
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



Love & Memory Sunday

December 19, 2021 – 4th Advent
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: A promise of justice.

All: Love is coming.

One: Through a restoration of life.

All: Love is coming.

One: The world waits.

All: Love is coming.

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

All: we bring you our worship.

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

One: The Love of God-With-Us does not come as mere
feeling, or sentimental fluff.

Love cannot be imposed from on high.

Love is our greatest commandment— tending tenderly
to God, to other, and to self.

The Love of God-With-Us is love in action, radical love
practices: redistribution of resources and risks,
solidarity with those most exposed to threat, hospitality
to caravans, refugees, migrants, and sojourners, caring
for those we've been taught to despise, or fear.

This love is fierce, and tender. It defies unjust rules and
flattens hierarchies of value. The Love of God-With-Us
is collective, liberating us from deadly alienation. Love
is gestating in darkness; it comes unexpectedly. Love
invites our expectation, and demands our participation.

Prepare the way, for Love enfleshed. May Love be birthed among, within, and through us, this Advent.

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

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

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: Ever-loving God, in this building and in our homes we gather in praise, hope, and thanks; even as love is intangible and fleeting, it finds us here.

We give thanks today and every day for all that we have and all that we are. Because you have helped us; we seek to help the world around us, to stand up to fear and hate, and reject the evils that divide us.

In a world of confusion and division, where the right thing is not always the easy thing, we bring before you our confessions of the times we avoided the opportunity to love. **Silence**

May we remain sure in your constant, loving, forgiveness. As a community of people seeking the Christ light, we give thanks that you love us unconditionally, and inspire us to do the same. Amen

Hymn

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VU 31

**1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.**

- 2** *Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.*
- 3** *A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) **Luke 1: 46-57**

⁴⁶ Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. ⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored ⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. ⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

Anthem

Mary, Woman of Promise

(words: Mary Frances Fleischaker, music: Alfred V. Fedak)

*Mary, woman of the promise,
bearer of your people's dreams,
through your open, willing spirit
waters of God's goodness streamed.*

*Mary, song of holy wisdom,
sung before the world began,
faithful to the Word within, you
carried out God's wondrous plan.*

*Mary, morning star of justice,
mirror of the Radiant Light,
in the shadows of life's journey,
be a beacon for our sight.*

*Mary, model of compassion,
wounded by your offspring's pain,
when our hearts are torn by sorrow,
teach us how to love again.*

*Mary, woman of the Gospel,
precious home for treasured seed,
help us to be true disciples,
bearing fruit in word and deed.*

Reflection

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;**

visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

**2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

3 *Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offering Response **In the Bleak Midwinter** VU 55, vs 4

4 *What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

Dedication of the Offering

Remembering Those We Love

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

O Ancient Love

VU 17

1 *O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:*

Refrain ***O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.***

2 ***O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within a manger:*** Refrain

3 ***O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:*** Refrain

4 ***O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:*** Refrain

Commissioning

Choral Benediction **People, Look East**

VU 9

***People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the guest is on the way.***

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

Postlude

Announcements

Books in Memory The UCW have purchased the following books in memory of these women who have been a part of the spiritual journey of our church:

- **Dare To Dream** (from the CNIB) in memory of Gladys S
- **Hayley Wickenheiser: Over the Boards** in memory Gweneth H
- **At Knits End** in memory of Viola M
- **Quite Good British Cookbook** in memory of Winnifred C

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. Note the separate registration for Sunday School. If the list for the Worship Service is full, please sign up on the “Wait List”. We will contact you if spaces become available. **We require proof of vaccination to attend.** For those who have chosen to be unvaccinated, please join us online or in print

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

SJR Donations & Receipts To have your donations reflected in your 2021 Tax Receipt, ensure that your gifts are received by SJR by December 26th. Your contributions help eliminate any deficit as we enter 2022. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries at SJRUC!

Winner of "Finding Rev. Chris" in the Library Nook: Congratulations to Grace ! Your guess was correct! Grace will be receiving a \$10 gift card. Thank you to all who entered the contest & toured the library!



Keep Saving Those Stamps for the Leprosy Mission! Place them in the caring bin in the brown wooden cabinet in the cloak room. Questions? Contact Jim O

Our Upcoming Christmas Services and Events:

- **Dec. 24 Christmas Eve:**
 - 6 p.m. **Family Christmas Service in the Gym** A Putz' service!
 - 7 p.m. **Caroling on the Labyrinth- ALL WELCOME!**
 - 8 p.m. **Communion & Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary** (Vaccination required)
- **Dec. 26 Pajamas and Carols** (Vaccination required)



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If you know of anyone needing a visit, let Rev. Chris know.