
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



November 19, 2023

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

Pavane

(Maurice Ravel)

*Opening Hymn

If You Will Trust in God

VU 286

Call to Worship

One: Holy One, we long to be
faithful stewards of your abundant grace.

**All: To serve each other in love and humility.
To serve your world with wisdom and energy.**

One: Forgive us when we fearfully hoard rather than share,
when we avoid losing what little we have,
when our words and actions are not guided by love.

**All: Turn our hearts to trust in you.
Restore our energy when it is gone.
Give us faith enough to share.**

One: For even if we've failed in risking to share the love that
is ours, then we haven't failed at all.

**All: For love is something if you give it away.
Thank you God of love, for blessing us.**

Opening Prayer

One: God who calls us to the risks of life together, we
confess that life can be overwhelmingly difficult. We
don't always make the best choices, and all too often
we realize the options before us are lacking. We are
overwhelmed with the enormity of the world's
problems. Sometimes, we turn away completely.
Sometimes, we respond with our tribal allegiances first

in mind. Bitterness and resentment are easy guides. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace over shallow victories, material gain, and violence of the mind, body, or spirit. Bless us to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world for our neighbors and for your glory...

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 (MSG) **Matthew 25:14-30**

¹⁴“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going into another country, who called together his servants and loaned them money to invest for him while he was gone. ¹⁵“He gave \$5,000 to one, \$2,000 to another, and \$1,000 to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities—and then left on his trip. ¹⁶The man who received the \$5,000 began immediately to buy and sell with it and soon earned another \$5,000. ¹⁷The man with \$2,000 went right to work, too, and earned another \$2,000. ¹⁸“But the man who received the \$1,000 dug a hole in the ground and hid the money for safekeeping. ¹⁹“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to him to account for his money. ²⁰The man to whom he had entrusted the \$5,000 brought him \$10,000. ²¹“His master praised him

for good work. 'You have been faithful in handling this small amount,' he told him, 'so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Begin the joyous tasks I have assigned to you.' ²² "Next came the man who had received the \$2,000, with the report, 'Sir, you gave me \$2,000 to use, and I have doubled it.' ²³ "Good work,' his master said. 'You are a good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over this small amount, so now I will give you much more.' ²⁴⁻²⁵ "Then the man with the \$1,000 came and said, 'Sir, I knew you were a hard man, and I was afraid you would rob me of what I earned, so I hid your money in the earth and here it is!' ²⁶ "But his master replied, 'Wicked man! Lazy slave! Since you knew I would demand your profit, ²⁷ you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest. ²⁸ Take the money from this man and give it to the man with the \$10,000. ²⁹ For the man who uses well what he is given shall be given more, and he shall have abundance. But from the man who is unfaithful, even what little responsibility he has shall be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw the useless servant out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

(Bob Chilcott)

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;
Be my loving parent, thy child may I be,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*

*Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sov'reign of heaven, my treasure thou art;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Reflection *Useless?*

Hymn

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours MV 171

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Thank you to all those who support the ministry of SJR through time, talents, and treasures. As the ushers pass along the offering plates we invite those who give through PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance and those who give a monthly gift, to please put a card into the plate so we can celebrate your generosity. Information on how to sign up to donate by PAR can be obtained through the office mail @sjruc.ca 519-742-1002.



For those who wish to donate online through Canada Helps, please visit our website sjruc.ca or scan this QR code:

Offertory **Song Without Words** (*Felix Mendelssohn*)

- * Offering Response *Words & music © A. Baer, 2013, arr. S. Porter*
***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.***

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **Will You Come and Follow Me** VU 567

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **Go Now in Peace** (*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 **Trumpet Voluntary** (*G.F. Handel*)

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!



Our heartfelt & best wishes go out to Edna Rhoda who celebrates her 103rd birthday this Thursday, November 23rd!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Nov. 21 **Unified Board Meeting** 8 p.m. (some committees at 7 p.m.)
- Nov. 22 **Faith Study** "Advent Conspiracy" – Parlour 1 pm or 7 pm
- Nov. 23 **Choir Rehearsal** – Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- Nov. 24 & 25 **Sharing Place** @ St. Luke's Lutheran (see announcement)
- Nov. 26 **Worship Service** - Stay after the Service for Gather, Gab & Mingle
- Nov. 26 **Choral Scholar's Concert** for SJR 12:30 after the service
- Dec. 2 **Cookie Walk and Ticket Draw** – 9:30 am (volunteers needed!)
- Dec. 3 **Worship Service: 1st Advent** Hanging of the Greens– 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 12 **UCW Christmas Dinner & Candlelight Communion** 5:45

Check the bulletin board & the website sjruc.ca for upcoming events.

IN OUR CHURCH

The Sharing Place will be this **Friday Nov 24th 1-4:00 pm and Saturday, Nov 25th 9-12 pm at St Luke's Lutheran Church** at 317 Franklin St N. **We need donations** of all clothing, but especially winter clothes for children and adults, household items, bedding, towels, toys etc. Advertisements are going out to ESL students, people new to Canada, and to the neighbourhood. **We also need volunteers** at the event! If you can help, call Carol 519-743-1335 or Laurie or Muriel 519- 893-8124. Donations can be dropped off here at SJR at the Caring Bins near the Narthex or at St Luke's clearly labelled "SHARING PLACE". Thank you for caring!

Special SJR Concert November 26th, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our choral scholars Simone, Lucy, and Roland, along with guest accompanist Sean Nicholson, are excited to share an afternoon musical offering of song and piano. Free-will offering.



Roadwork Update: They are hoping to pave Sherwood Ave. in the coming week (weather dependent). We *might* have access from Sherwood Ave. by next weekend. (Nov. 26) YAY! Once Sherwood Ave. is open the parking lot access from Kensington will be blocked off. If you arrive and see the Kensington access barricaded it means our parking lot access from Sherwood is open again. Thank you for your patience during the construction!

Cookie Walk & Ticket Draw Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

***** WE NEED COOKIE BAKERS! ***** Sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We also need items for the ticket draw. Bring your cookies and donations of Ticket Draw items to the church on Dec. 1st, 3-4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. If it is more convenient to bring your auction donation earlier, it may be left on the stage. Be sure to mark it "Ticket Draw". Thank you! Proceeds support SJRUC.



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 in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers on the collection plate **by Sun. Dec. 17th**". A list of donors will be posted on the bulletin board in the office foyer, as well as printed in the Christmas Day Dec. 25th bulletin. A tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact the church office.

UCW Christmas Dinner and Candlelight Communion on **Tuesday, December 12th**. We have ordered in a delicious turkey dinner from DeliWorks. Join us at 5:45pm for dinner and conversation. The Candlelight Communion Service will begin at 7:00pm. All women are welcome! The catered dinner and desserts "Potluck Style" (bring your own dishes and cutlery - beverages provided) will be \$25.00 per person. Gluten-free options are available. Call Muriel: 519-893-8124 or Jan: 519-741-0061 to book your dinner **by December 4th**. Put your payment in an envelope marked "UCW CHRISTMAS DINNER" and drop it off at the church or pay by e-transfer – pay-UCW@sjruc.ca. All dinners must be pre-paid.

SJRUC's Annual Fundraiser for OneRoof Youth Services is running now until **Thursday evening December 14th**. A table is set up in the foyer to collect donated items. Please check the list provided of the items most appreciated by this very important local charity. Financial donations are also greatly appreciated. If donating by cheque make it payable to SJRUC, and if donating cash make sure to indicate the purpose of the donation and your identity (for tax return if required) on the accompanying envelope. Final pickup of donated items will take place in the church parking lot on Thursday evening, December 7th, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Currency for Kids Over \$2 Billion in global currency is likely to be found in homes & businesses across Canada. These are coins or bills left in the bottom of your suitcase from a trip abroad, or the junk drawer, or a jar or in your desk. The UCW invites you to find those forgotten coins and bring them to SJR to support Family & Children's Services of the Waterloo Region! On Sundays look for the green collection bin in the foyer on the table near the name tags under the bulletin board.

Office hours @ SJR Office hours will be shifting to afternoons Tues- Fri after 1:30 p.m. starting Nov. 21st. As always, it's best to call or email ahead to make an appointment.

Annual Committee Reports It's that time of year again! :) Committee reports are due at the SJR Office no later than **Dec. 31, 2022**. (Email mail@sjruc.ca - either in a Word document or in the body of an email.)

Photo Directory Additional booking dates available for **November**. Complete a form on our website sjruc.ca (bottom of the page) OR call Teresa at 519-781-2671.



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 cabinet in the cloak room behind the narthex. Your stamps make a difference! Questions? Contact Jim Oliver.

See the bulletin boards in the foyer for community events & upcoming concerts.

Rev. Chris Fickling, Minister of Worship revchris@sjruc.ca

Office: 519-742-1002 Cell: 226-989-6400

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