
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



March 27, 2022 – Lent 4 – Good Enough
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

Prelude

Centering Moment for Lent *adapted by a prayer by Brené Brown*

One: As we journey this Lent, may we find the courage to let go of who we think we're supposed to be so that we can fully embrace our authentic selves:

All: the imperfect, the creative, the vulnerable, the powerful, the broken, and the beautiful.

One: May we show ourselves and others the compassion that comes from knowing we are all made of strength and struggle.

All: God's love strengthens us in the struggle.

One: May we create a just and equitable world where privilege isn't a prerequisite for self-expression and authenticity, where everyone feels invited and safe to express their power and their vulnerability. And last, may we experience the strength of connection, the love of belonging, and the grace of pure joy, thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sung Response **Take, O Take Me as I Am** MV 85

*Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

Opening Prayer

One: Beloved God, with the eagerness of a child, you wait for our coming, with the urgency of a mother, you long for our return with the anxious heart

of a father, your arms ache to hold us.
The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away,
that's us, not you. Our failures way heavy on us.
Forgive us and heal us of everything in us
that recoils from our common humanity.
You have given us such worth; help us to take all
creation at your valuation and to know ourselves,
and all your children, precious and loved.
For this is the love that Jesus brought...and we pray...

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

Amazing Grace

VU 266

- 1 *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.***
- 2 *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.***
- 3 *Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.***
- 4 *The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.***

5 *When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Luke 15:11-32**

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. ¹³ Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

¹⁴ "When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. ²¹ Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! ²³ Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. ²⁹ He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when

this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’³¹ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.”

Anthem

Perfection

(SWITCH / Life.Church)

*I keep finding myself fighting to avoid the mirror,
I could use some help ‘cause I don’t like what I see here.*

*Do I measure up, am I good enough
What if I fail, what if I can’t do it well
Will they walk away, will You walk away
Do You think I’m worth it still?*

Refrain: *But when all I see are the flaws
You see perfection
Looking through this mess of a heart
You see perfection
Show me what’s behind Your eyes
Don’t think I can trust in mine
When all I see are the flaws
You see perfection.*

*I learn slowly but You’re teaching me to love myself
Starting to believe You want me like nobody else
I’ll never measure up, but You are my enough
Sometimes I fail, sometimes I can’t do it well
But if they walk away, You don’t walk away
You tell me I’m worth it still. Refrain*

Reflection

Hymn

Just as I am (adapted lyrics)

VU 508

**1 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Love of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Love of God, I come, I come.**

**3 Just as I am - Thou wilt receive,
You welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Love of God, I come, I come.**

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 and Prayer Shawl Blessing

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

Closing Hymn

Love, Who Made Me v1-5

VU 565

Sung to Irby: Once in Royal David's City

**1 Love, who made me in your likeness,
to your image forming me;
Love, who showed such gentle kindness
when I fell, restoring me:**

Refrain: **Love, I give myself to be one with you, eternally.**

**2 Love, to whom my life was precious,
long before I came to birth;
Love, for ever human with us,
born to share our life on earth: Refrain**

**3 Love, for me, you came to suffer
and, at last, were crucified;
Love, with you, I live for ever,
joy is endless at your side: Refrain**

**4 Love, my Life, my Truth, my Splendour,
living Spirit, Mighty Word;
Love, by whose full self-surrender
my heart's wholeness is restored: Refrain**

**5 Love, whose yoke is laid upon me,
liberating life and mind;
Love, whose grace has overcome me,
here is freedom, unconfined: Refrain**

Commissioning from “Good Enough” by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

One: Blessed are you who realize there is simply not enough—time, money, resources.

Blessed are you who are tired of pretending that raw effort is the secret to perfection.

It’s not. And you know that now.

Blessed are you who need a gentle reminder that even now, even today, God is here, and somehow, that is good enough.

And now, may the God who welcomes us with open arms, and Jesus, whose forgiveness and grace knew no limits, and the Holy Spirit who inspires our relationships and belonging, go with you, to inspire you to bear this same love for all. 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

Announcements

Please register for Worship: Vaccination, masks, & distancing are required.

Register at: rsvp.church/r/C1yBpTR9 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 Morton ce@sjruc.ca or Rev. Chris revchris@sjruc.ca

Can we Count on You? Our current list of Counters (of the Sunday offering) is less than half of the size that it was before Covid. There has been no Counters schedule for the past two years and as we ramp up our Sunday services, it is time to put together a Counters Schedule. We like to have a Head Counter with one or two Counter helpers. If we can get enough volunteers, your commitment would be once every 4-7 weeks. The counting has traditionally been done after our Sunday worship service.

Ukraine The Executive has pledged a minimum of a \$2000 support, so if you would like to help, please make your donation out to SJR with the note: 'Ukraine'



Who are all of these people? Reminder for anyone who didn't pick up your new name tag – these are available in the Long Sunday School Room. If you're not there – please let the office know!

Easter Flowers To remember a loved one by contributing to the Easter Flower Fund, put your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place it on the collection plate by April 10. A tax receipt will be issued. Questions? Contact Anne W

Lenten Faith Study We continue our Lenten Faith Study on Zoom from 7pm to 9pm on Wednesday evenings. In "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week." Please contact Rev Chris to get the link.

Special Gifts Allocations The Special Gifts Committee invites applications for a share of any interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2022. Ensure that your application is in writing, supported by the appropriate SJR committee, and indicate that you will spend any allocation by the end of 2022. Please send your application to Valerie Hoag at mail@sjruc.ca or by mail at the church, by the deadline.

Advance Notice – Mother's Day Takeout Dinner! Watch the bulletin next week for information about our next dinner in support of the Mission and Service Fund!

Executive Update While mandatory masking has been lifted in Ontario, we continue to keep status quo for the month of March. Masks, distancing, and vaccination status will still be required for worship. Our hopes will be that by our Executive meeting on April 5, we will be able to increase numbers to 75% capacity, and potentially eliminate vaccine requirements. In the months that follow we hope to embrace 100% capacity, Gather in Gab in person, and all the other activities we so miss.

Rev. Chris Fickling, Minister of Worship revchris@sjruc.ca
Office: 519-742-1002 Cell: 226-989-6400