
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 17, 2023 – Advent III
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

Lighting our Advent Wreath

One: How does a weary world practice joy?

**All: By singing or dancing,
by throwing birthday parties or family gatherings.**

One: By hanging Christmas lights, and holding
sleepy babies. By smiling at people on the street,
or looking for good news.

**All: By telling the story of Jesus,
and showing up for our community.**

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

**All: With God's help, may we bring joy
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.***

*Processional Carol **Once in Royal David's City** VU 62
verse 1: Solo (Lucy Gill), verse 2-4: All

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

Opening Prayer

One: If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently.
For a child, a ladybug is a miracle.
A pine tree is a wonder.
Curiosity is a love language,
and water is not only for survival, but for joy.
As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder,
and when we do, we distance ourselves from God.

All **Holy God, somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.
We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray...**

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 LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

1st Lesson The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile (Isaiah 40:1-8)

Choir **Like the Stars of Night** (Joanne Bender)

*Like the stars of the sky all your children shall be
I will make you a nation, you will be blest.
Like the stars of the sky your descendants shall be
yours for all generations, you will be blest.
I'll be your God and you'll be my people.
Like the stars of the sky all your children shall be,
and I'll be your God and you'll be my people.
This is my promise forever.*

2nd Lesson Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.
(Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

Choir **As Joseph was A-walking** (arr. James Fankhauser)
Solo: Roland Kessler

*As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel sing
This night shall be born our gracious heav'nly King.
He neither shall be born in housen nor in hall
nor in the place of par'dise, but in an ox's stall.
He neither shall be clothed in purple nor in pall
But all in fair white linen as wear sweet babies all
He neither shall be bedded in silver nor in gold
But in a wooden cradle that rocks out in the cold.
As Joseph was a-walking, thus did the angel sing,
and Mary's child at midnight was born to be our King.*

3rd Lesson The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.
(Luke 1:26-35, 38)

Choir **Breath of Heaven** (arr. Lloyd Larson)
Solo: Lucy Gill

*I have traveled many moonless nights,
cold and weary with a babe inside
and I wonder what I've done.
Holy Father, you have come
and chosen me now to carry your Son.
I am waiting in a silent prayer;
I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now...
Breath of Heaven, hold me together
be forever near me, Breath of heaven.*

*Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness,
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy*

Breath of Heaven.

*Do you wonder as you watch my face,
if a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan.*

Help me be strong, help me be, help me.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me

*Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,
pour over me your holiness, for you are holy,
Breath of Heaven.*

4th Lesson Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2:1-7)

Choir

Christmas Angel

(Corlynn Hanney)

Solo: Simone Lemieux

*Oh how I wish I could sing like an angel,
I'd sing carols so high and sweet.*

*Oh if I had the voice of an angel,
I'd be singin' that sweet child asleep.*

*O how I wish I had the wings of an angel,
singing with glory bright.*

*O how I wish I had the wings of an angel,
I'd be rockin' that sweet child at night.*

*Christmas angel, so long ago,
you saw the Christ-Child in the star's glow.*

*You sang to Jesus on His bed of hay,
on that first Christmas day.*

4th Carol (All)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

5th Lesson – The shepherds go to the manger. (Luke 2:8-16)

5th Carol (All)

Angels We Have Heard on High

VU 38

6th Lesson The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.
(Matthew 2:1-11)

6th Carol (All)

We Three Kings v1, 2, 5

*1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star. Refrain*

Refrain: **O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.** Refrain

**5 Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.** Refrain

7th Lesson John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.
(John 1:1-14)

Quartet **Praise Be to God** (Larry Nickel)

Quartet: Lucy Gill, Simone Lemieux, Dave Davidson, Roland Kessler

*Praise be to God: honor and love
Give Him the glory
for sending His Son to the earth
One Holy night a beautiful star shone bright
Christ Jesus our Saviour was born
for you, for me, for the world.*

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 Hymn **In the Bleak Midwinter** VU 55
Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward on verse 4

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy** VU 73

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **Go Tell It On the Mountain** VU 43

Refrain ***Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.***

***Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.***

***3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.*** Refrain

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

Postlude

Noël

(Louis-Claude Daquin)

* * *

**Thank you, Alison, the choir, and the wonderful voices that
joined us in sharing in the amazing music in today's
service. Your gifts have helped us get ready for Christmas!**

* * *

Gather, Gab & Mingle after the service today!

Come and enjoy some refreshments
together in the Rainbow Room!



FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Dec. 19 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- Dec. 21 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- Dec. 21 **Choir Rehearsal** – Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- 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
- Dec. 31 **Worship Service** 10:30 am

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

IN OUR CHURCH

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 TODAY Sun. Dec. 17th**. A list of donors will be posted, and tax receipts will be issued. Questions? Call the church office.

Cookie Walk Thank you to all who participated! Without each one of 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.

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.

Looking for a great Stocking Stuffer? Grace A 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!

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 or Keith if you have questions.

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.)

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Cell: 226-989-6400 ***If you know of anyone needing a visit, let Rev. Chris know.***