

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

Prelude

Centering Moment for Lent *adapted by a prayer by Brené Brown*

One: As we journey this Lent, may we find the courage to let go of who we think we're supposed to be so that we can fully embrace our authentic selves:

All: the imperfect, the creative, the vulnerable, the powerful, the broken, and the beautiful.

One: May we show ourselves and others the compassion that comes from knowing we are all made of strength and struggle.

All: God's love strengthens us in the struggle.

One: May we create a just and equitable world where privilege isn't a prerequisite for self-expression and authenticity, where everyone feels invited and safe to express their power and their vulnerability. And last, may we experience the strength of connection, the love of belonging, and the grace of pure joy, thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sung Response

Take, O Take Me as I Am

MV 85

*Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Julie Rennick*

One: Precious Holy One- a brief look at the news makes it clear that there are many overshadowed places in our world. There is darkness through mindless violence
Darkness through frustration and horror

Darkness through grief and distress
Darkness through pain and disease
Darkness deep in the souls of those we love...

Holy One into these dark places, into uncertain places
into the chaos of fear and loneliness
pour out your radiance...shower down your light
break through pure brilliance...until peace returns
and our hearts find peace, and the presence of hope
can be discerned amidst the chaos,
hope enough for this new day...hear our prayers...

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

Jesus Christ is Waiting

VU 117

- 1 *Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.***
- 2 *Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.***
- 3 *Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.***
- 4 *Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.***

***Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.***

***5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.***

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Luke 13:31-35**

³¹At that time, some Pharisees approached Jesus and said, "Go! Get away from here, because Herod wants to kill you." ³²Jesus said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Look, I'm throwing out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will complete my work.' ³³However, it's necessary for me to travel today, tomorrow, and the next day because it's impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your people just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn't want that. ³⁵Look, your house is abandoned. I tell you, you won't see me until the time comes when you say, *Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord's name.*"

Anthem

Just a Closer Walk

(Jack Schrader)

*Daily walkin' close to Thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*I am weak, but Thou art strong;
Jesus keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, leat me walk close to thee.*

Refrain: *Just a closer walk with Thee,
grant it Jesus, is my plea,
daily walkin' close to Thee:
let it be, O dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, O dear Lord, none but Thee. Refrain*

**1 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'
you taught us, Christ, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.**

**2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let
old bitterness depart?**

**3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!**

**4 O cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.**

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

We Turn to You

VU 685

**1 We turn to you, O God of every nation,
giver of good and origin of life;
your love is at the heart of all creation,
your hurt is people's pain in war and death.**

**2 We turn to you, that we may be forgiven
for crucifying Christ on earth again.**

**We know that we have never wholly striven
to share with all the promise of your reign.**

**3 Free every heart from pride and self-reliance,
our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;
break down among us barriers of defiance,
speak to the soul of all the human race.**

**4 On all who fight on earth for right relations
we pray the light of love from hour to hour.
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,
the gift of carefulness to those in power.**

**5 Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others,
help us to give and not to count the cost.
Unite us all, to live as sisters, brothers,
defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!**

Commissioning from "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

One: Blessed are you who realize there is simply not
enough—time, money, resources.

Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw
effort is the secret to perfection.

It's not. And you know that now.

Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that
even now, even today, God is here, and somehow,
that is good enough.

And now, may the God who tamed chaos
finding hope in order, who sent us Jesus, our calm
amidst the storms, and the Holy Spirit, who thrives in
the electric movement between chaos and calm,
go with you, to remind you no matter what you face,
you are not alone. Amen.

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: Vaccination, masks, & distancing are still required. Register at: rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9 Sign up your "bubble" & sit together. Phone registration 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 children online at rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9 Can you volunteer to assist at activity centers? Contact Mearle Morton ce@sjruc.ca or Rev. Chris revchris@sjruc.ca

Ukraine On February 24 the armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine erupted, costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee from the conflict. The United Nations estimates that hundreds of thousands of people are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends and loved ones, struggle to meet their basic needs, and face an uncertain future. **The Executive has pledged a minimum of a \$2000 support, so if you would like to help, please make your donation out to SJR with the note: 'Ukraine'**

Lenten Faith Study We continue our Lenten Faith Study on Zoom from 7pm to 9pm on Wednesday evenings. 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 to see the passion of Jesus through Jewish eyes. Please contact Rev Chris to get the link.

Who are all of these people? It's been a long time since we've been able to see faces and it's often difficult to remember names after the long and repeated lockdowns... The Pastoral Care Committee has a solution! Next week on your way to the Sanctuary we invite you to detour through the Long Sunday School room to pick up your NEW NAME TAG!



Gather and Gab RETURNS! Back by popular demand - we're going to continue our Sunday morning gatherings of Gather and Gab! Grab your coffee and join us on Zoom. For those coming for in person worship, you'll hopefully have enough time to get home and fire up your Zoom! See you at noon, every Sunday and if you need the Zoom link, send a note to Rev. Chris.



Waterloo Regional Food Bank Beginning February 27th, and ending Thursday, March 24th, we will undergo our first of three fundraisers for the Waterloo Regional Food Bank. Boxes will be set up at the usual locations within the church to collect food items. Financial donations will be greatly appreciated during this time span. Make sure all financial donations are in envelopes indicating donor identification & donation destination. Any cheques should be made out to SJRUC with the purpose indicated. A final collection of all items will take place in the church parking lot on Thursday, March 24th from 6:00PM to 7:30PM.

Special Gifts Allocations The Special Gifts Committee invites applications for a share of any interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2022. Ensure that your application is in writing, supported by the appropriate SJR committee, and indicate that you will spend any allocation by the end of 2022. Please send your application to Valerie Hoag at mail@sjruc.ca or by mail at the church, by the deadline.

New Directories have been printed and are available in the foyer. Please inform the office of any updates or changes required.

Executive Update On March 1st the Executive of SJR met to discuss further reopening plans, especially in light of Ontario's further lifting of vaccination passports, etc. After a lengthy discussion, we decided to keep status quo for the month of March. Masks, distancing, and vaccination status will still be required for worship during this time as we monitor cases and learn from the community around us as they take steps to embrace a new normal. Our hopes will be that by April we are able to increase numbers to 75% capacity, and potentially eliminate vaccine requirements. In the months that follow we hope to embrace 100% capacity, Gather in Gab in person, and all the other activities we so miss. Until then... *Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9

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