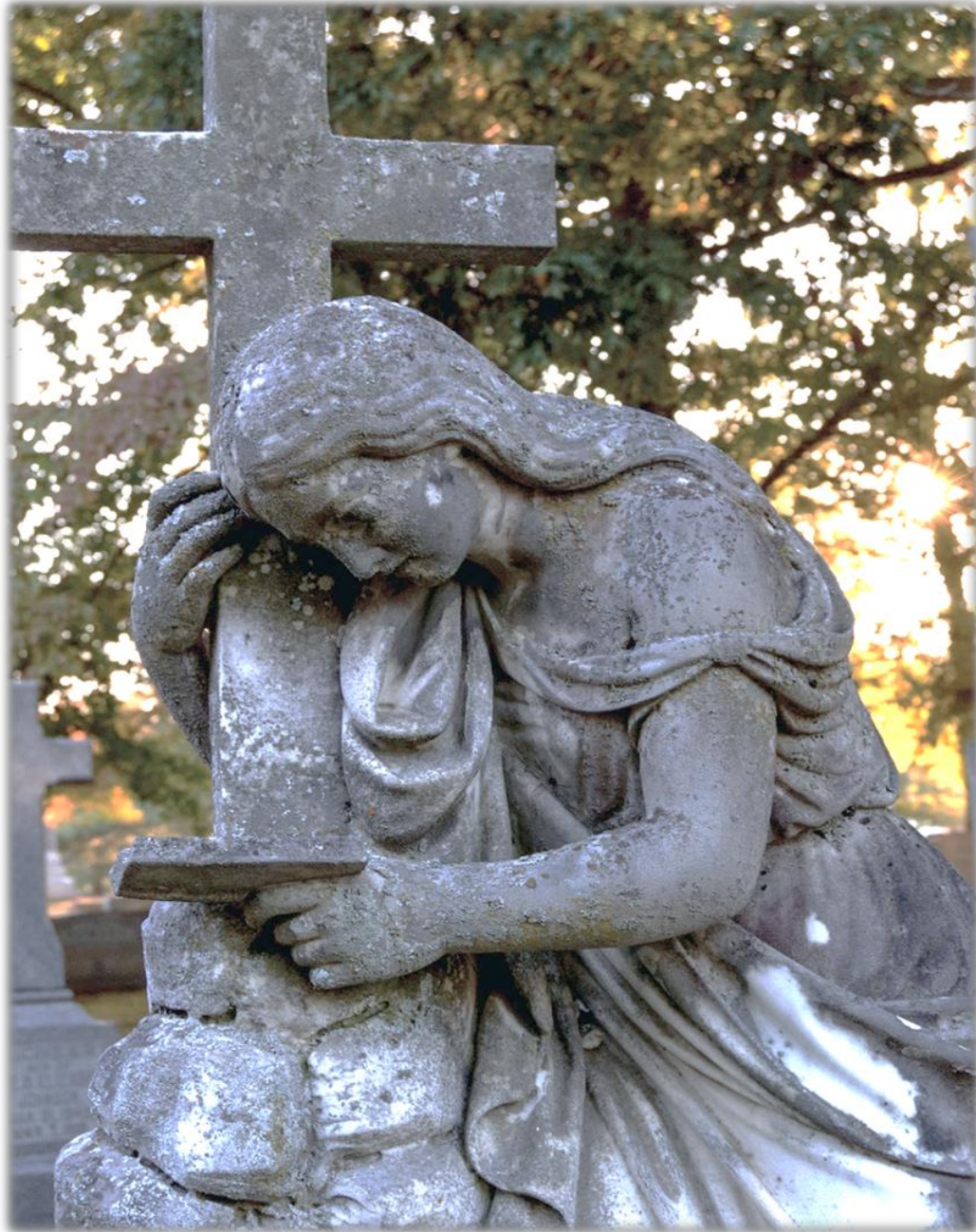

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



March 5, 2023 - Lent II
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

Prelude **My Faith Looks Up to Thee** (arr. Hal H. Hopson)

* Opening Hymn **O World of God** VU 258

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Ann Siddall*

One: As we worship today

We pray today for all who are walking a hard journey:

for those whose daily paths encounter conflict;

for those who forced from their homes;

for those who set out today in search of food and water;

for those whose journey is shattered by hardship;

for those whose journey is marred by pain or despair,

and for those who faithfully journey alongside them;

for those who are making a move and beginning again;

for those who are clinging on to something that has ended;

for those who are bullied, and for those who are bullying

for those who have just taken their first breath, and

for those who today will take their last.

May this Lenten journey, with its stories about the hard places of Jesus' experience, give strength and courage to all whose journey is far from easy.

And may it inspire us to risk Christ's Way of love as we share the journey with other travelers.

All: We worship the one who made this same difficult journey that we all undertake.

Looking for the Light – Call to Prayer

Solo, Choir Response **Stay with Me** *(Taizé Community)*

Silence – The Christ candle is lit

Congregational Response **Stay with Me** *(Taizé Community)*

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.*

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

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Anthem **Lift thine Eyes** from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

*Lift thine eyes,
O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
whence cometh help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy Keeper will never slumber.*

Scripture Reading (from James Taylor's *Everyday Psalms*) Psalm 121

¹ Somewhere out there, past the highest peaks, someone watches over me. God made these peaks and these valleys, this air and this earth. Yet God is close enough to guide my feet, every step I take along life's precipitous paths. I may grow weary, but God does not nod off; my mind may wander, but God always stays alert. God watches over me. God stays as close to me as the hat that shelters me from summer sun, as close as the jacket that shields me from the slashing rain. God watches over me. God's hand holds me when I crawl along the edge of a cliff; it saves me from delusions of depending only on myself. God keeps me from falling off the edge, and keeps me safely on the path. God watches over me. Wherever I go, wherever I may find myself, God will go with me and watch over me, even into eternity.

Anthem **He, Watching Over** from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

*He, watching over Israel,
slumbers not nor sleeps;
Should'st thou, walking in grief, languish,
He will quicken thee.*

Reflection *Taking our place at the Cross: The Women*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)



Offertory **Prelude in C Minor** (Henryk Pachulski)

* 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

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **O God, Our Help in Ages Past** VU 806

* 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

Grand Jeu

(Jean Adam Guilain)

* * *

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

* * *

Gather, Gab & Mingle after the service today!

Come and enjoy some refreshments together
in the Rainbow Room after the service!



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.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Mar. 5 TODAY Gather, Gab, & Mingle – after the service!
- Mar. 8 Faith Study on Simon Peter: 1pm or 7pm, Parlour
- Mar. 9 Choir 7:30pm – Rainbow Room
- Mar. 11 Spring ahead! Set clocks ahead 1 hour tonight
- Mar. 12 Worship Service - Lent III - 10:30 a.m.

Check the bulletin boards and visit www.sjruc.ca for upcoming events.