
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



**January 1, 2023 – New Year's
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

Welcome to worship!
We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or Spirit as you are able.

*We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and
Haudenosaunee peoples. We acknowledge their care of the
land and give our thanks for their conservancy.*

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Sung Response

Blessing

(Lee Dengler)

***Walk in the light of Jesus,
piercing the darkness of the night.
Follow the radiant guiding star
that shines so clear and bright.***

***Walk in the light of Jesus;
giving you hope to travel on,
shedding its rays upon the path that leads you to the dawn.
Walk in the light. Walk in the light. Amen. Amen.***

Prelude

The Holy Boy

(John Ireland)

* Opening Hymn

The First Nowell

VU 91

Call to Worship *written by Roddy Hamilton*

One: The potential that lay before us is full,

for here we are in the place of life

for we believe in things beyond time and season

call us forth into the light to perform acts of renewal and
rebirth of baptism and hope

of seeking new life shaped in Jesus Christ

so let us gather in what the world sees as the cusp of
the year yet we know as another day in the eternity of
love

may we celebrate who we are and who we are yet to be
as we join together in worship

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Christine Sine*

One: Lord, as this new year dawns, welcome.
Welcome into our world and into our lives.
Sow light in our hearts.
Give us the courage to follow your light.
Let it germinate and grow and bring forth fruit.
Birth in us something new.
Let your peace take root.
Nurture it, encourage it to flourish.
Let your love blossom with the fragrance
of patience and compassion.
Let it strengthen forgiveness and understanding.
Let your life emerge in us, through us, around us,
bringing newness to all it touches.

Lord's Prayer (*read and prayed slowly together*)

**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.**

Story Time

Hymn **Will You Come and See the Light** VU 96

Youth and Children are invited to head back to their seats!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (The Message) Matthew 2:1-12

¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” 5-6 They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly: It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.” 7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

9-10 Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! 11 They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh. 12 In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Reflection *Finding our place at the manger: Wise Ones*

Hymn **Joy is Now in Every Place** VU 45

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)



* Offering Response

***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 *adapted on a poem by Ann Weems*

One: What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star...
Brilliance in a package, something you could keep in
the pocket of your jeans or in the pocket of your being.
Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.
But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes
and packages without stars.
But I can wish you life as radiant as the Star
that announces the Christ Child's coming,
and as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood
beneath its light.
And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn

Auld Lang Syne

***Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of auld lang syne?***

***For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne***

***And here's a hand, my trusty friend,
And give a hand o'thine,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.***

***For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne***

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **Go Now in Peace** *(Written by Besig & Price 1988)*

***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.***

*Please remain seated in silence as
we conclude our service with the postlude.*

Postlude Ukrainian Bell Carol *(arr. Shirley Brendlinger)*

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***Printed copies of this Sunday's message are available
in the Narthex for you to take home or share.***

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***We extend a heartfelt welcome to our
visitors and to members of Christ the King United Church
as you gather with us today to worship and celebrate!***

For Your Calendar:

- Jan. 1 Join us for Gather, Gab & Mingle after the service!
 - Jan. 3 Executive Meeting – Rainbow Room
 - Jan. 5 Choir 7:30pm – Rainbow Room
 - Jan. 10 Unified Board Meeting 7:00pm Committees, 8:00pm Board
- Check the bulletin boards and visit www.sjruc.ca for upcoming events.*

SJROC Current Covid Measures

SJR follows Ontario Public Health guidelines: practice good hand hygiene, distance yourself from others if you choose, stay home if you are sick, and stay up to date on vaccinations. If you feel you are seated too close to someone, please feel free to find another spot. We are also strongly recommend wearing a mask at this time.

In Our Church

Sunday School There will be no Sunday School today however activities will be provided for the children during church service. Next week, *January 8,* , Sunday School resumes as we continue our theme Bible Detectives: “Jesus tells Parables.”

Donation Envelopes: If you would like donation envelopes, please let the office know mail@sjruc.ca or 519-742-1002.

Olivet United Church Memory Book If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of the Olivet United Church Memory Book contact Dave P

Faith Study "How Happiness Happens" is a six-week video study with Max Lucado that begins on *Wed., January 11th in the Parlour. Join us in the afternoon from 1 to 3 pm OR in the evening from 7 to 9 pm.* In this study Max shares the unexpected path to a lasting happiness, one that produces reliable joy amidst any life circumstance. Based on the teachings of Jesus and backed by modern research, this study presents a surprising but practical way of living that will change you from the inside out. If you are interested in joining us please contact the office at mail@sjruc.ca



Unified Board Search: The Board is searching for new members and several committee chairs to begin on the Board effective at our Feb. annual meeting. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve!

Annual Committee Reports Thank you to all who submitted their reports by yesterday's deadline. Unfortunately there are still several outstanding reports – please submit these ASAP or they will not be included in the 2022 Annual Report: mail@sjruc.ca



OneRoof Update: Our fundraiser officially ended Thursday, Dec. 8th. Thanks to additional items collected on White Gift Sunday, Dec. 4th we delivered a pickup truck overflowing with clothing & hygiene items. SJR will also be making a substantial financial donation to OneRoof. The people working at OneRoof were overjoyed by the amount and quality of our donations. The generosity exhibited by our SJRUC congregation in supporting this latest fundraiser was beyond expectations. **Thank you!**



In Memory of family & friends flowers have been placed in the sanctuary by:



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|-----------------------|------------------|
| Janice B | Tom & Kathy B |
| Jim & Teresa C | Suanne C |
| Bill & Dianne D | Nancy E & Family |
| Maize E | Dorothy H |
| Beverly H | Terry & Sandra J |
| Joan K | Norma M |
| Lynda P | David P |
| Edna R | Doug & Alison R |
| Evelyn S | Donna & Ralph S |
| Neil T | Bernice U |
| Corinne W | Don & Anne W |
| Carol & Christopher W | Ted Y & Family |

SJRUC Church Staff:

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

Alison Vicary, B. Mus., B.Ed., Organist & Choir
 Director music@sjruc.ca

Monica Mahn, Office Administrator mail@sjruc.ca

Note: the office will be closed until January 4, 2023.

An email will be sent out to notify the congregation of any cancellations of SJRUC Services & Events due to weather conditions. You can also find out about by checking:

- Church Website: sjruc.ca (under Announcements)
- Church LED Sign
- CHYM FM 96.7
- 570 AM News

