
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



ADVENT

*A Season of
Expectation*

December 10, 2023 – Advent 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 gives our thanks for their conservancy.

Prayers in this service are adapted from prayers
by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude **While by the Sheep We Watched At Night** (arr. Emily Lund)

*Opening Hymn **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus** VU 2

Call to Worship (*find someone else in the church to look at to say:*)

One: Welcome to worship.

All: Welcome to worship.

One: I am glad you're here.

All: I am glad you're here.

One: Surely God is in this space.

All: Surely God is in this space.

One: I see God in your face.

All: I see God in your face.

One: Let us worship together.

All: Let us worship together.

Lighting our Advent Wreath

One: How does a weary world practice peace?

**All: By listening before we speak,
considering the impact of our words
and saying sorry when we need to.**

One: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.
By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**All: By doing the hard work of not taking our
frustrations and anger out on one another.**

**By choosing grace over hate
and opening our hearts to others.**

One: There are a million ways to practice peace.
So today we light the candle of peace as a
reminder and a charge.

All: **With God's help, may we bring peace
into a weary world. Amen.**

Sung Response **Between Darkness and Light**

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First time: Solo, Second time: All

***Between darkness and light I will always walk;
and wherever I will go,
I will open a window of light,
and plant the seeds of love.***

Story Time – White Gift Sunday

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Luke 1:24-45**

²⁴ Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying, ²⁵ "This is the Lord's doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people." ²⁶ When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you." ³¹ Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. ³³ He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" ³⁵ The angel

replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. ³⁶ Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. ³⁷ Nothing is impossible for God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her. ³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³ Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Anthem **My Lord is a Comin' Soon** (arr. Patti Drennan)

*My Lord, he is a comin' soon, prepare the way of the Lord;
get everything ready for that day, prepare the way of the Lord!
If you're asleep, it's time to wake up.*

*Awake, O sleeper, the King!
If you're in the dark, it's time to be lit.*

Awake, O sleeper, arise!

*My Lord, he is a comin' soon, prepare the way of the Lord;
get everything ready for that day, prepare the way of the Lord!*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come into my heart;
prepare the way of the King!*

*He is coming, he's coming soon: prepare the way of the King!
Everything's ready, oh, for that day,
prepare the way of the Lord.*

Reflection - Nothing is impossible: *Joy in Connection*

Hymn **Tomorrow Christ is Coming** VU 27
Sung to *VU 120 O Jesus I Have Promised*

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 **Where the Light Begins** (Susan LaBarr)

Lucy Gill, Jennifer Carter, Simone Lemieux, trio

*Perhaps it does not begin. Perhaps it is always.
Perhaps it takes a lifetime to open our eyes,
to learn to see what has forever
shimmered in front of us—
the luminous line of the map
in the dark the vigil flame
in the house of the heart
the love so searing
we cannot keep from singing,
from crying out in testimony and praise.
Perhaps this day will be the mountain
over which the dawn breaks.
Perhaps we will turn our face toward it,
toward what has been always.
Perhaps our eyes will finally open in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled, illuminated at last.
Perhaps this day the light begins in us.*

* Offering Response **O Little Town of Bethlehem** VU 64 v3

**3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring** VU 328

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** VU44

Verse 2: ***Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.***

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

Postlude

Noel Nouvelet

(Dale Wood)

* * *

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

* * *

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- ☐ Dec. 10 **Outdoor Memory Tree & Caroling** at 7 pm
- ☐ Dec. 12 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- ☐ Dec. 12 **UCW Christmas Dinner:** 5:45 pm
- ☐ Dec. 12 **UCW Candlelight Communion Service** - 7 pm
- ☐ Dec. 13 **Executive Board Mtg.** – Parlour 7 pm *note Wed. date.*
- ☐ Dec. 14 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- ☐ Dec. 14 **Final Pickup for oneRoof** 6 - 7 pm
- ☐ Dec. 14 **Choir Rehearsal** – Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- ☐ Dec. 17 **Worship Service: 3rd Advent** Lessons & Carols – 10:30 am
- ☐ Dec. 24 **Worship Service: 4th Advent** Love & Memory Service – 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Family Christmas Service - 6 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service – 8 pm

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

IN OUR CHURCH

Cookie Walk A heartfelt thank you to our bakers, buyers and volunteers. Without you this wonderful event wouldn't be possible! Awesome Results! Cookie Walk total of \$1763.40. Ticket Draw total of \$285.00 making Grand Total of \$2048.40 to support the ministries of SJRUC. A heartfelt thank you to our bakers, buyers, and volunteers.

Thank you Looking for a great Stocking Stuffer? Grace Alton has the perfect one. Handmade calendars that will appeal to everyone! \$5 each and the proceeds will go to the Mission & Service Fund. She will be selling them before & after church in the Narthex. Be sure to have a look!



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 and printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Tax receipts will be issued. Questions? Call the church office.

2024 Donation Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. Need envelopes? Contact the office mail@sjruc.ca or 519-742-1002.

2023 Donations If you intend to make a year-end donation, please ensure it is received by **Fri. Dec. 29**, to be counted for 2023. Thank you for helping us reduce the deficit as we prepare to enter 2024.

Special Gifts Fund: Over the years, the Special Gifts Fund has supported various projects at SJR using the income from the funds invested in the Fund: the Choral Scholars! The piano in the sanctuary. The chairs and tables in the Rainbow Room. The list goes on... However, the Special Gifts Fund needs nurturing to earn income. Please consider making a legacy gift in your will, either by a lump sum or a percentage of your estate, to the Special Gifts Fund. Or you can make a direct donation at this time. Please consider helping the Special Gifts Fund grow. Your lawyer and/or financial adviser can help you. Please speak to Valerie, Chair, or Keith, Trustee, if you have questions.

UCW Christmas Dinner & Candlelight Communion Tuesday, December 12th. We have ordered a delicious turkey dinner from DeliWorks. ***Join us at 5:45pm for dinner & conversation. The Candlelight Communion Service begins at 7:00pm.*** All women are welcome! The catered dinner and desserts "Potluck Style" (bring your own dishes and cutlery - beverages provided. We hope you have pre-paid for the dinner as the deadline has now passed.)

SJRUC's Annual Fundraiser for OneRoof Youth Services is running until ***Thursday evening December 14th.*** A table is in the foyer to collect donated items. Please check the list provided for items most appreciated by oneRoof. 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 name (for tax receipt) on the accompanying envelope. Pickup of donated items will be in the church parking lot ***Thursday, December 14th, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.***

Love and Memory Sunday, December 24th In the morning service on December 24th, we will honour those who have died in 2023, as we honour their memory and celebrate their love. If you have a loved one whom you want remembered, please speak to Rev. Chris or call the office.

Currency for Kids The UCW invites you to find forgotten coins from trips gone by 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.

Annual Committee Reports are due at the SJR Office no later than ***Dec. 31, 2023.*** (Email mail@sjruc.ca - either in a Word document or email.)

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.***