
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

A New Year *dawns*

... not to us but to your name be the
glory because of your love
AND FAITHFULNESS.

PSALM 115:1.NV



December 31, 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.

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Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

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.***

Prelude

The First Nowell

(arr. Craig Curry)

*Opening Hymn

The First Nowell

VU 91

Call to Worship

One: What a past year this has been!

**All: So much has happened;
some wonderful and some very challenging.**

One: In all of this, God journeyed with us,
guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

**All: We are filled with gratitude for God's presence
with us.**

One: Today we are on the precipice of a new year.

All: In all that is to come, we commit to trusting in God's love.

One: Together, we walk into this future as a faithful community with renewed hope, peace, joy, and love, and full of generosity, compassion, and joyfulness.

Opening Prayer

One: God of past, present, and future, we give thanks for the gift of gathering to worship, singing, praying, and hearing how you lead us toward a faith-filled future. At the end of each year, we reflect on all that has been experienced in our lives, moments of joy and wonder, times of anxiety and confusion. Throughout it all we are grateful for your covenantal love and guidance. In this new year upon us we ask your continued presence as we strive to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ, to comfort the lonely, attend to the suffering, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, and speak for those whose voices are being ignored. In a spirit of togetherness and oneness we pray.

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 take
activity bags from the back
and return to their seats.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Matthew 2:1-12**

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

*⁶ You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of
Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Reflection – Renewal of our Covenant

Hymn

Will You Come and See the Light

VU 96

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 **How Brightly Beams the Morning Star** (John Carter)

* Offering Response **As With Gladness** VU 81

**3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **When Heaven's Bright with Mystery** VU 93

* Commissioning

* Choral Benediction **A Light is Gleaming** VU 82

Refrain: **A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

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

Postlude

He Is Born!

(John Carter)

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

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- 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

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



Directory Update: Please check the large print directories placed in the Narthex and make any necessary changes to your information. Please leave these directories on the table.

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.

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@siruc.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.

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.*

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



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



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7		8	9	10	11	12
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14		15	16	17	18	19
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21		22	23	24	25	26
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28		29	30	31		
new	if	and	creation			



- The second Monday _ _ _ _ _
- The last Monday _ _
- The 16th _ _ _ _ _
- One day before the 20th _ _
- The day before the first Friday _ _
- The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _
- The day after the 20th _ _
- The day after 18th _ _
- The first day of the second weekend _
- The last Sunday _ _ _
- The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

