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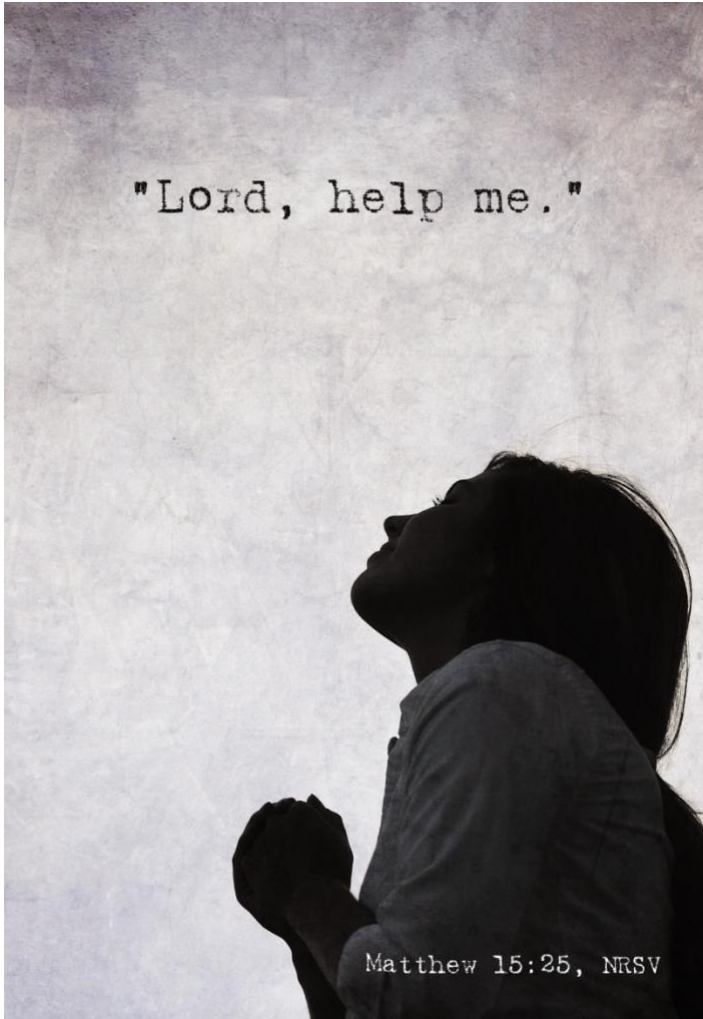
# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**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**

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

## Welcome & Announcements

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

One: May God be gracious to us, and bless us,  
and open us with the radiance of grace.

**All: May your way be known everywhere, God:  
in the hidden places of our hearts;  
in the comfort of our homes;  
in every corner of our world;  
in the farthest reaches of creation.  
You transform us; you heal our lives;  
you renew the earth and every creature:  
Let our praise sing from home to the heavens,  
as we worship you.**

### Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by John A. Nelson*

One: God of all creation who called every being into life  
who loves the richness of diversity  
who embodies us with dignity,  
granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this  
world, we ask for your Spirit to unite us  
where we face lack of understanding and disunity  
in our churches, in our communities, in our countries.  
In the face of the conflicts, separation,  
wherever fear prevents us from caring for our  
neighbour, in silence we bring to you the brokenness  
of human relationships.  
God of all creation, in Christ we are reconciled,  
and so we ask for your uniting Spirit  
to help us to overcome all our divisions  
that we may live in peace. Amen

Opening Hymn      **Open My Eyes**

VU 371

**1** *Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

**2** *Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

**3** *Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

**Story Time**

Hymn      **Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands**      VU 570

**1** *Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,  
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,  
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.*

**2** *Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,  
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;  
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Minute for Mission**

## **Readings from Scripture** (CEB) Mark 7:24-36

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. <sup>25</sup> In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup> But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup> "Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter." <sup>30</sup> When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup> After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. <sup>32</sup> Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. <sup>33</sup> Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and said, "*Ephphatha*," which means, "Open up." <sup>35</sup> At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly. <sup>36</sup> Jesus gave the people strict orders not to tell anyone. But the more he tried to silence them, the more eagerly they shared the news. <sup>37</sup> People were overcome with wonder, saying, "He does everything well! He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who can't speak."

## **Reflection**

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

## **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offertory**

**\* Offering Response \***

***We bring our gifts to share, and lift our grateful prayer  
That with our faithful care, our world will grow.  
Through work of minds and hands  
in gestures small or grand,***

***Let willing hearts expand the love You sow.***

*Words & music © A. Baer, 2013, arr. S. Porter*

**\*Dedication of the Offering**

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

One: Merciful God, in love you created us,  
and in love you sustain us, day after day.  
So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to  
you, knowing that you will hear and respond.

For those in the midst of difficult journeys through  
serious illness or injury,  
those loving in the midst of heartache, those  
struggling to put one foot in front of the other,  
and who long for your miraculous intervention;  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For the many others in our world who are suffering  
this day—from grief, or loneliness, hunger, poverty,  
violence or illness;  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One We pray for those who are separate family,  
friends or neighbours;  
who find it difficult to forgive past wrongs done to  
them;  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for those who for years have carried feelings  
of guilt or regret, for something they did  
or something they neglected to do;  
who find it difficult to ask for forgiveness or forgive  
themselves;  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: For those who find themselves far away from you,  
dealing with doubts or disillusionment,

and who wonder how to find their way back;  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Sustain all those who look to you in hope.  
And strengthen us—your people—  
so that we may be a light to all those who find  
themselves in the shadows

In the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

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 GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS**

Hymn

I am the Light of the World

VU 87

Refrain *'I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!'  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.*

*1 When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:* Refrain

*2 To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children with warmth  
and good food,  
to feel the earth below, the sky above!* Refrain

**3 To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere! Refrain**

**4 To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth! Refrain**

### **Commissioning**

One: God, mark us with grace and blessing!  
Let our lives reflect your light and your goodness,  
so that the way in which we live might bring others  
to an awareness of your presence and your love.  
Teach us to trust You with our whole heart,  
and to praise You in every circumstance,  
so that your grace and mercy  
might reach out through us  
to the entire world. Amen.

**\* Choral Benediction                      Go Now in Peace**  
**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.**  
(“Go Now in Peace” Written by Besig & Price ©1988)

*Please remain seated in silence as we conclude  
our service with the postlude.*

### **Postlude**

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## Announcements

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**Outdoor Worship** - For the month of September we will be worshipping in-person on the labyrinth every Sunday at 10:30am. Just like our summer services, we are asking that you bring your lawn chairs, masks, (and maybe an umbrella just in case). We will be contact tracing and continuing to social distance while reminding ourselves of the blessings of worshipping with one another. Services will continue to be printed and posted online for those unable to join us in-person.

**Reopening in October** - We are making plans to return to worship in the Sanctuary in October. We are basing our decision upon the number of cases in our Region, vaccination rates, and the current re-opening plan of Ontario. As we plan for worship in the Sanctuary where seating will be limited to ensure the safety of all attending, we wanted to start some research about our congregation. This survey is **anonymous** and results will only be shared with our re-opening committee.

**Please type this link into your browser to fill out our survey: <https://forms.gle/hkUSvd5FJz8Nkfb96>**  
**Print copies of the survey are available as well.**

**Art and Maryiln G.** are celebrating their sixty third anniversary on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>! From Art "Things have sure changed ; our reception was held in the basement of the Mt Albert UC and cost the grand sum of \$2.00 and supplied by the UCW . We have been fortunate to have two children, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren." **We celebrate with you Art and Marilyn!**

**Executive Meeting** – September 7 at 7pm on Zoom!

**Waterloo Regional Food Bank** In September, we will be again supporting the Waterloo Regional Food Bank. During this time span, food items can be dropped off at the church, preferably during Sunday mornings. Anyone wishing to make a financial donation can do so by placing a cheque (made out to St. James Rosemount United Church; Food Bank on the memo line), into an appropriate envelope, making sure to indicate the purpose of your donation and your SJRUC envelope number. Donations can be mailed to the church or placed into the church mail slot. Thank you for ensuring no one goes hungry in our Region!