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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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**March 21<sup>st</sup> – Lent 5 – Love Builds Up**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

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# Welcome!

*Welcome to worship! We're glad you're here!*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

**VU: Voices United**

**MV: More Voices**

\* Please remain seated for all of service.\*

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

Prayers in this service are adapted from prayers *by Sarah Are |  
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

One: Every week is a new week,  
Another chance to say:

**All: "Here I am. Use me."**

One: Every day is a new day,  
Another chance to say:

**All: "Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for  
tomorrow."**

One: Every hour is a new hour,  
Another chance to say,

**All: "Again and again, make me new."**

One: We do not come to this place to stay the same.

**All: We come to this place to be changed.**

One: So let us worship holy God,  
Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and  
even now is creating something new.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Call to Confession

In the gospel of John, a group of Greek people approach the disciples and say, "We would like to see Jesus." It's a brief, beautiful moment that the text doesn't spend a lot of time on, And yet, it always catches my eye. It catches my eye, because the phrase, "I want to see Jesus," feels like it should be my constant prayer. Help me see Jesus. I'd like to see Jesus.

Bring me closer to Jesus. In the prayer of confession, we take a moment to recognize how much space exists between us and those words, trusting that even when we forget to seek out God, God is seeking us out. So join me in the prayer of confession today as we take one step closer to the Divine..

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance**

**All: Gracious God, we want to see you. We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus; But not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts. Why do we feel so far away from that at times? What went wrong? Where did we lose our way? Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts? We would be so grateful. Amen.**

*Silence*

One: Despite our wonderings, despite our distractions,  
Despite wrong turns time and time again,  
We are known and loved by God.  
Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,  
God will never stop waving us home.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:  
**All: Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.  
Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.  
Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.**

One: Today is a new day.

**All: Again and again, we are forgiven; again and again, we are reformed. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn                      **O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go**                      VU658

**1 O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flows  
may richer, fuller be.**

**2 O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.**

**3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be.**

**4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.**

## Story Time

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

VU365

**1 Jesus loves me, this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
in his love we shall be strong.**

Refrain **Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**2 Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, 'Let them come to me.'** Refrain

**3 Jesus loves me still today,  
walking with me on my way,  
wanting as a friend to give  
light and love to all who live.** Refrain

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

## Minute for Mission

### Readings from Scripture (NRSV) John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you,

unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## **Anthem**

### **Reflection                      Love Builds Up – Dwelling in Mystery**

*Begins with story of Charles Blondin, ends with clip of Archbishop Tutu*

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

**Invitation to Offering**                      (Donate online at [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca))

## **Offertory**

### **Prayers of the People**

Holy God, scripture tells us that your word is written on our hearts, but we struggle to hear it.

Is it possible that we have covered up your words with our own self-narratives? Is it possible that we have erased your truth to write our own?

Is it possible that we have forgotten your words of love and forgiveness entirely? Take us back to the beginning. Remove the self-talk that distracts.

Clear away the cobwebs of doubt.

Show us how to look inside ourselves for your truth, And then write on our hearts once more.

We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here.

And you sing to us:

*Response: Don't Be Afraid*

MV 90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

We believe that flowers need the rain.

We believe that humans need community.

We believe that bodies need rest.

We believe that hearts need connection.

Over this past year we've lost so much,  
that our needs far outweigh our ability to identify the  
blessings of God.

We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here.

And you sing to us:

*Response: Don't Be Afraid*

MV 90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

We believe that mornings need sunrise.

We believe that seasons need change.

We believe that grief needs space.

We believe that change needs time.

We believe that love needs security.

Over this past year we've lost so much, that our  
needs far outweigh our ability to identify the blessings  
of God.

We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here.

And you sing to us:

*Response: Don't Be Afraid*

MV 90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

We believe that pain needs healing.

We believe that hatred and death – especially death  
caused by the hands of others (particularly the

shootings in Atlanta, the hatred directed at 'non-Whites' and particularly Asians because of farcical covid connections or latent racism) – that hatred and death need God's power and promise of new life rooted in love.

We believe that joy needs company.

We believe that our spirits need God.

Again and again, our spirits need God.

Over this past year we've lost so much, that our needs far outweigh our ability to identify the blessings of God. We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here. And you sing to us:

*Response: Don't Be Afraid*

MV 90

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.***

***Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.***

Fortunately for us, we trust that God is here.

God is at work in our lives. God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up. God is the love we offer one another. Thanks be to God for the life that unites us, as in prayer we join our hearts together using these words or words more familiar to us saying,

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, Forever and ever. **Amen**

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

**Hymn            Between Darkness and Light**

***Between darkness and light, I will always walk  
and every place that I go, I will open a window  
a window of light, and plant a seed of love***

## Commissioning

One: As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm— Again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen.

\* **Choral Benediction** ("Go Now in Peace" Written by 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.*

## Postlude



**The building is closed but church isn't!**  
Visit [sjruc.ca](http://sjruc.ca) for online services and information.

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## Announcements

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**Faith Study** On Wednesday we'll be continuing our Lenten Faith Study entitled *Final Words from the Cross* with Ada Hamilton. Please contact [revchris@sjruc.ca](mailto:revchris@sjruc.ca) to be added to the email list.

**Waterloo Regional Food Bank** Join us this week, **March 25<sup>th</sup>**, **between 6:00 PM and 7:30PM** as we collect your foodbank items in our parking lot!

**Special Gifts** – The Special Gifts Committee reminds everyone that applications for a share of any interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund are due March 31, 2021.

**Holy Week** – If you are interested in helping out with Holy Week Services please contact Rev. Chris, and for more info about how SJR will share in Holy Week together, please check out our website!