
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 24, 2023 – Advent IV
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.

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

The Angel Gabriel

(Robert Lau)

*Opening Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

VU 64

Call to Worship

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: We sing songs of hope.

**Hope is not merely dreaming, but expectant hope
relies upon a vision to be born.**

We allow this hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship. We hope.

One: We hope.

All: Against all odds, we hope.

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

This is the world that experiences birth pangs.

Together, we worship our holy God, who brings about
a new reality.

Lighting our Advent Wreath

One: How does a weary world practice love?

All: By sending cards, checking in on someone, or picking up the phone.

One: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people's stories and finding common ground. By sharing the hurts of our hearts together.

All: By advocating for justice, making room at the table, or merely trying to care in a world that convinces us to only worry about ourselves.

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

All: With God's help, may we bring love 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 - Children's Presentation

Hymn

A Candle is Burning

VU 6

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Luke 1:46-64**

⁴⁶ Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. ⁴⁸ God has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored ⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is God's name. ⁵⁰ God shows mercy to

everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. ⁵¹ God has shown strength with his arm. God has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. ⁵² God has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. ⁵⁴ God has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering mercy, ⁵⁵ just as promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home. ⁵⁷ When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. ⁶⁰ But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John." ⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." ⁶² Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him. ⁶³ After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John."⁶⁴ At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.

Reflection – With all my heart: *We sing songs of hope*

Hymn

O Ancient Love

VU 17

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 **Prayerful Angels and Whimsical Angels** (*Joel Raney*)

* Offering Response **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** VU44

**3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.**

*Dedication of the Offering

Remembering those we Love at Christmas:

*Grant Schieck, Ian Tees, William "Bill" Kenzie,
Don Ward, Glenn Thompson,* Waltraud Michi, Frederick
Cluthe, Charlie Atkinson, Laurie Rennie, Karen Adair,
Donald Dale Franklin, Gladys Johnston,* Anne
McConnell,* Randy Johnston,* Debbie Springall,*
Leonard Maurice, Georgina "Jean" Higgins,*
Steadman Rice, Eleanor Mae Smith,* Shirley Coulliard,
Betty Lou Benninger, Anthony May,* Katherine Wardell,
Bonnie Koepke,* Robbie England, Grace Wilke,*
Nina Butler, Geraldine "Gerry" Sorley,* Arthur Mills,
Jim Grover, Joanne Munroe, Patricia McNulty,
Shirley Cole, Doug Evers,* Andrea Gallaway,
Shirley Halme*, Roy Elliott*

*indicates SJRUC Members

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** VU 58

* Commissioning

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

Verse 4: ***For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.***

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

Postlude **Angels We Have Heard on High** (Cindy Berry)

* * *

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

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Family Christmas Service - 6 pm**
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service – 8 pm
- Dec. 31 **Worship Service 10:30 am**
- Jan. 2 **55+ Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym**
- Jan. 3 **Faith Study “Moses” - Parlour 1 pm or 7 pm**
- Jan. 4 **55+ Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym**
- Jan. 7 **Worship Service 10:30 am - *Stay for Gather, Gab & Mingle***
- Jan. 11 **Choir Rehearsal– Rainbow Room 7:30 pm**

Upcoming dates for Gather, Gab & Mingle: January 7 & 21, 2024

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

IN OUR CHURCH

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 Hoag, Chair, or Keith Schott, Trustee, if you have questions.

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.)

Faith Study: MOSES: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet. Join us for six weeks beginning **Wednesday, January 3, 2024, from 1pm to 3pm OR 7pm to 9pm** as we retrace the life of Moses from his modest birth and rescue as a baby to the courts of Pharaoh, from herding flocks in Midian to leading his people out of Egypt. Adam Hamilton will take us from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. Using historical information archaeological data and biblical text, Hamilton guides us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had successfully fulfilled the role he was given. If you have any questions please contact the Office at mail@sjruc.ca

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.

Seniors' Exercise Classes at SJR for anyone 55+ years or any adult living with a disability who wants to improve their strength, balance, & mobility through low-impact exercise. Work at your own pace, wear comfortable clothing & supportive shoes. Exercises can be completed seated or standing. **Classes will resume January 2, 2024 in the SJR Gym on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. No pre-registration required.**

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.

*From our families to yours, may you be blessed
in this holy season with hope, peace, joy, & love.
May the presence of Christ dwell with you!*



**In Memory of family & friends flowers have
been placed in the sanctuary by:**



Barbara Adams
Ena Arnot
Janice Bock
Tom & Kathy Butt
Robert & Gail Campbell
Jim & Teresa Carse
Suanne Crouse
Bill & Dianne Dyck
Nancy Ebel & Family
Maizie Evers
Debra Hines
Beverly Houston
Terry & Sandra Jardine
Joan Kaehler
Cathy Meyer
Norma Mosgrove
Cindy Mounteer
Cec & Jan Omand
Charmian Patrick & Hong Seang
Lynda Perkes
Andrew & Dianne Rath
Doug & Alison Riddell
Evelyn Shantz
Donna & Ralph Szilock
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Denis & Marjorie Tinklin
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Fern Ward
Corinne Wettlaufer
Judy Wiens
Don & Anne Willcox
Carol & Christopher Wilson
Ted Youngs & Family

