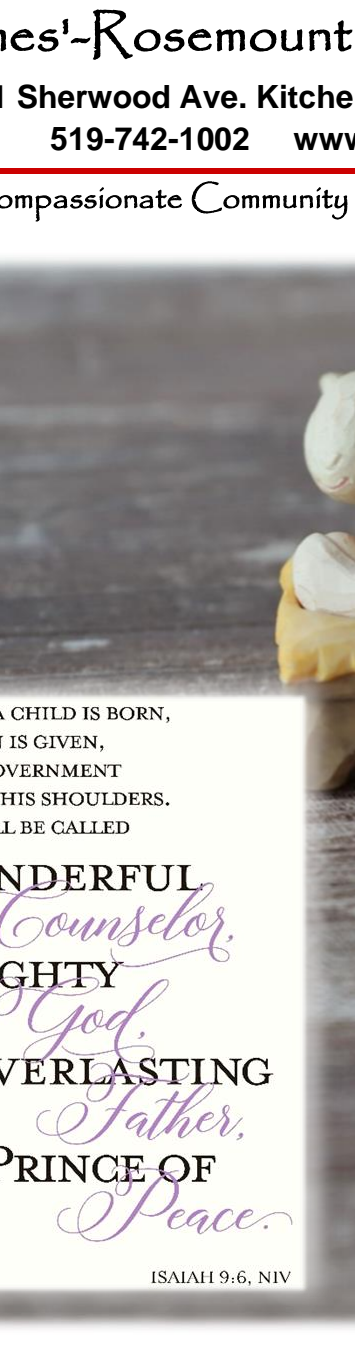

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,
AND THE GOVERNMENT
WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.
AND HE WILL BE CALLED

WONDERFUL
Counselor,
MIGHTY
God,
EVERLASTING
Father,
PRINCE OF
Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6, NIV

**December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve Communion
Worship Leaders Rev. Chris Fickling and Alison Vicary**

Welcome and thank you for sharing in our Christmas celebrations!

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.

Please remain seated for all of the singing
(except the final carol, Silent Night)

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude **Still, Still, Still** (arr. John Leavitt)

Opening *adapted from a poem by Mary Oliver*

One: Be still, my soul, and steadfast.

Earth and heaven both are still watching
though time is draining from the clock
and your walk, that was confident and quick,
has become slow. So, be slow if you must,
but let the heart still play its true part.

Love still as once you loved, deeply and
without patience. Let God and the world know
you are grateful. That the gift has been given.

All: With grateful hearts, let us receive this gift.

Carol **Angels, from the Realms of Glory** VU 36

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

Refrain **come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: Refrain**

**3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: Refrain**

**4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: Refrain**

Lighting our Advent Wreath – Christ Candle

Sung Blessing

(Lee Dengler)

**Walk in the light of Jesus,
shining upon our world this night.**

**Follow the star of Bethlehem
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.

OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Story of Christmas – The Prophets

Carol **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VU 1 v1-5**

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain ***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

2 ***O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.*** Refrain

3 ***O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.*** Refrain

4 ***O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.*** Refrain

5 ***O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.*** Refrain

The Story of Christmas – The Gospel of Matthew

Choir Anthem **Before the Marvel of This Night**

(Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, Music: Carl F. Shalk)

*Before the marvel of this night
adoring, fold your wings and bow,
then tear the sky apart with light
and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,
that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,
sing peace, sing gift of peace!*

*Awake the sleeping world with song,
this is the day the Lord has made;
assemble here, celestial throng,
in royal splendour come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,
a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,
sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known,
our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown,
now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love
that rules our universe above:
sing love, sing love, sing God is love,
sing love, sing God is love!*

The Story of Christmas – The Gospel of Mark, Luke

Carol

He is Born

VU 50

***He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.***

***Refrain He is born, little Child divine;
join the song to announce the day.***

***1 Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!*** Refrain

***2 O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind!*** Refrain

**3 Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
laid on straw for his infant cradle.**

**Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
God came down to our mortal aid. Refrain**

**4 Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us your heavenly peace. Refrain**

The Story of Christmas – The Gospel of John

Carol **Of the Father's Love Begotten** VU 61

**1 Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega,
Christ the source, the ending he,
of the things that are and have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

**2 At his word the worlds were framed.
He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining
of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.**

**3 O that birth for ever blessed!
When the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

**4 This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.**

SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS JOY



Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

*We share our gifts with the world – using the offering plates
placed at the doorways when you came in.*

*Offering Response **Love Begotten** contd...VU 61 v5-6

**5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him,
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in
concert ring, evermore and evermore.**

**6 Christ, to thee, with God most blessed,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be, honour, glory, and
dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.**

Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

*As we receive communion: for those using individual cups,
please feel free to use them before your row is brought up
the centre aisle for others to receive communion. Following
communion, we invite you to take an unlit candle and form a
circle around the Sanctuary. After everyone receives
communion, we will share the light and sing Silent Night.*

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child

Holy Infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.



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



Janice Bock

Jim & Teresa Carse

Bill & Dianne Dyck

Maize Evers

Beverly Houston

Joan Kaehler

Lynda Perkes

Edna Rhoda

Evelyn Shantz

Neil Taylor

Corinne Wettlaufer

Carol & Christopher Wilson

Tom & Kathy Butt

Suanne Crouse

Nancy Ebel & Family

Dorothy Hibbard

Terry & Sandra Jardine

Norma Mosgrove

David Potje

Doug & Alison Riddell

Donna & Ralph Szilock

Bernice Uebele

Don & Anne Willcox

Ted Youngs & Family

Our next services: December 25th & January 1st at 10:30 a.m.

* * *

From our families to yours, may you be blessed in this holy season with hope, peace, joy, & love, and may the presence of Christ dwell with you now and forever more!