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# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



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**December 4, 2022**

**White Gift and Love and Memory Sunday**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

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**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.

Our services are recorded and shared online.

If you would rather not be recorded,  
we invite you to sit near the back of the Sanctuary.

*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

Prelude

\* Opening Hymn **Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness**

Text & Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, OneLicence #A-724253

***Longing for light, we wait in darkness.***

***Longing for truth, we turn to you.***

***Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.***

Refrain ***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.***

***Longing for peace, our world is troubled.***

***Longing for hope, many despair.***

***Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.*** Refrain

***Longing for food, many are hungry.***

***Longing for water, many still thirst.***

***Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.*** Refrain

***Longing for shelter, many are homeless.***

***Longing for warmth, many are cold.***

***Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.*** Refrain

***Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.***

Call to Worship *adapted from The Message, Isaiah 43*

One: With the rekindling of hope, the Advent of God  
seems a real possibility in our time.

Together let us trust in God,  
who through the prophets promised:

“Don’t be afraid, I’ve redeemed you.

I’ve called your name. You’re mine.

When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you.

When you’re in rough waters, you will not go down.

When you’re between a rock and a hard place,  
it won’t be a dead end—

Because I am God, your personal God,  
The Holy of Israel, your Savior.

Lighting our Advent Wreath

Sung Response

**Blessing**

*(Lee Dengler)*

*Walk in the peace of Jesus,*

*God’s promised Son will come to earth.*

*Watch for the Bright and Morning Star.*

*Behold redemption’s birth.*

*Walk in the peace of Jesus;*

*giving you strength to travel on,*

*guiding your feet upon the path that leads you to the dawn.*

*Walk on in peace! Walk on in peace! Amen. Amen.*

Story Time

Hymn (as Gifts are Collected)

**All Poor Ones**

VU 68

*Youth and Children are invited  
to head out to Sunday School!*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

Minute for Mission

## Scripture Reading (First Nations Version) Matthew 1:1, 16-25

<sup>1</sup>Here is the record of the ancestry of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One, a descendant of Much Loved One (David) and of Father of Many Nations (Abraham)... <sup>16</sup>Heel Grabber (Jacob), and He Gives Sons (Joseph), who was the husband of Bitter Tears (Mary), who gave birth to Creator Sets Free (Jesus), who is the Chosen One. <sup>17</sup> And so there were fourteen generations from Father of Many Nations (Abraham) to Much Loved One (David), fourteen more generations from Much Loved One (David) until the removal to Village of Confusion (Babylon), and then fourteen more from the removal to Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the Chosen One. <sup>18</sup>Here is the story of how the Chosen One was born: His mother, Bitter Tears (Mary), had been promised in marriage to He Gives Sons (Joseph). But before they came together in marriage, while still a virgin, she found out that she was carrying a baby in her womb from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>He Gives Sons (Joseph) was a man of honor. He did not want to bring her trouble and open shame, so he thought about secretly releasing her from the marriage promise. <sup>20</sup> As he wondered about these things, a messenger from the Great Spirit appeared to him in a dream and said, "He Gives Sons (Joseph), descendant of Much Loved One (David), do not be afraid to take Bitter Tears (Mary) to be your wife, because the Holy Spirit has given her this child. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son. You will name him Creator Sets Free (Jesus), because he will set his people free from their bad hearts and broken ways." <sup>22</sup> This gave full meaning to the words of Creator spoken long ago by the prophet, <sup>23</sup> "A young virgin will be with child and give birth to a son. They will call his name Immanuel, which in our tribal language means Creator Is with Us." <sup>24</sup> When He Gives Sons (Joseph) woke up, he followed the guidance given him in the dream and took Bitter Tears (Mary) to be his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not have sexual relations with her until after the child was born, and he named the child Creator Sets Free (Jesus).

Anthem

### **Solstice Song**

*(J. Garrett/L. Nickel)*

Deep in the darkest winter night,  
Here with my candle burning  
Cozy and warm inside the light,  
Now that the year is turning

What does the future hold in store,  
Where has our journey brought us?  
How can we learn from what's gone before,  
What has experience taught us?

Heart of Creation  
Lover of shadow and light  
Sing us the songs of a billion stars  
Silently, all through the night

Friendship will light the darkest hours,  
True love will hold the vision  
Peace and good will on earth is ours,  
Let it be our decision.

Reflection      *Finding our place at the manger: Angels*

Hymn              **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**      VU 44

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE**



Invitation to Offering      (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

\* Offering Response      **In the Bleak Midwinter**      **VU 55** v4

***What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.***

\*Dedication of the Offering

Before and After Names are Read      **Don't Be Afraid**      MV 90

Text: John Bell and Graham Maule music: John L. Bell, OneLicence #A-724253

***Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.***

***Don't be afraid.  
My love is stronger, I have promised,  
promised to be always near.***

Remembering Those We Love

Hella Sej, Connie Johnston, Jeff Atkinson,  
Les Houston, Eileen Barrie, Beth Vicary,  
Brian Shoesmith, Grace Baer,  
Robert "Bob" Morrow, Rosemary Ambrose,  
Patti Kuehl, Edith Henry, Velma Cornwell.

## WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

- \* Closing Hymn **Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven VU 240**
- \* Commissioning
- \* Choral Benediction **O Come, All Ye Faithful VU 60 v3**  
***Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

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

Postlude

\* \* \*

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

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**It's HERE! SJRUC ChristmasTreats Auction TODAY** after Gather, Gab & Mingle! Stay after the service to bid on sweet treats! Gather & Gab will be in the Rainbow Room, the Auction will follow in the Long Sunday School Room. Gluten free options available. Proceeds to SJRUC - Thank you for your support!

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Dec. 8 Final Day for OneRoof drop off in Parking lot 6- 7:30 pm  
Choir 7:30 pm - 9 pm
- Dec. 11 Worship Service – 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Children's Pageant
- Dec. 13 UCW Candlelight Communion Service 7 pm (Dinner 5:45 )
- Dec. 18 Worship Service – 4<sup>th</sup> Advent - Lessons and Carols  
Congregational Mtg re: Christ the King amalgamation 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Candlelight Family Service 6 pm  
 Candlelight & Communion Service 8 pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas Morning Service 10:30 a.m. come in PJs if you like!
- Jan. 1 New Years Day Service 10:30 a.m.

*Check the bulletin boards and visit [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca) for upcoming events.*

In need of emergency pastoral care? Please contact: Rev. Chris Fickling:  
[revchris@sjruc.ca](mailto:revchris@sjruc.ca) Office: 519-742-1002 Cell: 226-989-6400

## SJRUC 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. At this time, we also **strongly recommend** wearing a mask.

## IN OUR CHURCH

**Sunday School - our Advent Journey: Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>:** - Our children will put on a short pageant during children's time in the service. We need children to come by 10:20 to the upstairs Long Sunday School room to get dressed and organized.



**Confirmation Classes** We are starting Confirmation classes for youth 12 years old and up. ***Our first meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5-6:30*** for a Pizza Dinner and a chance to get to know each other. Please speak to Rev. Chris or contact the office if you're interested in participating. We are pleased share in your journey of faith and hope you will make St. James'~Rosemount United Church your home.



**Supporting OneRoof:** This is the last week for our fundraiser for

OneRoof Youth Services. It ends ***Thursday evening, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, when a truck will be in the church parking lot from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*** to collect items for delivery. A table is set up in the foyer to collect items, and a OneRoof Wish List is on the table to review. Items needed include gloves and finger mitts, winter socks, hoodies, sweatshirts (gently used), gift cards, underwear (male & female - new), winter boots (women's size 7 - 10 & men's size 10 and up). Monetary donations are appreciated ***and can be dropped off in the church mailbox or with your Sunday offerings until December 8<sup>th</sup>.***

**UCW Christmas Dinner & Candlelight Communion Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.** a delicious turkey dinner from DeliWorks. Join us at 5:45 pm for dinner & conversation. Candlelight Communion Service begins at 7:00 pm. All women are welcome! Catered dinner and 60th Anniversary cake, beverages provided is \$25 per person (bring your own dishes and cutlery). Gluten free available. Please call Muriel or Jan ***to book your dinner by December 6<sup>th</sup>.*** Drop your payment off at the church or call Bernice for e-transfer information. All dinners must be prepaid.

**Looking for a great "Stocking Stuffer"?** Grace A has the perfect one. Handmade calendars that will appeal to everyone! \$5 each and the proceeds will go to the UCW Mission & Service Fund. She will be selling them before & after church in the Narthex. Be sure to have a look!



**Annual Committee Reports** are due to be received at the SJR Office [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca) no later than ***Dec.31, 2022.***

**Donations, Envelopes, and Tax Receipts:** Your new 2023 donation envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. If you would like envelopes, please let the

office know [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca) or 519-742-1002. Please remember that since Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> is a Saturday, donations need to be received by Dec 25<sup>th</sup> to be reflected in your 2022 tax receipt.



**Faith Study "How Happiness Happens"** is a six-week video study with Max Lucado that begins on **Wednesday, January 11th in the Parlour.**

**Join us in the afternoon from 1 to 3pm OR in the evening from 7 to 9pm.** In this study Max Lucado 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 church office at [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca)

**Sanctuary Christmas Flowers:** To remember a loved one by contributing to the Christmas Flower Fund, please add your name to the form in the Narthex and place your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers on the collection plate by Sun. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. A list of donors will be posted on the bulletin board in the office foyer, as well as printed in the Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> bulletin. A tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact the church office at [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca)



**Unified Board Search:** The Unified Board will be searching for new members and several committee chairs to begin on the Board effective at our Feb. annual meeting. We are also in need of a Worship committee chair effective Jan. 1, 2023. We are now meeting in person and not on Zoom (except for an occasional Zoom meeting if required). Hopefully this will encourage those of you who don't have (or don't like!) Zoom meetings to volunteer. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve your church in this capacity.



**Be a Stamp Saver** for the Leprosy Mission! Christmas is a great time to save stamps from parcels & cards. A half inch cut around used stamps is ideal.

Post cards, especially old (1920 & prior) are also very useful with or without stamps. Place them in the caring bin in the wooden cabinet in the cloak room behind the narthex. Your stamps make a difference! Questions? Contact Jim O.

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## IN OUR COMMUNITY

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**Handel's Messiah:** Join the Grand Philharmonic Choir for their 100th Anniversary performance of Handel's Messiah with guest conductor Howard Dyck - **Saturday Dec. 10th, 7:30 pm** at Center in the Square. Tickets available at the box office.

**Handel's Messiah Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.** River Run Centre, Guelph. Handel's monumental oratorio offers a message of hope & renewal - especially fitting for this season of rejuvenation. Soloists: Soprano: Sydney Baedke Alto: Marion Newman Tenor: Adam Luther Bass: Dion Mazerolle. Tickets through the River Run Centre: <https://riverrun.ca/>