

**Holden and Tofield United Churches**  
**Worship Leader: Rev Adam Hall**  
**Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 9:00am-12:30noon**  
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*Welcome One and All*  
**March 22nd, 2020**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Please Note:** Bold printing in the wording indicates unison reading by congregation. Please stand as you are able when you see the (\*) symbol.

*We Gather to Praise our God*

**Words of Welcome:**

Welcome friends and peace be with you all.

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

As we gather together today in this new way, we remember that the light of God's love and grace is with us always. Like the light of a candle that burns brightly in our midst, the light of God's love shows us the way through the unknown. This light is the light of love, peace and hope. This is the light of Jesus Christ and thank be to God for it.

**The Life and the Work of our Church:**

Please continue to watch your email/website for additional information about online events.

**Call to Worship:**

Jesus said, "When two or three are gathered in my name I am there." Jesus did not specify what that gathering was to look like or how it was suppose to be. WE have

become accustomed to our gathering being in the church and with others by our side and I, like all of you, miss that greatly. But today and amid this new normal that we are living, we must do our part to protect those within our communities that are most vulnerable and to our part to help flatten the curve. And so today as we gather in a new way for worship, we know that even though we are gathering from our homes, that we are together in Christ and called to worship with hope, grace and love.

### **Prayer of Approach/Confession**

Lord we ask for your grace to be with us as we gather for worship this day. Please bless us in these uncertain times and guide us to see the blessings around us in all moments; particularly when they are hard to see and feel. Forgive us for the way that we act to care only for ourselves and have mercy upon us when we neglect how the light of your love guides us. WE offer you our thanks this day for the ability to still gather to share in this time together and we ask that you will be present with us, now and always. Amen.

### **Words of Grace and Assurance:**

Our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness. In this love and forgiveness, we encounter the living God, as we encounter one another. Live fully into this promise of grace in our lives. Live fully into God's mercy and love. For to do so is too the blessings even amid the hardships and thanks be to God for that.

### **Lighter Side:**

*We Listen for God's Word in our lives*

**Scripture:**

John 4: 1-30, 39

**Reflection:**

*We Respond to God's love*

**Minute for Mission:** (Shared with permission from the United Church of Canada)

March 22 Lent 4 Protecting a Child's Rights

Emmanuel Dennis Ngongo was 13 years old when he came across the Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children's Rights (KAACR) through his school's Child's Rights Club. KAACR is a long-standing Mission & Service global partner. When his parents were transferred to another district and he had to change schools, Emmanuel wrote to KAACR to get help in launching a new club. Kenya has dire statistics on violence against children. Rape, abuse, and child labour occur widely in both rural and urban areas. For many young people, the situation is made worse by their inability to speak out at school or within their communities. KAACR, a network organization established nearly two decades ago, serves as a platform for like-minded youth to engage in communications and advocacy on ending violence against children in Kenya. Using channels such as WhatsApp and social media, KAACR has reached at least 200 young men and women, many of whom have amazing stories to tell about their transformation. They share ideas and propel change at regional, national, and

international levels. Their primary mandate is to champion children's rights everywhere; they believe every child should be protected. Emmanuel was so inspired by his experiences with KAACR that he launched the Child's Rights Defenders Movement with other peers in 1999, which was hosted by KAACR. He later worked for KAACR as an advocate protecting girls from female genital mutilation and early marriage, and in general youth development work, where he coordinated Youth Employment Summit sessions in Kenya and throughout Africa. If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

### **Offering- Explanation**

#### **Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer**

When we aren't sure, God,  
help us be calm;  
when information comes  
from all sides, correct and not,  
help us to discern;  
when fear makes it hard to breathe,  
and anxiety seems to be the portion of the day,  
slow us down, God;  
help us to reach out with our hearts,  
when we can't touch with our hands;  
help us to be socially connected,  
when we have to be socially distant;

help us to love as perfectly as we can,  
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."  
May we who are merely inconvenienced remember  
those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk  
factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who  
enjoy the luxury of working from home, remember those who  
must choose between preserving their health or making  
their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for  
our children when their schools close, remember those  
who have no options. May we who have to cancel our  
trips, remember those who have no safe place to go.  
May we who are losing our margin money in the turmoil  
of the economic market, remember those who have no  
margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at  
home, remember those who have no home. As fear  
grips us, let us choose love. During this time when we  
cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let  
us find way to be the love embrace of God to our  
neighbours.

AS we pray for ourselves and neighbours in this time O  
Lord, we remember before you O God, all those who are  
on the front lines of this crisis.

For the doctors, we pray,  
for the nurses, we pray,  
for the technicians and the janitors and the  
aides and the caregivers, we pray,  
for the researchers and theorists,  
for those who work in the grocery stores, and for those  
who are ensuring that the food supply remains open and  
arrives by truck, we pray.

For all of those who are considered to be essential staff in what ever industry they work, we pray.

For those who are sick,  
and those who are grieving, we pray,  
for all who are affected,  
all around the world...

we pray

We pray for all of this joining together in the prayer that Jesus taught us, 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.

**\*Benediction/Commissioning:**

Friends, may you know God grace and blessings to be with you. May the love of Christ guide you in these times and may you walk in love and presence of the Holy Spirit. Go from this time into whatever comes next filled with the light and love of God. Amen.