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# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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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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September 13, 2020 – New Beginnings

## Welcome!

*Welcome to worship!*

*We hope it will be a quiet space for you as you prepare to spend time with God amid life's busyness and storms.*

*We honour each other's desire for peace as we gather.*

*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 would like to acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract, traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

#### Prelude

**Call to Worship** *based on Psalm 103*

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: With all our hearts, we will praise God's holy name!**

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: Never forget the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow is with us always.**

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth—  
everyone, everywhere!

**All: O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth; lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust...that we may praise God with our whole hearts and lives!**

**Opening Prayer** *adapted from a prayer by Amy Loving*

One: Mighty God, you spoke to your people in the pillar of cloud as they walked together in the wilderness. Speak to us through your Word today, that we may hear you calling us out of the wilderness places in our lives and into new places you have promised to show us. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**      O God, Our Help in Ages Past      VU 806

- 1    *O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:*
- 2    *under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.*
- 3    *Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.*
- 4    *A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.*
- 5    *Time like an ever-rolling stream  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.*
- 6    *O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.*

**Story Time**                      New Beginnings

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Minute for Mission**

**Readings from the Scriptures** (NRSV) **Exodus 14:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. <sup>20</sup> It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And

so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup> At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup> He clogged<sup>l</sup> their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." <sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup> But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

**Reflection**                      When You Believe

**Music**                              When You Believe

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

**Invitation to Offering**

(Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca))

**Offertory**

**Wade in the Water**

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

**Closing Hymn Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU 651**

*1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.*

*2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.*

**Commissioning**

One: May God guide your footsteps,  
into the future, and may you gratefully go,  
thankful for the journey that you and your God share.

**\* Choral Benediction**