
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



December 25, 2022 - Christmas Morning

Worship Leaders: Rev. Chris Fickling and Alison Vicary

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

Lighting our 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

Away in a Manger

(arr. Joseph M. Martin)

*Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

VU 60

Opening Litany *adapted from "On the Pulse of Morning" by Maya Angelou*

One: ... You, created only a little lower than the angels,
have crouched too long in the bruising darkness...

...Lift up your faces, you have a piercing need
for this bright morning dawning for you.

History, despite its wrenching pain,
cannot be unlived, and if faced with courage,
need not be lived again.

Lift up your eyes upon the day breaking for you.
Give birth again to the dream.
Women, children, men, all
take it into the palms of your hands.
Mold it into the shape of your most private need.
Sculpt it into the image of your most public self.
Lift up your hearts each new hour holds new chances
for new beginnings. Do not be wedded forever to fear,
yoked eternally to brutishness.
The horizon leans forward,
offering you space to place new steps of change.
Here, on the pulse of this fine day may you have the
courage to look up and out upon me, the Rock, the
River, the Tree, your country.
No less to Midas than the mendicant.
No less to you now than the mastodon then.
Here on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out and into
your sister's eyes, into your brother's face, into one
and all in your country and say simply, very simply,
with hope...Good morning.

Carol Singing (2 or 3)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (First Nations Version) Luke 2:1-7

When the time drew close for Bitter Tears (Mary) to have her child, the government of the People of Iron (Romans) ordered that the people be numbered and put on government rolls. This happened during the time that Powerful Protector (Quirinius) was the governor of Bright Sun (Syria). All the Tribal Members were required to travel to their own ancestral village to register. He Gives Sons (Joseph) and Bitter Tears (Mary) set out on a long journey from Seed Planter Village (Nazareth) in Circle of Nations (Galilee), to House of Bread (Bethlehem) in the Land of Promise (Judea), the village of their ancestor, the great chief Much Loved One (David). The journey took several long days and cold nights as they traveled over high hills and through the dry desert. When they arrived, tired and weary, they entered the crowded village.

The time for Bitter Tears (Mary) to have her child was upon her! But no place could be found in the lodging house, so He Gives Sons (Joseph) found a sheep cave where it was warm and dry. There she gave birth to her son. They wrapped him in a soft, warm blanket and laid him on a baby board. Then they placed him on a bed of straw in a feeding trough.

Reflection *Finding our place at the manger: Jesus*

Carol Singing (2 or 3)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE



Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

* Hymn **Oh, How Joyfully** VU 57 v3

**3 Oh, how joyfully, oh, how thankfully,
wakes the world on Christmas Morn!
God has spoken, death is broken.
Hallelujah! Christ is born!**

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Carol Singing (2 or 3)

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **A Light is Gleaming** VU 82

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

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

Postlude **Angels We Have Heard on High** (arr. Cindy Berry)

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

* * *



***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 New Year's Day Service 10:30 a.m.
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.*

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. We are also **strongly recommend** wearing a mask at this time.

In Our Church

Sunday School There will be no Sunday School December 25 and January 1, 2023, however activities will be provided for the children during church service. *On January 8, 2023,* Sunday School resumes as we continue our theme Bible Detectives: "Jesus tells Parables."

Donations, Envelopes, & Tax Receipts: 2023 envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. If you would like envelopes, please let the office know mail@sjruc.ca or 519-742-1002. Dec. 31st is a Saturday this year, so donations need to be received by Dec 25th to be reflected in your 2022 tax receipt.



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

Olivet United Church Memory Book If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of the Olivet United Church Memory Book contact the church office.

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 church 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!

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:**



Janice Bock	Tom & Kathy Butt
Jim & Teresa Carse	Suanne Crouse
Bill & Dianne Dyck	Nancy Ebel & Family
Maize Evers	Dorothy Hibbard
Beverly Houston	Terry & Sandra Jardine
Joan Kaehler	Norma Mosgrove
Lynda Perkes	David Potje
Edna Rhoda	Doug & Alison Riddell
Evelyn Shantz	Donna & Ralph Szilock
Neil Taylor	Bernice Uebele
Corinne Wettlaufer	Don & Anne Willcox
Carol & Christopher Wilson	Ted Youngs & 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 3, 2023.

**Find out about SJR Services and Event cancellations
due to weather conditions by checking:**

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





Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

“Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

LUKE 2:11, NIV