
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 30, 2022 – Exile – How shall we live?
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

One: God of all creation -

**All: Be with each one of us, as growth,
creativity and healing, as light and wisdom
for we meet you anew each and every day.**

One: Incarnated love made present in Jesus,

**All: Live within our community,
giving courage to dispel fear and resolve conflict,
giving fire to inflame with love.**

One: Spirit of Peace -

**All: Dwell with us so that we may
know your presence in silences and stillness,
know your vision for your people
as it calls us forward from this place.**

Opening Prayer *written Katherine Hawker*

One: But thus says the Lord: Seek shalom wherever you
are, and pray to the Lord, for your shalom shall be
found in the shalom of the community.

**All: We find ourselves in exile caused by
relationships, economics, and failing health.**

One: But thus says the Lord: Seek shalom wherever you
are, and pray to the Lord, for your shalom shall be
found in the shalom of the community.

**All: We feel used by people and systems,
sometimes even abused.**

One: But thus says the Lord: Seek shalom wherever you

are, and pray to the Lord, for your shalom shall be found in the shalom of the community.

All: We long for the day when peace will prevail. May our actions embody our prayers for the healing of the community and therein may we find our long awaited wholeness. May our shalom be found in the shalom of the community. 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 **God, We Praise You for the Morning** VU 415

**1 God, we praise you for the morning;
hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise,
joy in work and in play.**

**2 God, we praise you for creation,
mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing
in your bountiful hand.**

**3 God, we praise you for compassion,
all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter,
help your children to grow.**

**4 God, we praise you for your Spirit,
Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher,
strength and courage you send.**

**5 God, we praise you for the Saviour,
come that we may know your ways.**

***In his loving, dying, rising,
Christ is Lord of our days.***

***6 Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Christ is Lord of our days!***

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (The Message) **Jeremiah 29:1-14**

¹This is the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to what was left of the elders among the exiles, to the priests and prophets and all the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken to Babylon from Jerusalem, including King Jehoiachin, the queen mother, the government leaders, and all the skilled laborers and craftsmen. ³The letter was carried by Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah had sent to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. The letter said: ⁴This is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God, to all the exiles I've taken from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵"Build houses and make yourselves at home. "Put in gardens and eat what grows in that country. ⁶"Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that you'll thrive in that country and not waste away. ⁷"Make yourselves at home there and work for the country's welfare. "Pray for Babylon's well-being. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you." ⁸⁻⁹Yes. Believe it or not, this is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God: "Don't let all those so-called preachers and know-it-alls who are all over the place there take you in with their lies. Don't pay any attention to the fantasies they keep coming up with to please you. They're a bunch of liars preaching lies—and claiming I sent them! I never sent them, believe me." God's Decree! ¹⁰⁻¹¹This is God's Word on the subject: "As soon as Babylon's seventy years are up and not a day before, I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. ¹²"When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. ¹³⁻¹⁴"When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." God's Decree. "I'll turn things around for you. I'll bring you back from all the countries into which I drove you"—God's Decree—"bring you home to the place from which I sent you off into exile. You can count on it.

Anthem **For I know the Plans I Have for You** (D. Schwoebel)

For I know the plans I have for you.

Plans for welfare, not for evil,

To give you a future and hope," says the Lord.

"Plans for a future and hope.

Call upon me, come and pray to me.

I will hear you when you call upon me.

You will seek me, you will find me,

When you seek with all your heart.

I will be found by you," says the Lord.

"I will gather you from all places,

I will be found by you," says the Lord.

"Gathered in from all places, I will be found," says the Lord.

"For I know the plans I have for you."

Reflection

Hymn

In the Bulb there is a Flower

VU 703

1 *In the bulb there is a flower;*

in the seed, an apple tree;

in cocoons, a hidden promise:

butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter

there's a spring that waits to be,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

2 *There's a song in every silence,*

seeking word and melody;

there's a dawn in every darkness,

bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;

what it holds, a mystery,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

3 *In our end is our beginning;*

in our time, infinity;

in our doubt there is believing;

in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection;

at the last, a victory,

unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering - Minute for Mission (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.***

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Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn **Our God, Creation's Loving Source** VU 490

***1 Our God, Creation's loving source,
in love, for love has placed us here
that God's own image, which we bear,
through human loving may shine clear.***

***2 As God is One in Trinity,
our being - body, mind, and soul -
is meant for unity and peace,
a sound and joyful living whole.***

***3 Desire and tenderness and joy
are holy gifts, and ours to share
in love that's giving, faithful, kind,
and grows in mutual love and care.***

***4 Within Christ's body may we find
our best and truest selves revealed,
called forth, supported by its love
to live at peace, made whole and healed.***

***5 Praise God, all living souls on earth
with strings and trumpets, dance, and song!
God's all-surrounding love will be
both home and way our whole life long!***

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

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, February 2nd 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 for the Zoom link!

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.

Broadview, our United Church Magazine, offers a year's subscription for \$25.00 to group subscribers. We receive 8 issues a year. Broadview helps connects us all to the larger church community. It helps people understand their faith, their lives, and their world. For a subscription to this informative magazine, please contact Muriel S.

Attention all knitters/crocheters! The Pastoral Care and Membership Committee are looking for donations of yarn for projects we are working on for Easter. A minimum of 50 yards of a coloured, Easter themed yarn to complete one of our items. Also, if you are able to assist with this crocheted project we are in need of volunteers. Please contact the church office if you are interested. We can arrange pickup up or drop off yarn.



From the Kenya Education Committee SJRUC provided \$9,605.00 in financial support in 2021 which allowed 31 students who live in abject poverty (e.g. no clean water, electricity, or regular meals) in the Ugunja area of Kenya to receive an education that could help them break the cycle of poverty. We are always looking for new sponsors as there is a long waiting list of potential sponsorship students. However, we urgently need to find new sponsors for two NYATI students whose sponsors passed away in 2021. Josephine Akinyi is a second-year student in the three-year Library Information Sciences diploma program, while Dan Ochieng Oluoch is in his third year of the four-year Bachelor of Sciences Program in Information Security and Forensic Studies. The annual costs to sponsor a particular student are:

- Nyasanda Community High School \$350
- Nyasanda Technical Institute (NYATI) \$500 or \$600 depending on program & year
- University \$500

You can also choose to provide a smaller amount of money that would be pooled together with other smaller contributions to fund an eligible student. Your donations cover the costs of things like uniforms, shoes, lunch, books, academic tours, and motivational speakers. Tax Receipts are provided. Sponsors receive information about the progress of their sponsored student throughout the year. Most sponsors also achieve a short note, letter or Christmas card from their grateful student.

The 2022 high school year begins in April and we would need your financial contributions by the end of February as it takes a while to get the money to the appropriate educational institutions. If you are interested in supporting Josephine, Dan - or any other student - please contact the church office.

Excerpt from a Letter from Lynda Perkes, Chairperson of the Unified Board:

The Executive of the Unified Board met and, after much discussion, made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship. 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. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we navigate through these challenging times.

Rev. Chris Fickling, Minister of Worship revchris@sjruc.ca
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If you know of anyone needing a visit, please let Rev. Chris know.