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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 13, 2022 – Exile – When shall we return?  
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: We come from scattered lives together  
seeking unity in the Spirit,  
seeking the grace of Christ,  
seeking the peace of God.

**All: Distressed by the division in the world,  
unsure of how to forgive and restore hope,  
struggling with ourselves and others,  
we gather here.**

One: We come from scattered lives together  
seeking the unity, grace, and peace  
that greets us in worship,  
that we might experience these in this time,  
in order to carry them into our world.

Opening Prayer

One: God, teach me to be patient  
with life...with people...with myself.  
Sometimes I try to hurry too much,  
and I push for answers before the time is right.  
Sometimes I make up my own answers,  
instead of waiting upon a common good.  
Teach me to trust. Teach me to wait.  
Teach me to rely on your sense of timing  
rather than what makes me comfortable,  
giving over my incessant need to control,  
instead believing that you share in my life, out of love:  
deep, patient and transformative love, that was  
revealed in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray:

**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 Jesus, Let Me Walk with Thee**

**VU 560**

*1 O Jesus, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
teach me thy secret, help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*2 Help me the slow of heart to move  
with some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,*

*4 in hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Jesus, let me live*

Story Time

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Daniel 4:1-14, 18, 29-33**

<sup>1</sup> King Nebuchadnezzar's message to all the peoples, nations, and languages inhabiting the entire earth: "I wish you much peace. <sup>2</sup>I'm delighted to share the signs and miracles that the Most High God has worked in my life. <sup>3</sup>God's signs are superb! God's miracles so powerful! God's kingdom is everlasting. God's rule is for all time. <sup>4</sup>"While I,

Nebuchadnezzar, was safe in my house, content in my palace, <sup>5</sup>I had a terrifying dream. My thoughts while I was lying in bed and the vision in my mind overwhelmed me. <sup>6</sup>I ordered all Babylon's sages to come before me, so they might tell me the dream's meaning. <sup>7</sup>So the dream interpreters, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners came. I told them the dream, but they couldn't interpret it for me. <sup>8</sup>Daniel, who is called Belteshazzar after the name of my god, was the last to come before me. In him is the breath of the holy gods! I told Daniel the dream: <sup>9</sup>"Belteshazzar, chief of the dream interpreters, I know the breath of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Tell me the meaning of the visions I had in my dream. <sup>10</sup>In my mind, as I lay in bed, I saw a vision: At the center of the earth was a towering tree. <sup>11</sup>The tree grew in size and strength; it was as high as the sky; it could be seen from every corner of the earth. <sup>12</sup>It had enough food for everyone. Wild animals took shade under it; birds nested in its branches. All living things lived off that tree. <sup>13</sup>"In my mind, as I lay in bed, I saw another vision: A holy watcher came down from heaven. <sup>14</sup>He proclaimed loudly: 'Cut down the tree and shear off its branches! Strip its leaves and scatter its fruit! The creatures should flee from its shelter; the birds should take flight from its branches... <sup>18</sup>"This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. So now Belteshazzar, tell me the meaning because all the sages in my kingdom were unable to interpret it for me. But you are able to do it because the breath of the holy gods is in you..." <sup>29</sup>Twelve months later, he was walking on the roof of the royal palace in Babylon. <sup>30</sup>The king declared, "Isn't this Babylon, the magnificent city that I built as the royal house by my own mighty strength and for my own majestic glory?" <sup>31</sup>These words hadn't even left the king's mouth when a voice came from heaven: "You, King Nebuchadnezzar, are now informed: Kingship is taken away from you. <sup>32</sup>You will be driven away from other humans and will live with the wild animals. You will eat grass like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you acknowledge that the Most High dominates human kingship, giving it to anyone he wants." <sup>33</sup>Nebuchadnezzar's sentence was immediately carried out. He was driven away from other humans and ate grass like cattle. Dew from heaven washed his body until he grew hair like eagles' feathers and claws like a bird.

Anthem                      **The Storm is Passing Over** (arr. Barbara W. Baker)

*Have courage my soul and let us journey on.*

*Though the night is dark and I am far from home.*

*Thanks be to God the morning light appears.*

*The storm is passing over. Hallelu*

**1 *The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are his new creation by water and the Word;  
from heaven he came and sought us  
that we might ever be  
his living servant people, by his own death set free.***

**2 *Called forth from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth;  
one charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name professing and at one table fed,  
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.***

**3 *Though with a scornful wonder  
the world sees us oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
But soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.***

**4 *Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.***

**5 *We now on earth have union  
with God the Three in One,  
and share through faith communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.***

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

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 **Though Ancient Walls**

VU 691

***1 Though ancient walls may still stand proud  
and racial strife be fact,  
though boundaries may be lines of hate,  
proclaim God's saving act!***

Refrain ***Walls that divide are broken down;  
Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;  
Christ is our liberty!***

***2 When vested power stands firm entrenched  
and breaks another's back,  
when waste and want live side by side,  
it's Gospel that we lack.*** Refrain

***3 The truth we seek in varied scheme,  
the life that we pursue,  
unites us in a common quest  
for self and world made new.*** Refrain

***4 The church divided seeks that grace,  
that newness we proclaim;  
a unity of serving love  
that lives praise to God's name!*** Refrain

***5 This broken world seeks lasting health  
and vital unity.  
God's people by God's Word renewed,  
cast off all slavery!*** 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 16<sup>th</sup> as we conclude 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!

Our six week Lenten Study for 2022 will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd on zoom from 7pm to 9pm. In "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week" Amy Jill Levine will take us on a step-by-step journey through the last days of Jesus. She will shed fresh light on familiar passages in the Gospels and help us to see the passion of Jesus through Jewish eyes. Please contact Rev Chris if you would like to be included in the link for this study or sign up on our webpage at sjruc.ca.

**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.

**Tax receipts** will be available this coming week. Let the office know if you prefer to have yours mailed to you, or if you would like to pick it up at the church Tues-Fri 11a.m.- 1 pm, or on Sunday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at the in-person worship service. Email [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca) or call 519-742-1002 and leave a message.

**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 the church office. Thank you! Kevin C, Chair, Kenya Education Committee

### **Reopening Update: Excerpt from a Letter from Lynda Perkes, 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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***If you know of anyone needing a visit, please let Rev. Chris know.***