
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



BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM,
“DO NOT BE AFRAID.
I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS
THAT WILL CAUSE **GREAT JOY**
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.”

LUKE 2:10, NIV

December 12, 2021 – 3rd Advent - Joy
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

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: In a womb a child is forming.

All: Joy is coming.

One: The miracle of miracles.

All: Joy is coming.

One: The world still waits.

All: Joy is coming.

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

All: we bring you our worship.

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

One: The Joy of God-With-Us does not come as naïve
optimism, or surface level feel-good-ness.

Joy cannot be imposed from on high.

Joy cannot be commanded.

The Joy of God-With-Us is mingled with grief, exists
side by side with mourning, knows that pain and death
are all too real, but do not have the final word. This joy
tends tenderly to beauty, and softness, and the
gladness that comes from paying attention to what
matters. The Joy of God-With-Us is collective, liberating
us from deadly despair. Joy is gestating in darkness; it
comes unexpectedly. Joy invites our expectation, and
demands our participation. Prepare the way, for joy with
sorrow. May Joy be birthed among, within, and through
us, this Advent.

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

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace and Joy

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

**O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come again and with us ever dwell.

Opening Prayer

One: Throughout our lives are signposts, symbols and signs pointing ever toward your presence, invitations to come close to you, to rest in your love, and to know the assurance of your ongoing attention, whether that is in this building, or our homes, or the wide world around us.

Merciful God, we confess that sometimes we do not see or do not grasp the opportunities to be with you, to know you, to speak to you, that we do not offer help when we can, show your love when we can.

In silence and in the surety of your grace, love and forgiveness we bring to you our own prayers. **Silence**

Loving God, Creator of all that we are, all that we have, all that we could ever want, help us to come together in prayer, to draw close to you in prayer, and to live lives of joy, sharing your glory and the care of a world so in need of your love. Amen

Hymn

Joy to the World

VU 59

**1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!**

**Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) Luke 1: 39-45; 57-65

³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³ Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."
⁵⁷ When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. ⁶⁰ But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John." ⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." ⁶² Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him. ⁶³ After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God. ⁶⁵ All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened.

Anthem **Somebody Build a Manger** (Joel Raney)

*Somebody build a manger, down in Bethlehem,
because an angel told me the King is on his way.
Someone fill the lanterns. Someone light the way.
Someone find a stable where Emmanuel can stay.
Someone make him welcome, someone ring a bell.*

*Spread the tidings, share the joy!
Somebody go and tell everybody!*

*Somebody build a manger, down in Bethlehem,
because an angel told me the King is on his way.
Somebody clean the stable, down in Bethlehem,
because an angel told me the King is on his way.
Somebody find a pillow for the Prince of Peace to use.
Someone make him welcome, someone ring a bell.
Hear the tidings, spread the joy!*

Reflection

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful

VU 232

**1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.**

**3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

**4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offering Response **When Heaven's Bright** VU 93, vs 4

***When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.***

Dedication of the Offering

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

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Sung to “God Rest Ye Merry” - Words – Helen Wiltshire

***O come with hope and faith renewed
let nothing us dismay.
For Jesus, child of promise
was born on Christmas Day,
to offer us new ways to walk
when we had lost our way:***

Refrain ***O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.***

***In midnight blue of heaven,
a shining angels’ flight
brought news to lowly shepherds
of Jesus’ birth that night:
‘come soon to Bethlehem to see
this child of love and light’:*** Refrain

***Now let us all sing praises
as joy indwells this space,
and with new faith and hopefulness
each other now embrace,
as once again at Christmas
comes promised gift of grace:*** Refrain

Commissioning

Choral Benediction **Oh, How Joyfully**

VU 57

***Oh, how joyfully, oh, how hopefully,
waits the world on Christmas Eve!
Love comes healing, God revealing.
Friends, be joyful and believe!***

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

Postlude

Announcements

Please register for Worship: Vaccination, masks, & distancing are required. Register at: sjruc.ca Sign up your “bubble” & sit together. Phone registration is available through the office. There is a separate registration for Sunday School. 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. **We are now 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.

Sanctuary Christmas Flowers: remember a loved one by contributing to the Christmas Flower Fund. 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 TODAY, Dec. 12.** Tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact Anne W or contact the church office.



Annual Committee Reports: Due at the Church Office by **December 31, 2021.**

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). Masks & distancing required. Pre-register your children online at www.sjruc.ca or 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

Love and Memory Sunday As we prepare for our annual Love and Memory Sunday on December 19th, remembering those who have died in 2021, we are asking for your help. If there is anyone you would like mentioned in the service, please speak to Margaret S or to Rev. Chris to ensure we don't miss anyone. Please know that if we miss your loved one's name, we are still keeping you in prayer.

Broadview Magazine at SJRUC we have a group subscription price, of \$25.00 per year. A wonderful price, for a wonderful magazine! We now **order subscriptions in January.** (This is a new time of year for ordering). If you are interested, please contact Muriel. Current subscribers will be contacted in January.

Financial Update You have recently received a givings update (available year-round by request). There are several ways to give: can place your envelope in the mailbox on the outside wall, to the left of the Sherwood doors, or donate through Canada Helps, www.Canadahelps.org (look for St. James-Rosemount) or sign up for PAR (pre-authorized remittance). This may be done by cheque or credit card. Contact the office for sign-up: 519-742-1002 or mail@sjruc.ca.

Save your Stamps for the Leprosy Mission! Cut your used stamps from parcels & cards and place them in the caring bin in the brown wooden cabinet in the cloak room. Questions about the Stamp Project or The Leprosy Mission? Please reach out to the church office for contact information.

Our Upcoming Christmas Services and Events:



- **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 info 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)