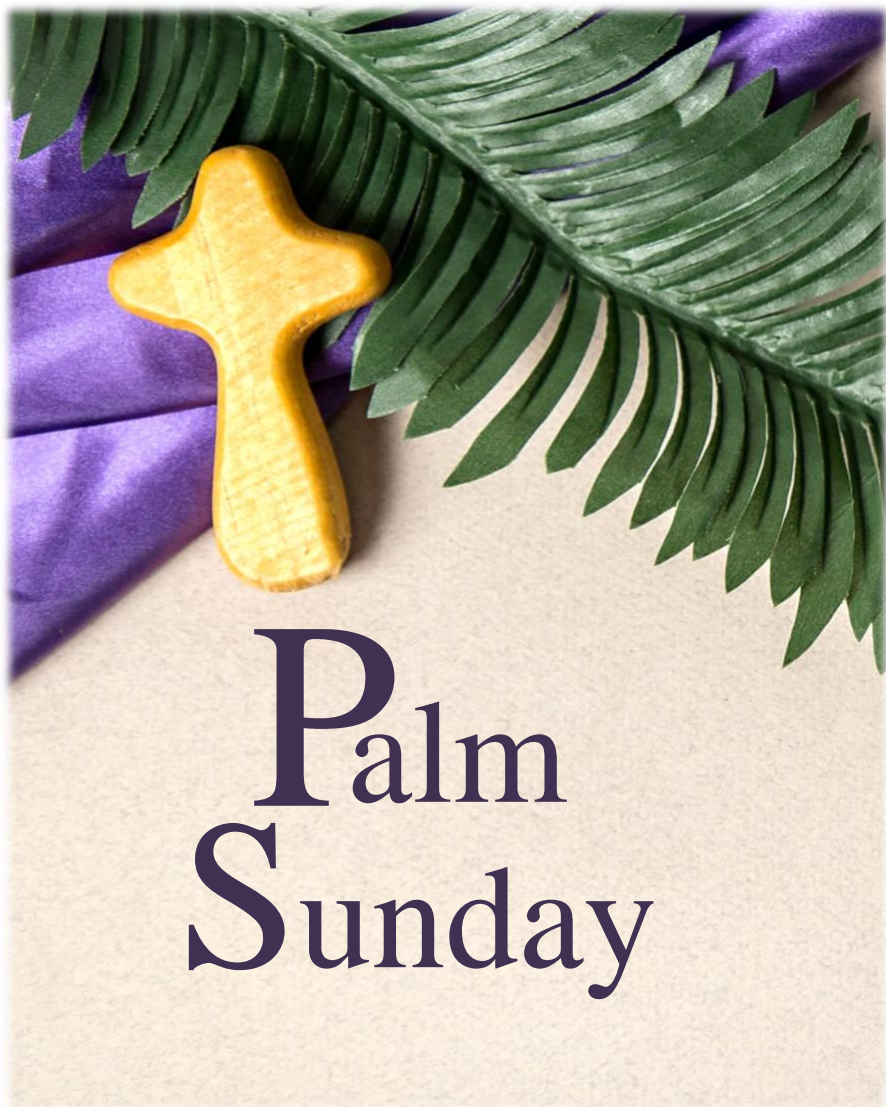

St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday
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.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening *adapted from The Parade by Marney Heatley and Darcy Spencer*

*Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

VU 123

Children's Music

When He Comes

Call to Worship

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Lord!

One: Gracious God, as we stand at the gates of the city,
give us grace to recognize the king we proclaim,
and courage to be a part of your kingdom -
even when it goes against our ways
and the ways of the world,
even when it leads us where we do not want to go.

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Lord!

One: Empower us to free ourselves from the tempting
alternatives of power and wealth and status,
and embolden us to live lives of thanksgiving and
praise. From temptation, save us.
From evil, deliver us.

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Lord!

One: Gracious God, as we stand at the edge of Holy Week,
may we walk faithfully with the one who brings us
peace.

Opening Prayer

***God, Creator, in the heavens,
holy is your glorious name!
May your kingdom be among us;
your will lived, on earth, the same.
Give to each the food that's needed;
sins forgiven, as we forgive.
Lead us not into temptation,
from all evil your people save.
Yours the kingdom, yours the power,
yours the glory, now and always.
May we sing this song forever,
in our nights and in our days!
Prayer and praise our lips are speaking,
hearts together in one accord;
offering, now, our lives, our living;
you, Creator God, adored!***

Story Time

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (The Message) **Mark 15:1-20**

¹ At dawn's first light, the high priests, with the religious leaders and scholars, arranged a conference with the entire Jewish Council. After tying Jesus securely, they took him out and presented him to Pilate. ²⁻³ Pilate asked him, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?" He answered, "If you say so." The high priests let loose a barrage of accusations. ⁴⁻⁵ Pilate asked again, "Aren't you going to answer anything? That's quite a list of accusations." Still, he said nothing. Pilate was impressed, really impressed. ⁶⁻¹⁰ It was a custom at the Feast to release a prisoner, anyone the people asked for. There was one prisoner called Barabbas, locked up with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the uprising against Rome. As the crowd came up and began to present its petition for him to release a prisoner, Pilate anticipated them: "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?" Pilate knew by this

time that it was through sheer spite that the high priests had turned Jesus over to him.

¹¹⁻¹² But the high priests by then had worked up the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas. Pilate came back, "So what do I do with this man you call King of the Jews?" ¹³ They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!" ¹⁴ Pilate objected, "But for what crime?" But they yelled all the louder, "Nail him to a cross!" ¹⁵ Pilate gave the crowd what it wanted, set Barabbas free and turned Jesus over for whipping and crucifixion. ¹⁶⁻²⁰ The soldiers took Jesus into the palace (called Praetorium) and called together the entire brigade. They dressed him up in purple and put a crown plaited from a thornbush on his head. Then they began their mockery: "Bravo, King of the Jews!" They banged on his head with a club, spit on him, and knelt down in mock worship. After they had had their fun, they took off the purple cape and put his own clothes back on him. Then they marched out to nail him to the cross.

Anthem **The Prayer/Lead Me Lord** (arr. Tom Fettke)

*We pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go
And teach us to be wise in times when we don't know
Let this be our prayer when we lose our way
Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace
To a place where we'll be safe.*

*We pray we'll find your light, and hold it in our hearts
As darkness falls each night, remind us where you are.
Let this be our prayer when shadows fill our day
Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

*Lead us, Lord, lead us in your righteousness
lead us in your righteousness;
make your way plain for us to see.*

*We pray we'll find your light, and hold it in our hearts
As darkness falls each night, remind us where you are.
Let this be our prayer just like ev'ry child
needs to find a place, guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

Reflection *Lead us...guide us...so we'll be safe*

Hymn **I Need Thee Every Hour** VU 671

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 **Siciliano** (J.S. Bach)

* Offering Response **Praise God from Whom** VU 541
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

Response **On Eagle's Wings** VU 808

*Refrain: And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of my hand.'*

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **What Wondrous Love is This** VU 147

* Closing *adapted from The Parade by Marney Heatley and Darcy Spencer*

* 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 "La Grace" (Georg Philipp Telemann)

* * *

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

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Mar. 25 **UCW Meeting** – Parlour 1 pm
- Mar. 26 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 am- SJR Gym
- Mar. 28 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 am- SJR Gym
- Mar. 28 **Choir Rehearsal** - Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- Mar. 28 **Maundy Thursday Potluck** 6 pm and Communion 7 pm
- Mar. 29 **Good Friday** - 9:30 am refreshments - 10:30 am Service
- at Calvary Memorial UC, 91 Gruhn St
- Mar. 31 **Easter Sunrise Service**, 7:30 am on the Labyrinth
- Mar. 31 **Easter Communion Service** 10:30 am

Holy Week at SJR



Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 6pm potluck Dinner and Communion: On the night before Jesus died, he gathered his friends for a meal, and gave his most important commandment: *to love and serve one another*. And so, we'll gather for a Potluck meal starting at 6pm in the Rainbow Room, followed by a Communion Service in the Sanctuary at 7pm with hand or foot washing. You're invited to join in either experience or both!

Good Friday, March 29th at Calvary Memorial U.C., 91 Gruhn St. We start our gathering with refreshments **before service at 9:30 am** followed by a shared worship service with Forest Hill & Calvary Memorial at **10:30 am**.

Easter Sunrise Service, March 31st 7:30am. We welcome the new light of Easter morning with a Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. on the Labyrinth, followed by breakfast from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (Note – breakfast concludes at 9:00 a.m. to allow for choir rehearsal).

Easter Communion Service March 31st will take place in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

IN OUR CHURCH



Sanctuary Easter Flowers: To remember a loved one by contributing to the Easter Flower Fund, place your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked “Easter Flowers” and place it on the collection plate by **March 24**. A tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact Anne W.

Next UCW Meeting: **March 25th** Ladies come meet in the **Parlour at 1:00 pm** for what could be a lively discussion: “*What Does SJR Mean to You and What Do You Mean to SJR?*” It will be interesting to hear each other's stories!

Garage Sale Heads Up! Saturday, May 4th. More info soon!

Broadview: Time to Renew Your Subscription The rate of \$30.00 (a new price) provides access to insightful writing and a window on our wider church family! Contact: Muriel at 519-893- 8124. Due now, cash or cheque made out to St James'-Rosemount. Please indicate “Broadview” on the envelope.

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 to apply 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.



Food Drive: ***until this Thursday March 28th.*** In 2023 our church was able to generously deliver 605 pounds of food items and \$2,490 to the Food Bank.

We hope we will be able to continue this generous support in 2024, possibly even exceed what was donated in 2023.

Our next Bible Study- “Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi” by Amy-Jill Levine, will take us back in time and explain how original audiences understood Jesus’ parables. We’ll begin this six-week study on **Wednesday, April 10th from 1pm to 3pm OR 7pm to 9pm** in the Parlour. Please contact the church office for more information.

Photo Directory We are in the final stages of pulling together final pieces for our photo directory and we welcome your quotes about SJR to add to the directory. Please use the separate sheet provided this morning if you'd like to contribute. The deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesday 12:00 noon.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Join the Grand Philharmonic Choir, soloists and musicians of the KW Symphony on Good Friday, March 29 at 7:30 pm as they present Bach's monumental St. John Passion. Tickets are available at Center in the Square box office. Further information is on the bulletin board.

Tiny Home Takeout (THT) in Stanley Park: Wednesdays & Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm until the end of Lent, THT is set up in the parking lot of St. Anthony Daniel Catholic Church and Stanley Park Community Centre (corner of Ottawa St N & Franklin St N) serving a hot meal of daily bites and calzones to any who come out. Lunch bags also available. Those who are able to pay (any amount) are asked to do so - all proceeds help to continue this wonderful project. **Come out and grab a bite. Give if you can.** Daily menu & more info: tinymhometakeout.com

"Singing Liberation" with Inshallah *Sunday, April 7, 3:00 - 4:00 pm* Knox Presbyterian 50 Erb St. W Waterloo. Songs and stories from around the world. Free-will donation supports The Water Project (Six Nations of the Grand River)

A message on behalf of the TCOW Committee: The committee of Two Countries One World (TCOW) has made the tough decision to wrap up our initiatives for now. After 20 wonderful years, the team is ready to rest and excited to see what new path TCOW may take in the future. Following our Easter theology, we look forward to discovering how God will guide the resurrection of TCOW and its values in the future, and what other forms it may take. We would like to extend our greatest thanks and appreciation to all who have been involved with TCOW over the years. We have been so overwhelmed by the support, involvement, encouragement, ideas, participation, eagerness to learn, and excitement that so many people have contributed to TCOW. Thank you to past participants & leaders, volunteers, family & friends, congregations, churches and everyone who has supported TCOW emotionally, spiritually, financially and otherwise throughout our first 20 years. Our four pillars have allowed us to serve and learn through relationships with communities in Nicaragua, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Colombia. What a difference we have all made in so many ways, including the development of active faith and global citizenship among hundreds of United Church youth. We look forward to future opportunities and conversations about Two Countries One World. The website (waterlootcow.ca) and email (info@waterlootcow.ca) will continue to be monitored for anyone looking to reach out. Again, thank you for all your efforts. We hope to be in contact in the future with exciting news!