
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



May 1, 2022 – Easter 3
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

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Susan Blain*

One: Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones

All: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow

One: Where there was no way

All: God leads us in a new way

One: Where there was no mercy

All: God encourages us with new reasons to care

One: Where there was weeping

All: God invites us to step into a new dance of faith

Opening Prayer *from a prayer by John van de Laar*

One: How do we find the faith to believe the story of Easter,
Jesus? How do we grasp its truth?

We can only accept it; refusing to reduce it to
scientific debate or historical literalism
kneeling with humility and awe beside the blood-
stained cross and the empty grave;
For then, we are your witnesses.

How do we understand the mystery of your death and
life, Jesus? How do we explain it? We can only live it;
allowing it to permeate every grain of this sand that
forms us, every thought, every priority, every act and
every interaction,

For then we are your witnesses,
and you deserve nothing less from us.

And we pray these words of faith, living them as
earnestly as 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

I Danced in the Morning

VU 352

1 *I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain *Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

2 *I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.* Refrain

3 *I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.* Refrain

4 *I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.* Refrain

5 *They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.* Refrain

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Scripture Reading (CEB) verses from **Acts 9:1-20**

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, ² seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?" ⁵ Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. ⁶ "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do." ⁷ Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything. ¹⁰ In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Yes, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. ¹² Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹³ Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. ¹⁴ After eating, he regained his strength. He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. ¹⁵ Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. "He is God's Son," he declared.

Anthem

O Jesus, I Have Promised

(Barrie Cabena)

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle, if thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus thou has promised to all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Master and my friend.*

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**3 In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

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 **Will You Come and Follow Me** VU 567

1 *Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?*

*Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?*

*Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

2 *Will you leave yourself
behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?*

*Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

3 *Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?*

*Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

4 *Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?*

*Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?*

5 *Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.*

*In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.*

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



***The flowers in the sanctuary today have been placed
by Carol and Christopher Wilson to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Scott Wilson (1970-1985)
and Jack Wilson (1940-2014)***

Announcements

Please register for Worship: Vaccination, masks, & distancing are required. Register at: sjruc.ca or www.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. 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 www.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 We have raised \$3300 to date in support of those in Ukraine, and we will continue to collect over the next months in support of those affected by war. Thank you for your generosity! For those who would still like to help, please make your donation out to SJR with the note: ‘Ukraine’

Canadian Food For Children is a registered charity with the Canadian government. Their goal is to feed and clothe those experiencing poverty. All donations collected go towards feeding and clothing the poorest of the poor in developing countries throughout the world. The UCW of St. James'-Rosemount has collected items for CFFC for over 35 years! **We will be collecting items every Saturday in May from 12 noon to one o'clock in the parking lot at SJRUC.**

Items needed for CFFC - Clothing, hats and shoes for all ages (hot and cold weather items), household goods (bedding, towels, curtains etc), School and office supplies (paper), yarn, beads, craft items, medical and hygiene supplies, tools, braces, canes and all assist items.

What's So Amazing About Grace? Join us as we continue for this six-session video Bible Study by best-selling author Philip Yancey. We will explore the concept of grace - the one thing the world cannot duplicate and the one thing it craves above all else. We will explore what grace looks like in action and we will also examine how Christians, as the sole dispensers, are doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy. Please contact Rev. Chris or sign up on the website to be included on the zoom meeting Wednesday nights from 7pm to 9pm

Mother's Day Takeout Dinner! Thanks to all those who bought dinners – don't forget, pickup is Mother's Day weekend, May 7th between 4 and 5pm.

Monica Place collection We are collecting for Monica Place, a registered charity that provides supports for pregnant and parenting youth in the Kitchener-Waterloo and Cambridge region. When donating make sure your regular church envelope number is added as well as clear indication on the outer envelope that your gift is for Monica Place. In addition to financial donations until May 19, we will be collecting the following much needed items to be delivered to Monica Place: diapers (size newborn to 6), diaper wipes, diaper rash cream, gently used clothing, etc. A table will be set up for these items.

Executive Update As a result of our meeting on April 5, we are increasing attendance numbers to allow more people to enjoy the Easter season together, moving from limits of 55-60 to 70-ish. During this time, masks, distancing, and vaccination status will still be required for worship. We had hoped to lift more restrictions however the current case load in our community is proving that a little more time is necessary. In the months to come, we still hope to reach 100% capacity, Gather in Gab in person, and all the other activities we so miss.