

Advent IIB

Sunday 06 December 2020



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Land Acknowledgement

We gather here mindful of the many who, for millennia, have called this valley home or depended on its trails for safe passage. We know this community as Fernie; it is also the unceded territory of the Ktunaxa people. May we be good and gracious guests of this corner of Creation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

As the days shorten and the nights lengthen, one small light can illuminate our way to safety. We light this candle for Peace as we continue on our Advent journey of waiting...patiently...for Emmanuel.

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

Call to Worship

We gather in this time of waiting we call Advent
to reflect upon our lives, our faith,
our past, present, and future.
We gather to support each other
through the coming season of Christmas,
with its joy for some, sorrow for others.
We gather to reset ourselves on our faith journey
withing our Christian family, the church.
Let us worship God,
who gives us Jesus, the Christ,
alive in the past, in the present and in the future.
Thanks be to God!

George Allan, Chatham, ON

Opening Prayer

A prayer as I put on my mask:

Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth -
let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace" -
a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours,
as I love myself.
Christ,
since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words, but with my actions.
Holy Spirit,
As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully -
and full of care - to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.
In your Name and in that love, I pray.
May it be so.
May it be so.

Right Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada

HYMN – MV12 Come Touch Our Hearts v.1

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

Prayer

Loving God, Holy Creator, Nurturer and Guide,
may we awaken each morning
feeling we are part of your greater plan for good.
May we have meaningful work and activity in life.
Help us to remember that you are the power
in whom we live, move and have our being.
When we dispense
blessing, forgiveness, and kindness –
wherever we find ourselves this day –
may we twinkle and sparkle,
radiating light and peace, not as this world gives,
but as you give.
Through Jesus,
may we be a star in the shadows of life.
Shine in our souls. May our work be your love! Amen.

Jani Francis, Indian Head, SK

Reader: Beth Ferris

READING FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 40.1-11
God's People Are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan – Wait! For Peace...

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude
Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Confession

We let our hearts grow cold and frozen
to match the weather,
rather than face our transgressions.
In the cold dimness of winter,
God's light can be hard to experience.
We long to know God's message
and to unburden our hearts.
We know that God calls us to repentance
and offers us the light of Christ,
and so we offer our confession:
(a time of silent prayer)

Words of Assurance

God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
seeding each of us and all creation
with the love of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen

Aaron Palmer, New Liskeard, ON

Hymn of Praise – VU29 v.4 Hark, the Glad Sound

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

If you wish to make a donation to support our ministry
please send a cheque
or e-transfer to:

Knox United Church
Box 1808, Fernie, BC V0B 1M0
knoxferniefinance@gmail.com

Christ Church Anglican
Box 279, Fernie, BC V0B 1M0
christchurchfernie@gmail.com

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – MV12 Come Touch Our Hearts v.5

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,
our mind, our strength, our all,
come touch us with your grace.

Communion Liturgy for Advent

One: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God.

One: We must give thanks to God our Creator!

All: God's creation blesses us all.

One: All that is sacred, all that is holy, come from You, our living God.
When we cannot be physically together because of pandemic,
you are there.

You created order from chaos, your children from clay, and blessed us
with minds to think, hearts to love and mouths to speak.

Even when we fail you; even when we disappoint ourselves,
you are there, reminding us all that we are your children.
Loving us through the chaos, standing us up when we fall down.

Protecting us from the evil in the world; you are there.
Standing with anticipation as we await your birth,
in the humblest of places; the commonplace made sacred.

And so, we join with the chorus of heavenly bodies as we say;

All: Holy, holy, holy God,
Holy and blessed are you.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory
Glory to you, O God most high.

One: And so, as we gather from around this fragile earth
our island home to celebrate the night you made the ordinary,
extraordinary.

One: That fateful night, at supper with his friends,
Jesus took the ordinary bread,
bread they had shared many times before.
He took it, blessed it, broke it and said:
"This is my body, broken in love for you".
Jesus took the cup, what was left from the meal,
a meal shared many times before.
He raised it, blessed it and said
"This is my blood, shed for eternity.
When you take this bread and this cup,
remember that I am with you always.
A covenant and promise I make, to never forsake you".

One: And so, as we take this ordinary made sacred,
this bread and cup, God's promise and love,
broken and poured, blessed and shared,
joining us together as a spiritual family.

All: Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.

One: We take our bread, or that which represents Christ's body.
We take our cup, or that which represents Christ's blood.
When we consume these, we will never be the same.
We will become closer to you, dear God, and to each other.

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

Distribution of Communion

Taking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

One: The bread of Christ.

All: Broken in love for us.

One: The cup of salvation.

All: Our way to eternal life.

One: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

For those attending via Zoom, the elements are consumed.

Joining our prayers and praises together,

We thank you God, for the many blessings of this Earth.

We ask you to pray for those we carry on our hearts this day.

We ask you to be with us as we wait...for a vaccine, for your strength;

For your love brought to us on the night you were born.

We ask you to be with those who need your strength,

and to those you call home today,

may those they leave behind always know of your love.

Meditations on the Lord's Prayer...

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker,

Pain-bearer,

Life-giver,

Source of all that is And that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name Echo through the universe.

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.

Your heavenly will be done By all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, Amen.

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Our time together has come to an end,
we now go about the rest of our day,
knowing in small and in large ways,
we are connected to each other, through you, O God. Amen

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

SENDING HYMN – MV90 Don't Be Afraid

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
and I have promised, promised to be always near.

Upcoming this week...

Monday 07 December – Administration and Worship Prep

Tuesday 08 December – Andrea+ at Knox United

Wednesday 09 December – 10:00 am Saints Day Worship at Christ Church
2:00 pm – Knox Worship Committee by Zoom

Thursday 10 December – Noon – Kootenay Cluster (by Zoom)

Friday/Saturday 06/07 December – Andrea+'s Sabbath

Sunday 13 December – Advent III

10:00 am – Worship in the Style of the Anglican Church

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2020, Voices United, and More Voices. Candle lighting, extinguishing prayer and Communion liturgy written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.