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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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**April 16, 2023**

**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.

*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 of the Christ Candle

Prelude

**This Is My Father's World**

(arr. Cindy Berry)

\* Opening Hymn **This is God's Wondrous World** VU 296

Call to Worship

One: In the midst of darkness and chaos...

**All: God imagined.**

One: In the fury and darkness...

**All: God imagined a world filled with trees,  
and blue skies and fluffy white clouds.**

One: In the meadow, God stood and...

**All: imagined foxes, bluebirds, and slithering snakes.**

One: In a world of rainstorms and wildlife  
and cattle and grasses blowing in the breeze...

**All: God imagined humanity.  
God imagined the partnership shared  
with all people.**

One: In a world teeming with billions of people...

**All: God imagined me.**

One: God imagined you and God imagined me.  
We are created in the image of God.

**All: God imagined us all. God loves each of us.  
God calls each of us forward in faith.**

One: Let us worship with the same imagination as the  
creating One!

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy*

One: Holy God, source of all being, you are far greater  
than our human thoughts can comprehend.  
With all that you have created, you abide;

weeping with us in grief and pain,  
rejoicing with us in life and love.  
You are everywhere in this very moment;  
holding the entirety of living experience  
and weaving us together in the great and intricate  
tapestry of Creation.

**All: Creator God, mother and father of us all,  
in your holy love you took on our limitations.  
Born of a body, bound within a body,  
you know the whole of this human experience.  
Learning to communicate with words;  
teaching us to communicate with presence.  
Learning the fears that wring us dry; teaching us  
of the love that nurtures us back to life.**

One: Everlasting God, you are everywhere and right here.  
As close as the air we breathe,  
the air which binds us one to another  
and all to your beautiful creation.  
You are as close as the sunlight on our skin,  
as close as the rain that drips from our hair;  
the wind and the water that push us and lead us  
and call us again and again into relationship with one  
another and with you.  
Holy Spirit, divine Advocate, guide and encourage us.  
Stir within our hearts, that we may speak anew the  
familiar words that Jesus taught us...

**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**

#### Scripture Reading (CEB *adapted*) **John 20**

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven." Jesus appears to Thomas and the disciples <sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe." <sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" <sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." <sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Anthem

**Blessed Be**

*(Melanie DeMore)*

*Blessed Be! Blessed be the Living Tree.*

*Blessed be the Tree of Life that grows within you and me.*

*Steady and true, Rooted in love.*

*Shelter and peace Below and above.*

*Sing to the sky, Rise from the earth.*

*Seasons come round again, Death to rebirth.*

Reflection    Many other Miraculous Signs

Hymn

## **Faith Will Not Grow From Words Alone**

*Sung to tune O Waly, Waly, VU372*

*Faith will not grow from words alone,  
from proofs provided, scriptures known;  
our faith must feel its way about,  
and live with question marks and doubt.*

*The pattern Jesus showed, we share:  
life comes through death, hope through despair.  
God is made known in brokenness,  
and faith feeds on God's emptiness.*

*The church still tells how Jesus came  
through death to glorious life again  
– the strangest story! Yet, maybe,  
our faith will thrive on mystery.*

*Faith takes the little that we know,  
and calls for hope, and tells us: Go!  
Love and take courage, come what may;  
Christ will be with us on the way.*

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

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca))



Offertory **For the Beauty of the Earth** (arr. Joel Raney)

\* 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 **I, the Lord of Sea and Sky** VU 509

\* Commissioning *adapted from a prayer by Christian Aid & Christian Ecology Link*

One: May we always walk gently upon the Earth,  
in right relationship, nurtured by your love,  
open to the wind of the Spirit,

taking only what we need,  
always open to the needs of others,  
making choices that bring wellbeing,  
living with generosity, striving for justice,  
honouring all with reverence,  
reconciling and peacemaking,  
mindful of those who will come after,  
recognizing our proper place as part of your creation.

Grant us the strength and courage, Lord,  
for such a radical transformation into your kin-dom.

\* 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 **Let All Things Now Living** *(arr. John Carter)*

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

\* \*



***The flowers in the sanctuary today have been placed  
by Carol and Christopher Wilson to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Scott Wilson (1970-1985)  
and Jack Wilson (1940-2014)***

### **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, please feel free to find another spot. We recommend wearing a mask at this time.*

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Apr. 20 **Choir**– Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- Apr. 21 **Confirmation** 5-6:30 pm Rainbow Room
- Apr. 23 **69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service - Hymn Sing:10:15, Service: 10:30**  
Stay for **Gather, Gab & Mingle** after the Service
- Apr. 24 **UCW Meeting:** Long Sunday School Room at 7 pm
- Apr. 26 **Faith Study** “Esther” 1pm or 7pm, Parlour
- May 6 **SJR Garage Sale** – see details in announcement

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

## IN OUR CHURCH

**Notice:** Rev. Chris will be out of the office April 16-20. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need during that time, please contact Rev. Gary Clark, Forest Hill UC, 519-744-3481, or contact the office at SJR 519-742-1002 (leave a message if Monica isn't available to answer).

**Layreading:** Are you interested in helping with lay reading? Contact the church office: [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca) 519-742-1002

**Volunteer Hours:** Know a student who needs to complete their volunteer hours or who just enjoys helping? We are looking for someone to compile a digital inventory of our library books using the Dewey Decimal System and create labels. Please contact Brenda M if interested in helping with this project: [library@sjruc.ca](mailto:library@sjruc.ca)

**UCW Meeting:** UCW Meeting **April 24, 2023, at 7 pm** in church parlor. Linda Dawson has been waiting for 3 years to share her Mission to Nicaragua with you. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.** Presentation at 7:30 in long Sunday School Room. (Pray for good weather.)

**SJR Garage Sale:** We're having a Church Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**. Start gathering your items and bring your “treasures” to the church from 9 am to 11 am beginning Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> through to Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We start sorting on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>! The sign-up sheets to help on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and on Garage Sale Day - the 6<sup>th</sup> - are outside the kitchen door at the Parking Lot entrance. Please sign up to let us know when you can help. Let's make this a success! All proceeds go to the M&S Fund of the UCC. For more information, please contact the church office: [mail@sjruc.ca](mailto:mail@sjruc.ca) or 519-742-1002  
(Please, no large furniture).

**Fundraiser for Monica Place:** We will once again be supporting Monica Place with our annual fundraiser which will take place **from Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> until Thursday evening June 1<sup>st</sup>**. A table will be set up in the lobby area across from the kitchen with a wish list for donated items which will include diapers, diaper wipes, diaper rash creams, new baby and toddler clothing, new educational toys (books, dolls, play dough, trucks), gift cards, plus many other new items. Financial donations for Monica Place (cheques made out to SJRUC or cash) can be

delivered to the church; please make sure you indicate the purpose of your donation and your identity. Please check out the overall "wish list" so we can once again have a very successful fundraiser for this very worthy local organization.

**Faith Study: 'You Were Made for This Moment'** by Max Lucado. When life seems off the rails, remember this truth: the minute you bow your head to pray is the moment God lifts his hand to help. Queen Esther learned this truth firsthand, and God used her to save a nation. God never promised us a life without trials, but he does promise to be with us as we walk through them. Join us on Wednesdays, from 1 pm to 3 pm OR from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Parlour beginning Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> as we journey through the Book of Esther. For more information please contact the church office @ mail@sjruc.ca

**Directory pictures** will be taken here at SJR Sept 13-16. More information and sign-up procedure will be available closer to the dates. If you will be away that week, alternate arrangements can be made to attend another location when you are available. See any member of the Pastoral Care and Membership Committee if you have questions. Groups and committees will be asked to submit their pictures prior to that day as these will not be taken that week.

**TCOW is Back!** Two Countries One World will be hosting information sessions: online on April 18th @ 7:00 pm; in person at Parkminster UC, Waterloo, April 24 @7pm, Harcourt Memorial UC, Guelph, May 1st @ 7:00 pm. See <https://www.waterlootcow.ca/tcow-2024/info-nights/> for links to the on-line session and for more information on in-person locations. These sessions will be a chance to hear what TCOW is all about and ask questions about the program and the plans for the 2023/2024 year. Two Countries One World is a United Church service and learning initiative, challenging, and changing the lives of youth in are region. TCOW's mission is to change lives and produce globally aware students to help shape a more just and sustainable future. They are planning a trip to Columbia for March Break of 2024. The youth need to be in grade 10 and up during the 2023/2024 school year. For more information: [waterlootcow.ca](http://waterlootcow.ca)

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Giant Used Book Sale:** First United Church at King & William in Waterloo. 9 am - 9 pm Friday, April 21, 9 am - 1 pm Saturday, April 22. Drop off your used books, Audio books, CDs and DVDs at the Church on Wednesday, April 19 from 9 am to 9 pm and Thursday, April 20 from 9 am to 6 pm.

**STEAM Camp** (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) will be running at SJRUC this summer. If you know of any children who would enjoy participating in this camp program see the poster on the Community Bulletin Board in the foyer or visit [campsteam.ca](http://campsteam.ca).

**Rev. Chris Fickling**, Minister of Worship [revchris@sjruc.ca](mailto:revchris@sjruc.ca)  
Office: 519-742-1002 Cell: 226-989-6400

***If you know of anyone needing a visit, please let Rev. Chris know.***