
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 9, 2022 – Baptism of Jesus
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

Welcome!

Welcome to worship!

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prelude **Shall We Gather at the River** (arr. Vicki Collinsworth)

Call to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall:
Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**All: In baptism, our Creator claims us
and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry
and makes us signs of divine love.
It is the mark of acceptance into the church
and the beginning of our growth
into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body
of Christ, remembers and celebrates.**

One: Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

One: We have entered the season
in which your Light has been given to the world,
your blessings have been poured out on the world,
and yet all our problems, our needs, our fears,
easily distract us from your blessing, O God.
Help us to desire you.
Help us to yearn for your presence.
Pour your baptismal waters over us again,
cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.
Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve.
Wash away our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors
that stand in the way of our truly being

the people you have called us to be.
Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.
We ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

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.**

Hymn **Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song** VU 205

**1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

**3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Readings from the Scriptures (CEB) **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

¹⁵ The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John replied

to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.” ²¹ When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

Anthem **Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day**

(trad. carol, arr. Richard Shephard)

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance;*

Chorus

*Sing O my love,
This have I done for my true love.*

*Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance.
Thus was I knit to man;’ nature,
to call my true love to the dance.*

*In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor; this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance.*

*Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father’s voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance.*

Reflection

Hymn

Born in the Night

VU 95

**1 Born in the night, Mary’s Child,
a long way from your home;**

*coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.*

2 *Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.*

3 *Truth of our life, Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's Child,
shown on your cross of wood.*

4 *Hope of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
saviour of all, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.*

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

Prayers of the People *a prayer written by Rick Pryce*

One: Celebrating the coming of the One who brings the reign of God to all people, let us pray for the world God loves, the Church God calls, and all people according to their needs, saying, *Lord, in your mercy,* and responding, *Hear our prayer.*

God of light and darkness, through water and Word you shine your light into the darkness of our lives.

We give thanks for this incredible gift.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of love and hate,

your love comes in spite of our animosity;

you bring reconciliation to those who are divided.
We pray for better relations between Canada and its
native peoples. Strengthen us to be peacemakers.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of hope and fear,
you walk with us through the challenges which
surround us. Wash away our anxiety by your
promised presence, and set us free from despair.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of church and world,
in baptism you unify yourself with our world,
and bring your reign into being.
Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place.
Motivate us to infuse the world with your justice.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of health and illness,
there is nothing that separates us from your love.
Inspire us to bring your health to the sick,
your encouragement to the discouraged,
your promise to the dying...
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of life and death,
all that exists is from you, and for you.
Enable us to trust your baptismal promise,
and serve this hurting world.
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God who shines in the darkness,
receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts,
in the name of the one who is your light,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn **Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness**
Text & Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, OneLicence #A-724253

***Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.***

Refrain
**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.** Refrain

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.** Refrain

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.** Refrain

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.** Refrain

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 **In Thee is Gladness** (arr. Kristina Langlois)

Announcements

Annual Committee Reports: If you have not submitted your committee report please do so ASAP to have it included in the annual report. Word (.docx) format preferred

Church Office The SJR office is currently closed, though we are checking mail, phone messages, & email. Please bear with us as it may take a little longer to get back to you! (Email is generally the quickest way to contact us). If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact Rev. Chris at 226-989-6400

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.

Gifts & Memorials book previously located in the Narthex has gone missing. Do you know where it is? Contact the office 519 742-1002

Letter from Chairperson of the Unified Board

Greetings all, while we may wish everyone a Happy New Year - we have some hard news to share.

The Executive of the Unified Board met last evening and, after much discussion, made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship for the next four weeks. We will re-evaluate our status at our next Executive meeting on Feb. 1/22 and hopefully will be able to reverse our decision depending on the pandemic conditions at that time. We are grateful for the care and concern that all of you have shown this fall enabling us to worship together safely. Unfortunately the active cases currently are far more troubling than ever. If the COVID landscape appears to be improving substantially within that time frame we will meet sooner to discuss potential changes. In the meantime services will continue to be posted online and mailed out as previously. If you know of someone that would like to receive sermons by mail, please speak to the office. Closing to in-person is the last thing any of us want to do, however we believe it to be the right decision knowing how lucky we were to be able to celebrate Christmas together.

In addition, all groups using our building will be notified that, pursuant to the Provincial order to close meeting and event spaces, our church building will be closed to those groups until the Provincial guidelines change. Again, we hope this to be once again, a temporary measure to allow our health system to cope with the increased demand, without adding anymore cases as a result of our activities.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support as we navigate through these challenging times.

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