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# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



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**February 6, 2022 – Exile – Why are we here?  
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

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**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: Jesus calls us to follow.

**All: We will follow with our hearts as well as with our minds.**

One: Jesus calls us to listen to his teaching.

**All: We will read the scriptures and listen to those who teach in the spirit of Jesus Christ.**

One: Jesus calls us to note carefully the change that his presence may bring:

**All: compassion where there is indifference, hope where there is despair, friendship where there is loneliness.**

One: Jesus calls us to work in community.

**All: We will support each other and strive together for the common good.**

One: We remember Jesus, but we cannot forget the cross.

**All: Are we ready for the sacrifice and the rejection the cross so clearly symbolizes?**

One: And so we come to worship, struggling with sacrifice, while overflowing with praise.

Opening Prayer *written Katherine Hawker*

One: Loving God, when our discipleship is intermittent, you give us commitment. When our discipleship is lukewarm, you give us determination. When our discipleship is solitary, you give us Christian friends. When our discipleship is self-centered, you point us to neighbourhood concerns. When our discipleship is close to home, you show us the needs of a suffering

world. The disciples became a power for good in the ancient world. You remind us that we can be a power for good in our place and in our time. **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

**This is a Day of New Beginnings**

**1 *This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember, and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.***

**2 *For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference  
as faith and hope are born again.***

**3 *Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past, and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.***

**4 *In faith we'll gather round the table  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.***

Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### Scripture Reading (CEB) **Isaiah 43:1-24**

<sup>1</sup> But now, says the Lord—the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you. <sup>3</sup> I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you. I give people in your place, and nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Don't fear, I am with you. From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you. <sup>6</sup> I'll say to the north, "Give them back!" and to the south, "Don't detain them." Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth, <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory, whom I have formed and made. <sup>8</sup> Bring out the blind people who have eyes, the deaf ones who have ears. <sup>9</sup> All the nations are gathered together; the peoples are assembled. Which of them announced this? Who predicted to us the past events? Let them bring their witnesses as a defense; let them hear and say, "It's true!" <sup>10</sup> You are my witnesses, says the Lord, my servant, whom I chose, so that you would know and believe me and understand that I am the one. Before me no god was formed; after me there has been no other. <sup>11</sup> I, I am the Lord, and there is no savior besides me. <sup>12</sup> I announced, I saved, I proclaimed, not some stranger among you. You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and I am God. <sup>13</sup> From the dawn of time, I am the one. No one can escape my power. I act, and who can undo it? <sup>14</sup> The Lord your redeemer, the holy one of Israel, says, For your sake, I have sent an army to Babylon, and brought down all the bars, turning the Chaldeans' singing into a lament. <sup>15</sup> I am the Lord, your holy one, Israel's creator, your king! <sup>16</sup> The Lord says—who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and battalion; they will lie down together and will not rise; they will be extinguished, extinguished like a wick. <sup>18</sup> Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. <sup>19</sup> Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness. <sup>20</sup> The beasts of the field, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me, because I have put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness to give water to my people, my chosen ones, <sup>21</sup> this people whom I formed for myself, who will recount my praise. <sup>22</sup> But you didn't call out to me, Jacob; you were tired of me, Israel. <sup>23</sup> You didn't bring me lambs for your entirely burned offering; you didn't honor me with your

sacrifices. I didn't make you worship with offerings; I didn't weary you with frankincense. <sup>24</sup>You didn't buy spices for me with your money, or satisfy me with the fat of your sacrifices. Instead, you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your evil actions.

Anthem

**In My Heart**

(arr. Alan Bullard)

*Lord, help me be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, help me be more loving in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, help me be more prayerful in my heart, in my heart.  
Lord, help me be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.*

Reflection

Hymn

**I Have Called You By Your Name**

MV161

***I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.***

***I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.***

***I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.***

***I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people they are mine.***

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE**

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://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

## **WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS**

Closing Hymn **One More Step Along the World** VU 639

***1 One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:***

Refrain ***And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.***

***2 Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:*** Refrain

***3 As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:*** Refrain

***4 Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:*** Refrain

***5 You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:*** Refrain

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

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## Announcements

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**Gather and Gab RETURNS!** While the month of February might be the shortest month, we're going to make the most of our time together by joining for Gather and Gab every Sunday! Grab your coffee and join us on Zoom as we make this cold month a little warmer. See you at noon, every Sunday and if you need the Zoom link, send a note to Rev. Chris.



**Chasing Vines** Join us on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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 the church office.

**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.

### **Reopening Update: Excerpt from the Chairperson of the Unified Board:**

As promised, the Executive of SJR has been staying on top of cases in our community and as a result, made a decision that we will re-open the church to groups on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, with our **first in-person worship service on Feb. 27, 2022.**

When we resume in-person worship, all of the protocols that were in place before the suspension will be enforced: **preregistration, distancing, masking, full vaccination, no singing, etc. Sunday School will remain separated from worship downstairs for the foreseeable future.**

Since it has been shown that 2 doses of vaccine have proven not to adequately protect against the Omicron variant in adults, we encourage everyone to continue to get the 3rd dose booster in order to keep yourself and others safe.

We look forward to resuming our in-person worship on Feb. 27 but will continue to post the service on the website for those who choose to remain at home.

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**Rev. Chris Fickling, Minister of Worship** [revchris@sjruc.ca](mailto:revchris@sjruc.ca)

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