

---

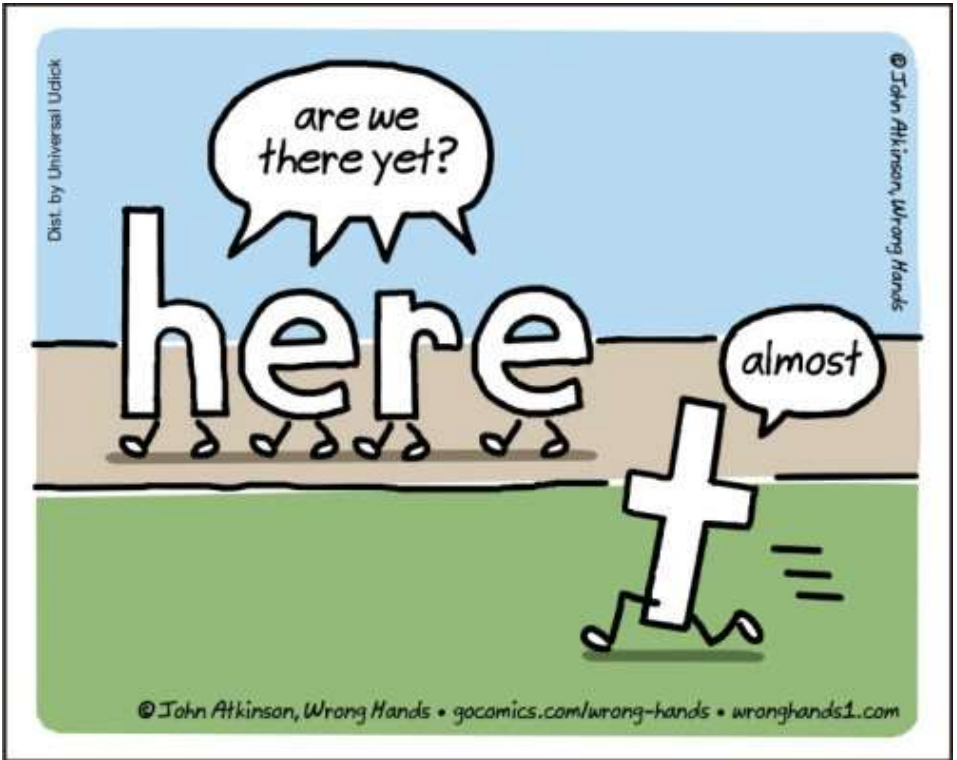
# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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

---

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



---

September 20, 2020

## **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**

One: God of the wilderness and wandering,  
God of the hungry and hurting,  
God of the lost and alone,  
Break open our hearts and lives that we may have our  
routines and expectations exceeded by your love.  
in our times of trial  
help us to resist the worship of empty power,  
so that we may find our true food  
in Jesus Christ, the broken bread. Amen.

### **Opening Prayer** *adapted from a prayer by [Trisha Watts](#) and [Gabrielle Lord](#)*

One: I believe in the wilderness.  
I believe in the interdependence of all living things.  
I believe in the grandeur of the great and tiny,  
in the scorched and fresh earth.  
I believe in the space that allows our hearts to soar,  
the room to move and breathe.

I believe that the wilderness reminds us

to live in freedom,  
revealing the mysteries of death and rebirth.  
I believe that the wilderness is a great sanctuary  
of playfulness, creativity and celebrations.  
I believe that the wilderness surprises us  
when we have reached the end of our possibilities.

I believe in the power of the wilderness  
to transform itself after destruction,  
providing us with an example of renewal and hope.

**Opening Hymn**      Morning Has Broken      VU 409

*1 Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.*

*Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.*

*Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.*

*3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!*

*Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!*

**Story Time**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Minute for Mission**

**Readings from the Scriptures** (NRSV) **Exodus 16:2-15**

2The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my

instruction or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” 8 And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but” against the Lord. 9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 12 “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” 13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

### **Reflection**

Getting from here to there  
(and seeing God everywhere)

### **Hymn**

God of our Life, Through All the Circling Years  
*God of our life, through all the circling years,  
We trust in Thee;  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
Thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.  
  
God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;  
With us abide.*

*Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land;  
Be Thou our Guide.  
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*God of the coming years, through paths unknown  
We follow Thee;  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;  
Our Refuge be.  
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,  
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

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

### **Invitation to Offering**

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

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

One: God, like the Israelites in the wilderness,  
we too have known your love,  
and experienced your care and provision.  
You invite us to extend that love to the world around us—  
to care for others as deeply as we care for ourselves.  
And so we bring the needs of our world before you now.  
In your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the many who do not have enough:  
enough food to eat, or shelter to keep warm;  
enough employment, or money to pay their bills;  
enough medicine or medical care.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We also pray for those who have more than enough,  
but who still struggle to find meaning and purpose in life;  
who indulge in dangerous or self-serving activities  
to dull their pain or loneliness.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, your grace reaches out to all of us.  
You call us to live as citizens of heaven,  
working together with one heart and mind.  
Strengthen us to live in a manner worthy  
of the Good News we have received,

offering our lives in service of your kingdom,  
where the last are first, and the first are last,  
and there is grace enough for all.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord...

## Lord's Prayer

### WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

#### Closing Hymn

#### Lord, Speak to Me

VU 589

*1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your straying children lost and lone.*

*2 O lead me, so that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, so that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*3 O teach me, so that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflows  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

#### Commissioning *from the Iona Community*

One: May God, who is present in sunrise and nightfall,  
and in the crossing of the sea,  
guide your feet as you go.

May God, who is with you when you sit  
and when you stand,  
encompass you with love  
and lead you by the hand.

May God, who knows your path

and the places you rest,  
be with you in your waiting,  
be your good news for sharing,  
and lead you in the way that is everlasting. Amen

**\* Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**