

Advent IV - 18 December 2022



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[Opening Hymn - VU1, v.1, 7 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel](#)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our said divisions cease, and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

[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 and Métis Nation.

We strive for reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings, and pray that the Creator will guide our way.

[Lighting the Christ Candle](#)

Today, we see the fourth candle of the Advent wreath lit.

It is a sign of love that shines brightly into our hearts.

It is a sign that God is present and that we are once more blessed.

Come let us worship and celebrate!

Jim McKean, Severn, ON

Call to Worship

Grace to you, and peace from God Almighty.

We wait for Jesus' birth.

Receive the gifts of love offered here to strengthen your journey.

Here we are, hoping and waiting to answer God's call.

Tammy Ferguson, Gananoque, ON

Opening Prayer

The earth has turned once more, Creator God. The season of hope, peace, joy, and love returns as a reminder of how we should live the whole year through.

You have called us to be your people, asking us to take your light out into the world. Help us in our times of worship throughout this season of Advent to find the words to share the message of hope, peace, joy and love. Show us how to be fully aware of your presence, so that we might share your presence with others.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Roxanne Williams, Red Deer, AB

Reader: Bruce Elson

Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

May God be With You

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Christ.

Matthew 11:2-11

Messengers from John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you O Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Praise - VU2, v.1, 3 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

By thine own eternal Spirit fuel in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Andrea L. Brennan -

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Offering

God of grace and abundance, your servant John lived impoverished in the wilderness so that we might recognise the richness of your grace in Jesus and celebrate your coming kingdom in the generous company of the saints. Gracious God, we return to you a portion of your blessing to us, knowing that you hold our future in your hands. May these gifts and the givers be signs of your abundant blessing in our world. **Amen**

Wanda Winfield, Blenheim, ON

Hymn of Thanksgiving - VU29, v.1.4, Hark the Glad Sound

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.

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 VoB 1Mo
knoxferniefinance@gmail.com

Christ Church Anglican
Box 279, Fernie, BC VoB 1Mo
christchurchfernief@gmail.com

As the offering plate is brought forward we sing the doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures high and low;
praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

A New Creed

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

**to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

[Your Generosity Matters](#) -

A Christmas Message from Mission & Service

Read by: Mary Elson

[Prayers of the People](#)

Led by: Susan Schmitz

*We thank you, O God, for the day you have given to us,
for the rain which falls, the sun that shines,
for the wildlife with whom we share this majestic place,
for the goodness and joy of your Creation.
Creator God, **let your kingdom come.***

*We praise you, O God, for those who lead us in small and large ways;
for our Fernie Knox United Church Board, our Christ Church Anglican Church
Committee and our Joint Church Committee who seek to hear you and lead us in
our Shared Ministry;*

For Deborah, our President; Treena, our Executive Minister, Kathy our Regional
Minister, for Lynne, our Archbishop; for Andrea, our Regional Dean
for Carmen, our Moderator, the United Church of Canada, Pacific Mountain Region
for Linda, our Primate; the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese of Kootenay
Creator God, **let your kingdom come.**

*We ask you, O God, to bless all who work in service
for the frontline workers, in medical care, and education
for the frontline workers, in hospitality, grocery and food services
for all who are tired, weary and exhausted,
Creator God, **let your kingdom come.***

*We ask you, O God, to be with those who are on our hearts this day,
give peace to those who struggle,
give relief to all who are starving,
give hope to those who are despairing;*

silence is kept for additional petitions

Creator God, **let your kingdom come.**

*We ask you, O God, to be with those who are fleeing their homes,
for peace in Russia and around the world.
for an end to the occupation of Ukraine
for a peaceable end to unjust and unwelcome global conflicts.
Creator God, **let your kingdom come.***

*We ask you, O God, to be with all who will die today,
that they may be welcomed home into your arms,
that their families and friends may find the deep peace which passess all
understanding may they always remember the one
whom they loved and who loved them,*

Creator God, **let your kingdom come.**

*We ask you, O God, to be with us –
in sharing our grief
in celebrating our joy
in leading us along the paths you would have us follow,
Creator God, **let your kingdom come.***

[The Lord's Prayer](#)

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

Now and forever. Amen

[Commissioning](#)

Go into the world.

It is Christ who sends you with a message of Love to each house. Eat with others,
pray for their healing, be the message of love, in Christ's name. **Amen**

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, ON

[Extinguishing our Candles](#)

As we move from this time of community and communion

**we hold in our prayers those who are with us in person,
on screen and in our hearts,**

knowing that one day, we know not what day,

**we will be together again, not necessarily as we wish,
but as we are able. Amen**

Sending Song - VU5 v.1, 2, 4 - All Earth is Waiting

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrow await the seed of God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again on arriving Christ, bring us liberty.

Upcoming...

Fernie Knox United Board Meeting - today at 11:30 by Zoom and In Person

Sunday 18 December - 1:30 pm - Rocky Mountain Village Worship Service

Monday 19 December - Admin and Worship Prep

12:30 pm - Pastoral Meeting

Tuesday 20 December - Office Hours - 9:30 - 12:30 pm

2:00 pm - Pastoral Call

Deliver Christmas Porch Drops

Wednesday 21 December - Office Hours - 9:30 - 12:30 pm

10:00 am Sung Matins at Christ Church Anglican

Noon - Clericus by Zoom

Deliver Christmas Porch Drops

Thursday 22 December - Office Hours - 9:30 - 12:30 pm

Noon - 1:30 pm - Greater Clericus by Zoom

Friday 23 December - Baptism at 3:00 pm

Wedding at 4:00 pm

Saturday 24 December - Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 pm at Fernie Knox United Church (blended Worship)

9:00 pm at Christ Church Anglican (blended Worship)

Sunday 25 December - Christmas Day Worship

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist at Christ Church

PLEASE NOTE:

Reverend Andrea will be on retreat from 26 December to 5 January
Pastoral Care will be available through Lynda Bird and Carol Chorostecki
Fr. David John will be available for emergencies

Please Note: There will be NO Wednesday Worship on the 28th of December or the 4th of January.

NEXT WORSHIP – 8 January 2023 - Epiphany!!!

As January has five Sundays and we, as a tradition, do not Worship together on the first Sunday after Christmas, the 8th of January will be treated as our First Sunday Worship with Communion (United Church style) at Christ Church Anglican.

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, Voices United, and More Voices.

Candle extinguishing prayer and Prayers of the People, written by Reverend Canon Andrea Brennan.

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