

**Welcome to our service of worship for Kilsyth, Keady-North Derby United Churches
Sunday, August 9th, 2020**



Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

I have opened with this scripture reference this morning as our Minister Kara McCluskie is on bereavement leave following the death of her Step-father, John Hoyt. Our thoughts, prayers and support are with John's family.

We also extend our love and sympathy to all families of the community of Chatsworth, affected by last week's tragedy.

In verse 4, the writer of Ecclesiastes reassures us there is also,

"a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance"

At this moment, you may be weeping and mourning but know there are days of laughter and dance ahead. Look forward to celebrating lives loved and well-lived.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Worship Resource Summer 2020.

Mission:

Working to end global hunger.

Vision:

A world without hunger.

Canadian Foodgrains members: 15 Church and faith based organizations working together to end world hunger.

ADRA; The Christian & Missionary Alliance of Canada; CBM; Canadian Lutheran World Relief; Development & Peace; Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada; ERDO; Mennonite Central Committee; NCM Canada; Presbyterian Service and World Development; PWDRF; Salvation Army; tearfund; United Church of Canada; World Renew.

In 2019-20, together Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) provided over \$42 million of assistance for over 866,000 people in 34 countries. Foodgrains Bank programs are undertaken with financial support from the Government of Canada. Last year 821 million people faced hunger around the world. In 2020 that number will grow due to the coronavirus crisis. To learn more visit: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca>

PRAY:

Appear to us, O Lord Jesus; open our eyes; may we recognize you as we break bread, remembering those who will go without, as we serve others, remembering those whose cries for help receive no answer, as we shelter at home, remembering those who are forced to flee, as we sow seeds of hope, remembering those who farm to survive. In this time of loss and confusion – set our hearts burning. Stay with us Lord Jesus, as we journey, moving forward as one people, remembering that you have called each one of us according to your purpose, to participate in your new Creation. Amen.

Give:

The coronavirus pandemic is creating difficulties here at home, and in developing countries where many people are already facing hunger, the virus will increase hunger rates. Just as grocery stores and expanded social safety nets are viewed as essential in Canada, our donor-funded food assistance programs are essential for families facing hunger where we work. If you are able, we encourage you to make a donation to support and sustain these programs.

Give through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

<https://foodgrainsbank.ca/coronavirus>

or

United Church Mission and Service Fund

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-opportunities>

Prayer:

Creator God, thank you for giving us the power to make a difference, even with just small actions. Bless the people who do these small actions every day. Help us do the same and plant our small good seeds so that more good things can happen in this world. Amen.

Learn:

Increased hunger due to COVID-19 will likely be experienced first by women, who often sacrifice their own food consumption in times of need. Did you know 79% of women in least developed countries derive their income from agriculture? However, they still face many barriers to equality, and in most countries are more likely than men to face hunger.

Learn more here: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/campaigns/advocate/learn-more>

Reflection: A Time to Learn

An older brother of mine once told me that no experience is wasted if you learn something from it, and I've been pondering for the last while whether I am brave enough to try to learn something from the pandemic currently

sweeping the planet. Because it does take some bravery to face a lethal enemy, or even just the great unknown, with a learning posture. Our usual posture when we are afraid is self-protection. Hunker down till the threat passes.

Our posture when we prepare to take on a foe may still be self-protective, but with an outward orientation of aggression and challenge. Yes, I'm frightened, but I will take you down! But if we want to learn, we need an open posture. I have tried in these last weeks of COVID-19 fear and isolation to adopt a learning posture but find that I often slip back into self-protection and occasionally, when someone around me is not practicing good hygiene or distancing, into open aggression. A learning posture is difficult to maintain at the best of times and requires even more intent, and yes even bravery, when we feel threatened.

I love the story in Luke 24 where two of Jesus's disciples are walking along the road to Emmaus just days after Jesus' death. As they venture out of hiding, perhaps for the first time since that awful night, they try to make sense of this unexpected turn of events. They meet a stranger on the road who engages them in conversation and talks with them about their tragic loss. What gets me these days is the learning posture that these disciples adopt. So soon after the death of their Messiah, so soon after their own lives were threatened by an angry mob, so soon and indeed still in the middle of it all, they adopt a learning posture. They open themselves up to being engaged to again look beyond their own safety and security and to learn what it is their Lord has to teach them.

Without taking lightly the very real risks COVID-19 has inflicted on our world, can we find the courage to adopt a learning posture? In our isolation, can we learn again that we are all connected? Can we learn again that we all need each other, that none of us can get through life alone, that we are not self-made and are all of equal value? Can we open ourselves up to the new opportunities that are being created around us and in us to love and to grow in love?

A reflection from Sol Janzen, Canadian Foodgrains Bank staff

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cb87w5l8vvq3335/reflection-a-time-to-learn-sol-janzen-compressed.mp4?dl=0>

Advocate:

As Christians, we are called to be a voice for those in need. When times are uncertain and we worry about our neighbours near and far, the world needs our voice for love, kindness and compassion.

Ask your MP to help end world hunger: Send an e-postcard to your MP to let them know you support Canada's efforts to help people facing hunger, especially now. Visit <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/epostcard>.

Share a message on Twitter, too! SAMPLE TWEET "We must protect vulnerable communities from #COVID19 in Canada & abroad. Thanks @karinagould for your leadership as Canada helps in developing countries where #Coronavirus is a huge threat to #foodsecurity. I urge all world leaders to work together. @JustinTrudeau @Bill_Morneau"

Music:

"Stay With Us"

Words by Walter Farquharson

1. Stay with us through the night

Stay with us through the pain

Stay with us, blessed stranger

'til the morning breaks again.

2. Stay with us through the night

Stay with us through the grief

Stay with us, blessed stranger

'til the morning brings relief.

3. Stay with us through the night

Stay with us through the dread

Stay with us, blessed stranger

'til the morning breaks new bread.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URzCDWBAk0E&feature=youtu.be>

Prayer of Commitment

Generous God, you have shown us what it means to love. And you call us to follow Your example— to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Continue to write your law of love on our hearts. Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.

Christine Longhurst, for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank

The above service is used with permission from CFGB Worship Resource 2020.

<https://foodgrainsbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/worship-resource-pandemic-2020.pdf>