

**KING CITY UNITED CHURCH  
NEW HOPE UNITED CHURCH  
YORK PINES UNITED CHURCH**

**Sunday, March 29, 2020**

**Bold print** indicates a congregational response.

**We Gather as God's People**

**Gathering Meditation**

(We invite you to silently meditate prior to the service.)

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome/Celebrations**

**Life and Work of Our Church**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

Let us open our hearts to the sunshine of God's love.

**Let us open our souls to the gentle wind of God's Spirit.**

We have gathered to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

**A Word that renews again and again.**

**Glory be to God whose love saves and renews us.**

**\*Opening Hymn: "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"  
(#574 VU)**

**Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
tender and true, tender and true,  
out of the heart of the Father above,  
streaming to me and to you:  
wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell  
joyfully came, joyfully came,  
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
sharing their sorrow and shame,  
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,  
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
why do they roam? why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
home, weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love, wonderful love  
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!  
Come and abide, come and abide,  
lifting my life till it rises above  
envy and falsehood and pride:  
seeking to be, seeking to be  
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

**Opening Prayer**

O God, loving Parent, prodding Spirit, attending Christ, be our companion in this time of worship welcoming us into your presence, regardless of where we are, informing and inspiring us through your presence and sending us forward with the promise

of your presence.

God of grace, this time of crisis, worry and anxiety tests us. Forgive us when we have been shaken in our confidence in you. Forgive us when challenges have overwhelmed us. Forgive us when our actions towards others have not reflected your love of them. Forgive us and persuade us again of your steadfast love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

God loves us so much that God did not even withhold God's own Son. Now Christ Jesus is at God's right hand and intercedes for us. And the Holy Spirit comes to help us in our weakness, also interceding for us with sighs too deep for words. Be assured that nothing can come between us and God's love. Nothing.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Ministry of Music**

### **Minute for Mission**

#### **We Listen for the Word of God**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Scripture Reading:**

**Romans 8: 18, 26-39**

### **Reflection: "Paul's Persuasion"**

### **\*Hymn: "*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*" (#333 VU)**

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

### **We Respond to God's Word**

#### **The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves Invitation**

**\*Doxology: (#544 VU)**

**In gratitude and humble trust  
we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life's way.**

**O God, who gave yourself to us  
in Jesus Christ, your Son,**

**teach us to give ourselves each day  
until life's work is done.**

**\*Offertory Prayer (in unison):**

**Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer:  
our faltering steps, our brokenness,  
our hope, our risking, our hearts,  
so that your covenant may be written on our hearts,  
and we may be a blessed  
and transformed covenant people.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (VU #959)**

Today's prayer was written by the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, The Right Rev. Richard Bott and originally posted to Facebook for the use of the church. A couple of lines have been added designated by [...].

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:

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 order 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."

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,  
the epidemiologists and investigators,  
[for those quarantined and isolated,  
for those returned home from aboard waiting,]  
for those who are sick,  
and those who are grieving, we pray,  
for all who are affected,  
all around the world...

we pray  
for safety,  
for health,  
for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry,  
give drink to the thirsty,  
clothe the naked and house those without homes;  
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,  
and may we do all that we can to heal  
the sick—  
in spite of the epidemic,  
in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God,  
that we might help each other.

In the love of the Creator,  
in the name of the Healer,  
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,  
we pray.

May it be so. Amen.

Now let us sing the prayer which Jesus taught his friends to sing.

## We Go Forth to Live as Christians in the World

**\*Closing Hymn: "*Just as I Am*"  
(#508 VU)**

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

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

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

### **Blessing and Sending Forth**

Through out this week, as you are challenged in mind and spirit by the daily news, remember Paul's persuasion and be persuaded yourself, that neither death nor life, nor any other creature, [not pandemics, quarantine, isolation, illness, grief, fear or worry] nothing, nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God. May the sunshine of God's love enlighten your heart. May the good news of Jesus Christ encourage you. May the gentle wind of God's Spirit revive your spirit. God bless each one of you. God bless us all. Amen.

## **Postlude**

### **Announcements**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Sun. March 29</b> | <b>Sunday Worship (online)</b><br><b>Rev. Roffey</b>                       |
| <b>Sun. April 5</b>  | <b>Sunday Worship (to be announced)</b>                                    |
| <b>Thur. April 9</b> | <b>Maundy Thursday Worship Service</b><br>at York Pines, 6:00 pm           |
| <b>Fri. April 10</b> | <b>Good Friday Worship Service</b> at King<br>City United Church, 10:30 am |

### **Collaboration Announcements**

**All the on-site worship services and choir practices are cancelled until April 4.**

**Updates on resuming regular services will be announced.**

**The ministers and secretaries will continue their regular hours, and are available via phone or email.**

**Thank you to Sunny Rakovac for the music and Chloe Lee for the technical support.**

#### **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**

Collaboration Churches will gather at York Pines United on April 9th at 6 p.m. **To be confirmed at a later date.**

## **Good Friday Worship Service**

Collaboration Churches will have a Good Friday Worship Service at King City United on April 10th at 10:30 a.m. **To be confirmed at a later date.**

**For your offering, please use PAR or contact your secretary for other ways to give.**

**The Collaboration Lenten Study at King City United Church has been cancelled.**

**Circle of Care (Sinai Health System)** is looking for volunteers available to deliver **Meals on Wheels** in the Langstaff and Dufferin area. Food is delivered to seniors Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and noon. Volunteers can choose the day of the week that works best for them. If interested, please contact Lisa Rae, Manager, Volunteer Resources at 16-635-2900, ext. 284 or lrae@circleofcare.com.

## **Ideas for Summer Programs**

As part of our post pandemic planning we want you to know that preparation continues for a Vacation Bible Camp for children 6-12 at York Pines from **July 6-10**. We are listening carefully to the news and will of course adhere to all government directives but for the time being put it on your calendar (save the date) and keep this ministry in your prayers. There is no doubt that by summer we are all going to need some fun!"

The Collaboration Churches are continuing to consider plans for additional summer programs, (possibly a Summer Family Camping Weekend). Volunteers and ideas are welcomed.