
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



**February 20, 2022 – Exile – What has changed?
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

Opening Litany *adapted from a poem by Ted Loder*

One: O God of all seasons and senses,
grant us the sense of your timing
to submit gracefully and rejoice quietly
to wait patiently upon you,
as the spring waits upon the warmth to return.

All: Renew our hearts to wait for you, O God.
In this season of short days and long nights,
of grey and white and cold,
teach us the lessons of endings;
children growing, friends leaving, loved ones dying,
grieving over, grudges over, blaming over,
excuses over.

All: Renew our hearts to wait for you, O God.

One: O God, grant us a sense of your timing.
In this season of short days and long nights,
of grey and white and cold,
teach us the lessons of beginnings; that such waitings
and endings may be the starting place,
a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready
to be born – something right and just and different,
a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love—
in the fullness of your time.

O God, grant us the sense of your timing.

**All: Renew our hearts to wait for you, O God,
that together in worship may we glimpse the
hopes you have in us.**

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 **Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven** **VU 240**

*1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Maker all your days!*

*2 Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Sing our Maker's faithfulness!*

*3 Like a loving parent caring,
God knows well our feeble frame;
gladly all our burdens bearing,
still to countless years the same.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
All within me, praise God's name!*

*4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the high eternal one.*

***5 Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!***

Story Time

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Jeremiah 31:1-13, 31-34**

¹ At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people. ² The Lord proclaims: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness. As Israel searched for a place of rest, ³the Lord appeared to them from a distance: have loved you with a love that lasts forever. And so with unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself. ⁴ Again, I will build you up, and you will be rebuilt, virgin Israel. Again, you will play your tambourines and dance with joy. ⁵ Again, you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; farmers will plant and then enjoy the harvests. ⁶ The time will come when the watchmen shout from the highlands of Ephraim: "Get ready! We're going up to Zion to the Lord our God!" ⁷ The Lord proclaims: Sing joyfully for the people of Jacob; shout for the leading nation. Raise your voices with praise and call out: "The Lord has saved his people, the remaining few in Israel!" ⁸ I'm going to bring them back from the north; I will gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the disabled, expectant mothers and those in labor; a great throng will return here. ⁹ With tears of joy they will come; while they pray, I will bring them back. I will lead them by quiet streams and on smooth paths so they don't stumble. I will be Israel's father, Ephraim will be my oldest child. ¹⁰ Listen to the Lord's word, you nations, and announce it to the distant islands: The one who scattered Israel will gather them and keep them safe, as a shepherd his flock. ¹¹ The Lord will rescue the people of Jacob and deliver them from the power of those stronger than they are. ¹² They will come shouting for joy on the hills of Zion, jubilant over the Lord's gifts: grain, wine, oil, flocks, and herds. Their lives will be like a lush garden; they will grieve no more. ¹³ Then the young women will dance for joy; the young and old men will join in. I will turn their mourning into laughter and their sadness into joy; I will comfort them. ³¹ The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me

even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Anthem **Where True Charity and Love Dwell** (Kaye Saunders)

Where true charity and love dwell, God is also there.

*Since the love of Christ has joined us,
has joined us in one body,*

Let us all be glad and rejoice now and always.

*And as we love and serve our Lord, the living God,
so let us with sincerity love each other.*

Where true charity and love dwell, God is also there.

Reflection

Hymn **O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go** VU 658

**1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.**

**4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.**

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

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn

In Suffering Love

VU 614

- 1 In suffering love the thread of life
is woven through our care,
for God is with us, not alone
our pain and toil we bear.***
- 2 There is a rock, a place secure
within the storm's cold blast;
concealed within the suffering night
God's covenant stands fast.***
- 3 In love's deep womb our fears are held;
there God's rich tears are sown
and bring to birth, in hope newborn,
the strength to journey on.***
- 4 Now to our hearts your joy commit,
into our hands your pain;
so send us out to touch the world
with blessings in your name.***
- 5 In suffering love our God comes now,
hope's vision born in gloom;
with tears and laughter shared and blessed
the desert yet will bloom.***

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

Please register for Worship for Feb 27: 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!

Christian Education: Drop your children off at the door near the fenced playground at 10:20 a.m. on Sundays for story time, worship, crafts, and play (indoor & outdoor). Masks & distancing required. Pre-register your children online at rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9 Can you volunteer to assist with the activity centers? If you can help, contact Mearle Morton ce@sjruc.ca or Rev. Chris revchris@sjruc.ca

Gather and Gab RETURNS! Join us for Gather and Gab every Sunday in February! 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: revchris@sjruc.ca



Lenten Faith Study 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 or sign up on our webpage at sjruc.ca.

Hold the presses!! The Library has new DVD's! And they are not only for children! So, hang on tight - you may be taken to Never Never Land (Peter Pan), Cruella and Lucky meet up (101 Dalmatians), eat a forbidden apple (Snow White), enjoy the circus again (Dumbo), have a glass slipper (Cinderella), sing along with Baloo the bear (Jungle Book), and many more! Relive these Disney movies. They will be ready for borrowing Feb 27th. These will only be loaned for 1 week.



Tax receipts Thank you to all those who picked up their tax receipts this week, or contacted the office to pick them up on February 27. The remaining receipts have been mailed, so please watch your mailbox for yours!

World Day of Prayer The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (www.wicc.org) annual World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in **Kitchener** on **Friday, March 4th, 2022**. The program material this year was prepared by the Churches of England, Wales & Northern Ireland, with the theme, "I Know the Plans I have for You." There are four ways that you can choose to participate:

- Watch the video on Rogers Cable channel 20 Friday, March 4th at 8:30 a.m. or 5 p.m.
- Join a Zoom viewing session, followed by a discussion & prayer session hosted by one of the following churches: **St Matthews Lutheran Church** 11 AM (info@stmattskw.com) or **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church** 7 PM (office.coordinator@standrewskw.com) (*please email the churches directly before March 3rd, to get the zoom link.*)
- Attend an in-person service at
 - **St George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church** - Friday, March 4th, 10 AM (or by livestream) (stgeorgefh@golden.net)
 - **St Mark's Catholic Church** – Friday, March 4th, 7 PM Mass with video following
 - **St John the Evangelist Anglican Church** – Saturday, March 5th, 11 AM
- Go directly to www.wicc.org and view the video at any time; or join a nation-wide Zoom on Saturday, March 12th at 1 PM EST (please pre-register for the Zoom)

From the Kenya Education Committee: SJRUC provided \$9,605.00 in financial support in 2021 which allowed 31 students who live in abject poverty (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.