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# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



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**January 7, 2024**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

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**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](http://sanctifiedart.org).

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude    **Processional from The Water Music**    (G.F. Handel)

\*Opening Hymn                    **A Light is Gleaming**                    VU 82

Call to Worship

One: There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

**All: Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; in our struggles, we need to be reminded that we are not alone.**

One: Well then, let us care for one another.

Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.

Church, you belong to God.

You are God's beloved.

**All: Friend, you belong to God.**

**You are God's beloved.**

One: Let us worship the God who knows our names.

**Let us worship the God who calls us beloved.**

Opening Prayer

**All: Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we**

turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news...

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.**

Hymn                      **God, We Pray at this Beginning**                      VU 443

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism  
Congregational Promises and Words of Faith – A New Creed

**All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
    who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
    to reconcile and make new,  
    who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:  
    to celebrate God's presence,  
    to live with respect in Creation,  
    to love and serve others,  
    to seek justice and resist evil,  
    to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
    our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone.      Thanks be to God.**

Baptism – Stockdale Family

Sung Blessing

**May the Blessing of God be Upon You** VU429

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

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Mark 1:4-12**

<sup>4</sup> John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. <sup>5</sup> Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals." <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup> While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. <sup>11</sup> And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." <sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness.

Choir Anthem **Bathe Me in Your Light** (John Oldham)

*Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;  
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.  
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,  
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.*

*Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;  
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.  
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,  
drinking from the well of hope  
that brings the heart release.*

*Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;  
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.  
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,  
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.*

Reflection – Out into the Wilderness

Baptism – DeLarge Family

Sung Blessing

**May the Blessing of God be Upon You** VU429

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE**

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://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](mailto:@sjruc.ca) 519-742-1002.*



*For those who wish to donate online through Canada Helps, please visit our website [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca) or scan this QR code:*

Offertory **Air from The Water Music** (G.F. Handel)

\* Offering Response

***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.***

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

\*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

## **WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS**

\* Closing Hymn **Arise, Your Light is Come** VU 79

\* 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     **Hornpipe from The Water Music**     *(G.F. Handel)*

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

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**Gather, Gab & Mingle after the service today!**

Come and enjoy some refreshments  
together in the Rainbow Room!



### FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Jan. 9 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- Jan. 9 **Unified Board Meeting** 8 p.m. (some committees at 7 p.m.)
- Jan. 10 **Faith Study "Moses"** - Parlour 1 pm or 7 pm
- Jan. 11 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- Jan. 11 **Choir Rehearsal**– Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- Jan. 14 **Worship Service** 10:30 am

**Upcoming date for Gather, Gab & Mingle: January 21, 2024**

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

### IN OUR CHURCH



**Directory Update:** Please check the large print directory placed in the Narthex and make any necessary changes to your information. Please leave this draft directory on the table.

**Special Gifts Fund Allocations:** The Special Gifts Fund Committee invites applications for a share of the interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2024. Please ensure that your application is in writing, is supported by the appropriate church committee, and that you indicate that you will spend any allocation by the end of 2024. Please send your application to Valerie Hoag at mail@sjruc.ca or mail it to her at the church, by the deadline.

**Faith Study:** MOSES: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet. Join us ***Wednesdays, 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.

**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.***

# Puzzle!

Determine the letter patterns and fill in the blanks to complete Galatians 5:1, NIV.

**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | Q | L | V | C | R | O |
| G | R | K | U | D | Q | P |
| H | S | J | T | E | P | Q |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | O | B | H | A | L | P | Q | K | D | W |
| H | P | C | G | B | M | O | R | J | C | V |
| G | Q | D | F | C | N | N | S | I | B | U |

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| F | E | U | L | P | W | E | D | V |
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | B | Q | R | V | C | O | H | B |
| Q | C | R | S | U | D | P | G | C |
| R | D | S | T | T | E | Q | F | D |

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Answer: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.  
(Galatians 5:1, NIV)