
Western Ontario Waterways
Regional Summer Service
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St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH
FOREST HILL UNITED CHURCH, KITCHENER**

We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

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

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Music **Come In and Sit Down** v1,4 VU395

Refrain ***Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.***

***We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.***

***1 You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family.*** Refrain

***4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's
small.***

***So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family.*** Refrain

Call to Worship

One: Welcome to worship today!

All: Thank you. We are glad to be here!

One: Open your eyes and your hearts to God's spirit

All: We open our lives to God's word for us.

One: Rejoice! For God is with us this day!

All: Thanks be to God for God's loving presence.

Lighting the Altar Candles

One: With these candles we celebrate the many facets of the Holy One. You are our Creator, our Sibling and the Enlivening Force in the world within and the world beyond. May your light come into our lives.

Memorial/Celebration Candles and Prayers

Prayers from the World

One: Lord, in this season of growth, open our hearts to grow in your love. Help us to truly trust in your creative process in our lives. We look around and we see the beauty of your world, the blossoming flowers and plants, the growth of children, the joy of celebrations of graduation and marriage, of receiving new life. And we also see the sadness and sorrow that has invaded the world when systems of injustice and hatred lay claim to people's lives. Prepare us, O Lord, to become ambassadors of peace and hope. Help us to place our trust in you, so that when we are serving others, they may come to know your abiding love and power. Give us courage and great joy as we serve you. **Amen**

Together may we ground our hearts and minds in the work of Christ found in the prayer he taught us.

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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Anthem

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Sung by Ian Murray

Readings from the Scriptures – Judges 4:1-16

4 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ² So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. ⁴ At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶ She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun.' ⁷ I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'" ⁸ Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." ⁹ And she said, "I will surely go with you;

nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰ Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him. ¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the other Kenites, that is, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had encamped as far away as Elon-bezaananim, which is near Kedesh. ¹² When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, ¹³ Sisera called out all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the troops who were with him, from Harosheth-ha-goim to the Wadi Kishon. ¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For this is the day on which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. The LORD is indeed going out before you.” So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand warriors following him. ¹⁵ And the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic^[b] before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, ¹⁶ while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; no one was left.

Reflection - Road out of Oppression – Rev. Gary Clark

Hymn **Precious Lord, Take My Hand** VU 670

**1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

2 *When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

3 *When the darkness appears,
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

One: God is good. Everything that God does is for good. It is natural that we, who benefit from all that God-given goodness, are grateful. We express our gratitude with our service, with our use of our time, and with our financial resources. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online. Thank you for your faithful support.

Offertory Prayer

One: Lord, help us to feel thankful for everything that you've given us. We worship and praise you with our gifts. Our prayer this morning is that through us, the world will see Christ's light and come to know your goodness. Please take our gifts and use them to strengthen our ministry, here at home and everywhere in the world. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn **I Feel the Winds of God** VU625

1 *I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.*

2 *It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.*

3 *If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.*

Blessing and Benediction

One: Feel the love of God growing within your heart.
Go into God's world, planting seeds of love,
mercy, joy, and peace in all that you say and
do. Be at peace and serve God. Amen.

Postlude

