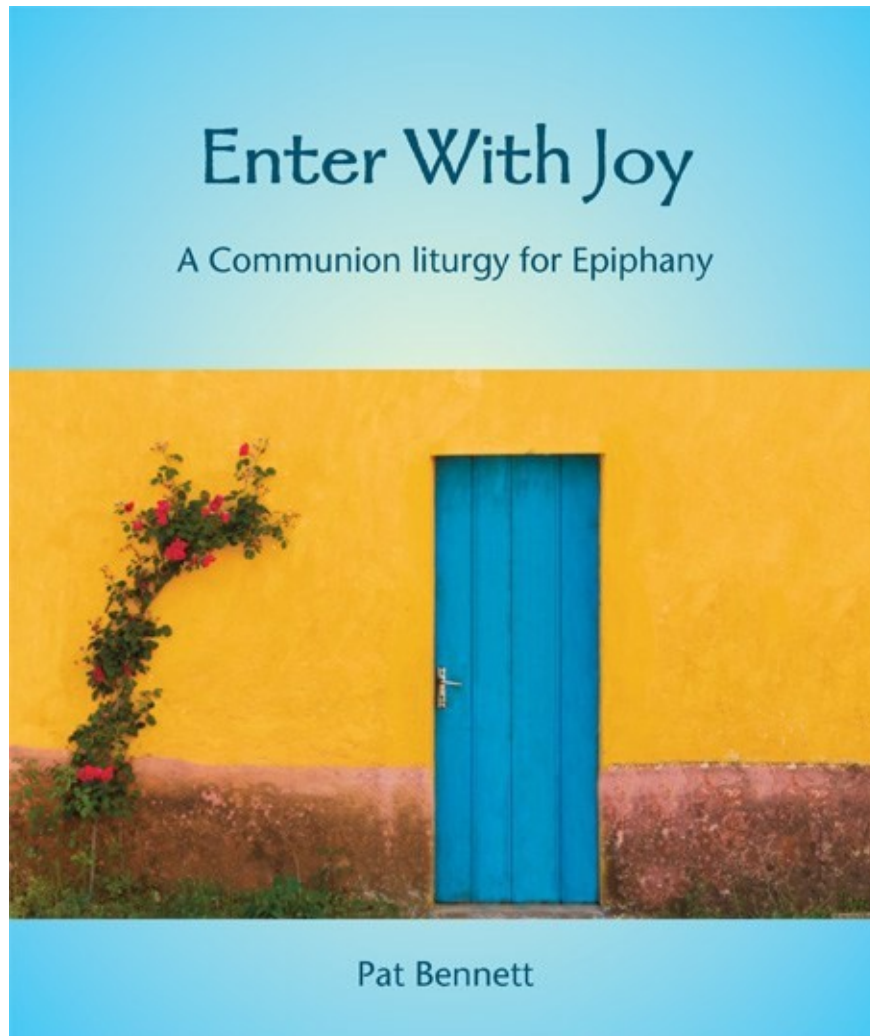


Epiphany Communion Liturgy Worship Notes 3 January 2021



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.

Enter with Joy!

An Epiphany Communion Liturgy from Iona

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light one single candle. This one, humble candle can illuminate the darkness enough, that we may feel safe and wrapped in the love of God. We celebrate the arrival of the Wise Ones who bring with them gifts for the present and the future.

Opening Song, VU79 Arise Your Light is Come v.4

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Opening words

Leader: In a refugee child playing under a star ...

Women: In an anonymous young man requesting baptism ...

Men: In a wandering preacher refreshed by water from a woman's hand ...

All: God was waiting to be recognised and known, to transform seeing and change the world.

Leader: In the routine smallness of everyday life ...

Women: In the jagged discomfort of struggle and transition ...

Men: In the timeless grace of hospitality, and the gifts of bread and wine ...

All: God is waiting to be recognised and known, to transform our seeing and change our world.

Leader: God of proclamation and epiphany,

All: Through the words of prophets and angels you reveal the possibilities of a different way for the world ...

Leader: God of encounter and epiphany,

All: Through the life and actions of Jesus you reveal the passionate love at the heart of your Kingdom ...

Leader: God of epiphany and challenge, as we hear your word now in scripture, sermon and song –

All: Open our knowing and understanding to your patterns and their possibilities.

Reading – John 1.1-18

Reader – Bev Delyea

Matthew 2.1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon – The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan – Home By Another Road

Hymn of Praise VU266 Amazing Grace v.1

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Leader:

God of epiphany and change, as we encounter your Word now in story,
bread and wine

All:

Open our patterns and possibilities to the transforming power of your love
and send us on by a different way.

Confession

Epiphany God waiting to be seen and known – forgive us for those times
when submersion in unthinking routine has dulled our perception of your
Presence and thwarted its life-changing possibilities.

silence/kyrie

Epiphany God waiting to comfort and restore – forgive us for those
moments when pride or fear has restricted our openness to your Presence
and impeded its healing possibilities.

silence/kyrie

Epiphany God waiting to challenge and transform – forgive us for those
occasions when preoccupation with comfort and familiarity has stifled our
response to your Presence and subverted its radical possibilities.

silence/kyrie

Epiphany God – bright Morning Star, may we know your Presence with us
now, and, in opening ourselves to embrace its possibilities, find different
ways by which to journey onward.

Invitation Leader

Here, at this table, under the welcoming light of a morning star, the God of
epiphanies waits to be encountered. So – though you may be weary and
worn by your journey or stained and sore with travel – look up and see the
star, lay aside your packs, bend beneath the lintel, and enter with joy for
God waits within – to refresh and renew, to comfort and restore, to
challenge and transform, to know ... and be known.

Communion narrative and thanksgiving

Leader: So now, gathered round his table, we recall and recount how the
Epiphany God made himself known in the actions and words of Jesus as he
shared a last supper with his friends:

We remember how the humble service of washing feet revealed the shape
of God's Kingdom; how the blessing, breaking and sharing of bread
revealed the pattern of God's life;

the bread is broken how the blessing, pouring and sharing of wine revealed the depth of God's love;

the wine is poured and recalling and treasuring these things we join our voices with those of all creation in recognition and celebration of the grace and goodness of God present and at work in the world.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

Consecration Leader:

Epiphany God, send down your Holy Spirit now on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine –
that we might recognise and know you present with us here, and in
receiving the gifts of your love find ourselves renewed.

The Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Epiphany God – the joyful peace of finding,
the enlightening peace of seeing, the challenging peace of understanding,
the radical peace of following a different route – energise and encourage
you as you travel onwards. A sign of peace is shared.

The Distribution Leader: Under the welcoming light of a morning star the
table is set, and God waits for us to bend beneath the lintel and come into
his house to see his face and share his feast.

Bread and wine are shared.

Communion Hymn VU481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing v.1

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

Your Generosity Matters – (formerly Minute for Mission)

Mary Elson A Fresh Start: Aria's Story

Closing responses

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:

All: Give us the perseverance and courage to seek out and approach you,
wherever you are to be found.

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star:

All: Grant us the vision and understanding to see and recognise you, whenever we might meet you.

Leader: Emmanuel – bright Morning Star

All: Gift us the grace and generosity to respond freely and fully, whatever you might ask of us. So may our loving and living become, in their turn, places of epiphany where you can be recognised and known, and the transforming life of your Kingdom unleashed.

Offering

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
christchurchfernief@gmail.com

Extinguishing our Candles

We have celebrated the birth of the Christ-child,
and the visit of the Wise Ones.

We have seen that love can overcome darkness,
and the finest gifts are from the heart.

We now extinguish our candles
safe in the knowledge
we will be together again soon.

Sending Song – Hope is a Star VU7 v.4

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.

When God is a child, there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Thank you for joining us today.
Giving Credit where credit is due...

My thanks to:

Bev Delyea – Reader
Scott Smith – Musician
Lynda Bird – Soloist
Mary Elson – Your Generosity Matters

Worship Resources

Enter with Joy! A resource from Wildgoose Publications ©2020, Voices United ©1996, Candle lighting and extinguishing prayers written by the Reverend Andrea Brennan ©2020, CCLI License – Christ Church Anglican #11186206, CCLI License – Knox United Church #3172609

Upcoming this Week...

Sunday 3 January – 10:00 am Epiphany Communion Sunday
Broadcasting from Knox United Church
Monday 4 January – 11:00 am – Joint Ministry & Personnel Committee
Meeting by Zoom
Tuesday 5 January – Andrea+'s Office Hours at Knox United
Wednesday 6 January – 10:00 am Saints Day Worship
Broadcasting from Christ Church Anglican
Andrea+'s Office Hours at Christ Church Anglican
5:30 – Joint Church Committee Meeting by Zoom
Thursday – 7 January – Worship and Homiletic Preparation
Friday/Saturday – Andrea+'s Sabbath

Next Worship

Sunday 10 January – 10:00 am Morning Prayer
Broadcasting from Christ Church Anglican