 Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

***2 Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.***

***By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed;
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

3 ***Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised,
and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

4 ***Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least
are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?***

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.*

(Besig & Price ©1988)

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

Postlude

Announcements

Please register for Worship: Masks, & distancing are required. Register at <https://rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9> or on our website: sjruc.ca Sign up your "bubble" - register as one group & sit together. Phone registration is available through the office. Note that there is a separate registration for Sunday School (children will be dropped off at the door near the fenced playground upon arrival - do not include Sunday School children for attending in the Sanctuary.) If the 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. **Starting December 5th we will be asking for proof of vaccination to attend worship in person.** For those who have chosen to be unvaccinated, please join us online or in print.

Christian Education: Drop your children off at the door near the fenced playground at 10:20 a.m. on Sundays for story time, worship, crafts, and play (indoor & outdoor). We will be in the downstairs Sunday School Room. Masks & distancing required. Pre-register your children online at rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9

Can you volunteer to assist with the activity centers? If you can help, contact Mearle at ce@sjruc.ca or Rev. Chris revchris@sjruc.ca

Sanctuary Christmas Flowers: To remember a loved one by contributing to the Christmas Flower Fund, please add your name to the form in the Narthex or on bulletin board by the church office. Put your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place it on the collection plate by Sun. Dec. 12. A tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact Anne W



OneRoof Youth Services – Our fundraising effort for oneROOF will continue until Tuesday, December 7th. Monetary donations, gift cards, new socks & underwear, hygiene products, warm gloves, clothing & footwear (sweatshirts, hoodies, winter jackets, winter boots) are some of the required items indicated on their "wish list". All donations can be dropped off beforehand at our normal locations within the church or brought for pick up on Tuesday evening at SJR om 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

Turkey Trot Christmas is coming so we're organizing a Turkey Trot Saturday, **December 11th!** Teaming up with DeliWorks for a take-out dinner in the SJR parking lot. Complete turkey dinner (mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, cranberries, vegetables, & a delicious dessert) ready to heat or freeze for Christmas dinner. Order early - pre-orders are limited. **\$22 per meal.** Call Muriel: 519-893-8124 or Ellen: 519-745-3098 or order on-line at sjruc.ca **by Friday, Dec.4th.** Pay by cheque (made out to SJR UCW), put in an envelope marked "TURKEY TROT" and drop it off at church. If you cannot mail or drop the cash off please let Muriel or Ellen know and it will be picked up. All dinners must be prepaid.



Our Upcoming Christmas Services and Events:

- Dec. 5 Lessons & Carols and White Gift Sunday** – Supporting oneROOF **Communion** - BYOBread (& juice!) *(Vaccination required)*
- Dec. 12 Joy Sunday** *(Vaccination required)*
- Dec. 14 UCW Christmas Service** Online Service – view on our website
- Dec. 19 Love & Memory Sunday** *(Vaccination required)*
Join us as we remember and celebrate the love that makes us whole
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve**
 - 6 p.m. Family Christmas Service in the Gym-**
A Putz' service. More information soon!
 - 7 p.m. Caroling on the Labyrinth-**
 - 8 p.m. Communion & Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary**
(Vaccination required)
- Dec. 26 Pajamas and Carols** *(Vaccination required)*

