
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



January 2, 2022 – Second Sunday after Christmas
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

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, as you are able.

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

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: God of our hopes, Christ of our faith,
Spirit in our hearts, we come to worship you
with joy and gladness.
Your goodness knows no limits
of generation or gender, of condition or citizenship.
You are kind to all, and we glimpse your glory through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Be with us today in our worship and praise.

Opening Prayer

One: God of guiding stars, we turn our attention to the
hopes of a new year. We hope for an end to Covid
and an end to the fears and divisions it has brought.
We hold as precious the hope, peace, joy, and love
that came to light in the birth of the Christ child. By the
fire of Jesus' spirit, hearts like ours have been
warmed ever since. And still today, we pray that love
burns strong within us such that friends and strangers
find comfort and warmth by its glow. May the light of
Christmas guide us into through the New Year. Amen

Carol

The First Nowell

VU 91

**1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: ***Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.***

***2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.*** Refrain

***3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.*** Refrain

***4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.*** Refrain

***5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.*** Refrain

***6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.*** Refrain

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) **Matthew 2:1-15**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route. ¹³ When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." ¹⁴ Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. ¹⁵ He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *I have called my son out of Egypt.*

Hymn

Arise, Your Light is Come

VU 79

**1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.**

**2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

**1 *In the darkness shines the splendour
of the Word who took our flesh,
welcoming, in love's surrender,
death's dark shadow at his crèche.
Bearing every human story,
Word made flesh reveals his glory.***

**2 *Light of nations, veiled in history,
born of woman's flesh and blood,
calling to the depths of mystery
restless hearts that seek the good.
Healing every human story,
Word made flesh reveals his glory.***

**3 *Broken bread, sustaining us in sorrow,
wine poured out to toast our joy;
exodus and new tomorrow,
life's full promise to enjoy!
Gladdening every human story,
Word made flesh reveals his glory.***

**4 *All God's people, sing in jubilation
of the birth that sets us free,
telling of the revelation:
Jesus, God's epiphany.
Celebrate the human story!
Word made flesh reveals our glory.***

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offering Response **We Bring our Gifts to Share**

***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

Anthem **When the Child Wakes** (Allan Baer)

*When the dawn breaks, as we welcome the morn,
then our eyes will be opened to a world that's reborn;
to a joyful tomorrow and a future that's clear,
where we live in the Christ-light, free from hate, free from fear.*

*See how humble the stable, disregarded, ignored.
Yet from lowly beginnings comes a savior and lord.
Did the magi or shepherds grasp the sign they beheld,
When the low were exalted and the powerful felled?*

*When the times need a vision, when the hour cries for hope,
We will nurture compassion and our lives grow in scope.
For the Lamb will be Shepherd as Good News is proclaimed:
when we give of ourselves,
then we'll see God's love sustained.*

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer (*read/prayed slowly*)

**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

Closing Carol **O Radiant Christ** VU 84

- 1 O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.**
- 2 Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,
too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.**

- 3 ***Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.***
- 4 ***O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.***

Commissioning

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

Announcements

Please register for Worship: Vaccination, masks, & distancing are required. Register at: sjruc.ca Sign up your "bubble" & sit together. Phone registration is available through the office. Note the separate registration for Sunday School. If the list for the Worship Service is full, please sign up on the "Wait List". We will contact you if spaces become available. **We require proof of vaccination to attend.** For those who have chosen to be unvaccinated, please join us online or in print!

Christian Education: Drop your children off at the door near the fenced playground at 10:20 a.m. on Sundays for story time, worship, crafts, and play (indoor & outdoor). Masks & distancing required. Pre-register your children online at rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9 Can you volunteer to assist with the activity centers? If you can help, contact Mearle M at ce@sjruc.ca or Rev. Chris revchris@sjruc.ca

Annual Committee Reports: Please submit your reports ASAP as they were due into the Church Office by **December 31, 2021**. Word (.docx) format preferred

Gifts & Memorials book previously located in the Narthex has gone missing. Do you know where it is? Contact the office 510 742-1002

Chasing Vines Join us on Wednesday, January 12th as we start the new year with a six-session journey through Scripture to discover the true meaning of a fruitful, God-pleasing, meaning-filled life. Just how do those vineyards hold the secret of how we can have a more abundant life? Please contact Rev. Chris or sign up on the website to be included on the zoom meetings on Wednesday nights from 7pm - 9pm.



Keep Saving Those Stamps for the Leprosy Mission! Place them in the caring bin in the brown wooden cabinet in the cloak room. Questions? Contact Jim 519-893-4092.

Rev. Chris Fickling, Minister of Worship revchris@sjruc.ca

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If you know of anyone needing a visit, let Rev. Chris know.

