
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



**January 23, 2022 – Exile – Who are we?
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

Welcome!

Welcome to worship!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

*We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and
Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prelude

Call to Worship *from the hymn I Come with Joy, by Brian Wren*

One: I come with joy, a child of God,

All: forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,

All: in love laid down for me.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,

One: each proud division ends.

All: The love that made us, makes us one,

One: and strangers now are friends,

All: and strangers now are friends.

One: Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,

**All: we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,**

One: the love that makes us one.

Opening Prayer *written by Joanna Harader (based on Psalms 92,95)*

One: Holy, Creating, Creative God,

We sing from the depths of our sorrow.

We sing from the abundance of our joy.

We sing in voices separate and unique.

We sing with one voice as your body.

May the words of our mouths,

whether in speech or song,

and the meditations of our hearts,

whether in prose or poetry,

be pleasing in your sight. 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

O God beyond All Praising

VU 256

*1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*2 The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature,
to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven,
from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.*

*3 Then, hear O gracious Saviour,
this song of praise we sing.
May we, who know your favour,
our humble service bring;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Lamentations 1:1-4, 2:7-9, 3:22-33**

¹ Oh, no! She sits alone, the city that was once full of people. Once great among nations, she has become like a widow. Once a queen over provinces, she has become a slave. ² She weeps bitterly in the night, her tears on her cheek. None of her lovers comfort her. All her friends lied to her; they have become her enemies. ³ Judah was exiled after suffering and hard service. She lives among the nations; she finds no rest. All who were chasing her caught her—right in the middle of her distress. ⁴ Zion's roads are in mourning; no one comes to the festivals. All her gates are deserted. Her priests are groaning, her young women grieving. She is bitter. ^{2:7} My Lord rejected his altar, abandoned the sanctuary; God handed Zion's palace walls over to enemies. They shouted in the Lord's own house as if it were a festival day. ⁸ The Lord planned to destroy Daughter Zion's wall. God stretched out a measuring line, didn't stop the devouring. God made barricades and walls wither—together they wasted away. ⁹ Zion's gates sank into the ground; God broke and shattered her bars; her king and her officials are now among the nations. There is no Instruction! Even her prophets couldn't find a vision from the Lord. ^{3:22} Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! ²³ They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I think: The Lord is my portion! Therefore, I'll wait for God. ²⁵ The Lord is good to those who hope, to the person who seeks. ²⁶ It's good to wait in silence for the Lord's deliverance. ²⁷ It's good for a man to carry a yoke in his youth. ²⁸ He should sit alone and be silent when God lays it on him. ²⁹ He should put his mouth in the dirt—perhaps there is hope. ³⁰ He should offer his cheek for a blow; he should be filled with shame. ³¹ My Lord definitely won't reject forever. ³² Although God has caused grief, God will show compassion in measure with covenant loyalty. ³³ God definitely doesn't enjoy affliction, making humans suffer.

Anthem

Even When God is Silent

(Sumner Jenkins)

*I believe in the sun
even when it isn't shining.
I believe in love
even when feeling it not.
I believe in God
even when God is silent.
I believe in the silence.*

Reflection

Hymn

Great is thy Faithfulness

VU 288

**1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. Refrain**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offering Response **We Bring our Gifts to Share**

**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

Response during Prayers **Don't Be Afraid**

MV 90

**Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger, I have promised,
promised to be always near.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn

God is Here

VU 389

- 1** *God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*
- 2** *Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.*
- 3** *Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.*
- 4** *God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!*

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

Announcements

Annual Committee Reports: Some are still outstanding – please submit them ASAP

Church Office The Church office is currently closed, though we are checking mail, phone messages and email. Please bear with us if it takes a little longer to get back to you!

Gifts and Memorials book previously located in the Narthex has gone missing. Do you know where it is? Contact the office 519 742-1002

Chasing Vines Join us on Wednesday, January 26th as we continue our six-session journey through Scripture to discover the true meaning of a fruitful, God-pleasing, meaning-filled life. Just how do those vineyards hold the secret of how we can have a more abundant life? Please contact Rev. Chris or sign up on the website to be included on the zoom meetings on Wednesday nights from 7pm - 9pm.

Library News:

1. New Memorial book: “Feast” - Recipes and stories from a Canadian road trip. This is a book written by two friends on their cross-country road trip. They collected recipes from each province, highlighted the chef of each recipe along their travels. This book is a stunning representation of the diversity and complexity of Canada through our favourite foods.

2. We are looking for gently used books you might have in your home - new releases less than 5 years are ideal and may be of interest to other members. We are also expanding our DVD collection. If you have DVDs you are not using consider donating them to the library. Once these are shelved, I will post a list on the bulletin board outside the library with information of new additions. Please ensure they are suitable for our library.

3. I will be creating a Health section with information, pamphlets and books. If you have any that you would be interested in or you that you would like to donate (up to date information) please donate if you like.

Letter from Chairperson of the Unified Board

Greetings all, while we may wish everyone a Happy New Year - we have some hard news to share.

The Executive of the Unified Board met and, after much discussion, made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship for the next four weeks. We will re-evaluate our status at our next Executive meeting on Feb. 1/22 and hopefully will be able to reverse our decision depending on the pandemic conditions at that time. We are grateful for the care and concern that all of you have shown this fall enabling us to worship together safely. Unfortunately, the active cases currently are far more troubling than ever. If the COVID landscape appears to be improving substantially within that time frame we will meet sooner to discuss potential changes. In the meantime, services will continue to be posted online and mailed out as previously. If you know of someone that would like to receive sermons by mail, please speak to the office. Closing to in-person is the last thing any of us want to do, however we believe it to be the right decision knowing how lucky we were to be able to celebrate Christmas together.

In addition, all groups using our building will be notified that, pursuant to the Provincial order to close meeting and event spaces, our church building will be closed to those groups until the Provincial guidelines change. Again, we hope this to be once again, a temporary measure to allow our health system to cope with the increased demand, without adding anymore cases as a result of our activities.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we navigate through these challenging times.

SJRUC CHURCH STAFF:

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

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