
Western Ontario Waterways
Regional Summer Service
<https://wowrucucc.ca/>



St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH
ZION UNITED CHURCH, NEW HAMBURG**

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.*

Prelude Lord, Prepare Me MV 18
***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary, for you.***

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

One: God's blessings surround us;

All: holding us close in times of trouble.

One: God's love enfolds us;

All: and heals our deepest wound.

One: Let us worship God of mercy and grace.

All: Let us praise God our Creator

Lighting the Christ Candle

We remember Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

The light that guides us to become makers of peace.

Prayer of Approach

One: God of Mercy, We marvel at your goodness.

You care for all of creation, from the little
sparrow, to each human being created in your
image. Even when this world is full of discord,
you offer kindness and love. When others turn

their back, you open your arms with forgiveness. When others malign and speak against you, you reach out to them with grace.

All: O God of resurrection, we worship you today, and we long for the day when you will make all things right.

Hymn

God of the Sparrow

VU229

**1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise**

**2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe
How does the creature cry Save**

**3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks**

**4 God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life**

**5 God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace**

**6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home**

Prayer of Reconciliation

One: Gracious God,

we admit that we are a broken people.

We acknowledge that we surround ourselves with those who are like us, those who treat us well, and those who can benefit us.

There are times when we cut ourselves off from those who have hurt us and build walls to keep others away.

Forgive us Lord, show us what it means to love our enemies and to do good to those who mistreat us. Transform and renew us again, and fill us with the knowledge of your Spirit. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Words of Affirmation **Affirmation of Hope** VU656

Story for All Ages

Abigail the Peacemaker

from Miriam, Mary and Me (1 Samuel 25)

Children's Hymn **May the God of Hope** VU 424

**1 *May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.***

***May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.***

Refrain ***Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.***

**2 *May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace,
both treasured and pursued.***

***May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.***

Refrain

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Special Music

Still My Soul

(Charlene Nafziger)

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from the Scriptures – Luke 6:27-38

27 "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29** If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. **30** Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you. **32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **37** "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Reflection Mercy and Grace – Rev. Maggie Dieter

Pastoral Prayer

One: Gracious Lord, we dream of a world free of poverty and oppression, and we yearn for a world free of vengeance and violence. we pray for your peace.

When our hearts ache for the victims of war and oppression, give us faith in our ability to comfort and heal bodies and minds and spirits that have been broken by violence.

When the injustice of this world seems too much for us to handle, help us to remember that you fed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish..., and give us hope that what we have to offer will turn out to be enough, too.

When fear of the power and opinions of others tempts us not to speak up for the least among us, help us to remember that you dared to turn over the tables of money changers..., and give us the courage to risk following you without counting the cost.

When we feel ourselves fill with anger at those who are violent and oppressive, help us remember that you prayed for those who put you on the cross... and grant us compassion for our enemies..

When we tell ourselves that we have given all we can to bring peace to this world, help us to remember your sacrifice... , and give us the miracle of losing a little more of ourselves in serving you and our neighbors.

Walk with us, Lord, as we answer your call to be peacemakers. Increase our compassion, our generosity and our hospitality. Give us the courage, the patience, the serenity, the self-honesty and the gentleness of spirit that are needed in a world filled with tur-moil and terror. We hold up to you in prayer... And others who struggle. Grant them your peace and hope, Merciful and Gracious God. Comfort them and empower us to serve our

neighbours and friends with compassionate care. We offer this prayer in the name of the one who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

VU959

Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

One: God is making all things new, giving and giving and giving again. And we are called to be a part of God's radical generosity. May we give of our time, talent, and treasure to this God-work of making all things new

Offertory **In Gratitude and Humble Trust** VU544
In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Loving God, may our offerings renew the new world. May our gifts, our ministry, the Food Pantry, help make real what your prophets declare: that mourning and crying and pain will be no more. Bless us that we take our place to make a world where everyone is

loved, where everyone has warm food, cool water, healthcare, and friends. In Jesus name.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn **There is a Time** MV 165

**1 *There is a time that we must rise
There is a time that we must stand
There is a time that we must come together.***

Refrain ***For blessed are our lives, Blessed our love, and Blessed the promise gathered now.***

**2 *There is a time that we must leave
Go from the place where hatreds breed
And, turning, feel the Spirit breathe us together.***

Refrain

**3 *There is a time, we know the way, there is a time we watch and pray
In living faith we make our way together*** Refrain

**4 *Upon the dry a cloud will rise and truth will shine among the lies
and wisdom sing as we arise together*** Refrain

**5 *There is a bow within the rain and it will come and bend again
and colors shine where we have been together*** Refrain

Blessing and Benediction

One: Renewed in our faith and inspired to act, Let us be the peacemakers the world aches for; And, by being peacemakers, let us find the peace we long for. Go in peace. Make peace. Be at peace.

Choral Blessing A Closing Prayer (Don Besig)

Postlude **When Hands Reach Out** MV 169