
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



**March 20, 2022 – Lent 3 – Good Enough
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

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 Stephen Fearing*

One: The season of Lent can be barren and lonely, but God goes with us through the wild wilderness. Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations, as we ponder God's providence and

persistence. Together, we seek fruitfulness, for it has been promised to us; the barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.

As we grow in faith, may we have patience with ourselves, as we await in hope.

And we pray that you too might have patience with us, great gardening God, for you grow us in love... in thankfulness 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

When We Are Living

VU 581

- 1 *When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.***
- 2 *Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.***
- 3 *'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.***
- 4 *Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.***

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Luke 13:1-9**

¹ Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices. ² He replied, "Do you think the suffering of these Galileans proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. ⁴ What about those eighteen people who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did." ⁶ Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ He said to his gardener, 'Look, I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?' ⁸ The gardener responded, 'Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. ⁹ Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Anthem **Spirit, Open My Heart** (arr. Colin Watts)

Refrain *Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.*

*God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.*
Refrain

*Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word and deed,
may my living bring you glory.* Refrain

*May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.* Refrain

**1 For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.**

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

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So

VU 575

**1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

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 never gives up on us,
and Jesus, who encourages life in the midst of death,
and the Holy Spirit who enlivens all beneath the
surface, go with you, to encourage you in new ways
of life and growth. 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 required. Register at: rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9 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

Ukraine 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'



Who are all of these people? Reminder for anyone who didn't pick up your new name tag – these are available in the Long Sunday School Room on your way into the Sanctuary! We have prepared them based on registration so if you didn't see yours please let the office know.

Gather and Gab RETURNS! 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.



Easter Flowers To remember a loved one by contributing to the Easter Flower Fund, put your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place it on the collection plate by April 10. A tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact Anne Willcox 519-744-5074

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.

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.

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.

Warm boots needed: Warm boots needed: Although spring is not far off, Ray of Hope is looking for warm boots for those in need, suitable for cold and wet weather. If you're cleaning out your closets and come across boots and footwear in good condition, please consider bringing them to church. All boot donations can be placed in the same vicinity where we are presently collecting for the Food Drive.

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

Rev. Chris Fickling, Minister of Worship revchris@sjruc.ca
Office: 519-742-1002 Cell: 226-989-6400

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