

8 January 2023 - The Epiphany



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Opening Hymn - VU79 - Arise, Your Light is Come

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

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

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 our Candles

We light the Christ candle remembering the star that led the wise men to the Christ child. May your light shine through us as a beacon of hope in our world.

Mary Parsons, Oakville, ON

Call to Worship

Come, meet the King born in a stall!

We welcome the Christ child.

Come, discover the One who emptied the temple!

We come to praise the righteous branch of David.

Come, experience the Prince of Peace, hanging from a cross.

We come to bear witness to the King of kings.

Wanda Winfield, Blenheim, ON

Prayer of Confession - Words of Assurance

Will you celebrate with your friends in Christ?

We rejoice in times when we can connect and share Christ's meal together.

Will you seek to understand the viewpoint of your friends in Christ?

We will search out those whose approach to faith is different from our own.

Will you be companions to your friends in Christ?

We will stay with them when the going is rough and the pressure is on.

Will you make new friends in Christ, here and also
in the broader community of Christ?

**We will look for those within the faith community and those beyond
who need a friend.**

Will you commit to deepening and expanding
your practice of being friends in Christ?

(time of silent reflection)

In the joy of friendship,

in the testing times,

in the moments of rejection,

in the moments of unconditional acceptance,

Christ is present with us as our friend and our guide.

Thanks be to God. Amen

David Sparks, Summerland, BC

Reader: Norma Bayer

Reading: Matthew 2.1-12

May God be with You.

And also with you.

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

Praise to you, O Christ.

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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of Praise – We Three Kings

We three kings of orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain, Following yonder star
O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never Over us all to reign
O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising Worship Him, God most high
O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light
Myrrh is mine Its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb
O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light
Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Earth to the heavens replies
O star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Andrea L. Brennan - "Flight to Egypt"

Prayers of the People - Bill Silversides

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;
in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fled into Egypt, give comfort to all refugees;
in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fasted in the desert, give relief to all who are starving;
in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross, give strength to all who suffer;
in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy forever.
Amen

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude

Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Offering

God of Light, these gifts are not gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
These are the gifts of our labours and our hearts.

We ask that you use them to shine your light of love to the world, like the light that
shone, marking the place of the Saviour's birth.

Fraser Williamson, Port Loring/Golden Valley, ON

Please support our ministry with prayer and by 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.**

Your Generosity Matters: Protecting Love Around the World

Presented by: Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – VU477 I Come with Joy

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near, to find, as all are fed, the new community
of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship
better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy,
to give the world, the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Communion Liturgy

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

We must give thanks to God our Creator!

The Creator blesses us all!

All that is sacred, all that is holy, come from You, our living God.

When we cannot be physically together because of a pandemic, you are there.

When we lament our physical distance from each other, you comfort us.

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.

Loving us through the chaos, standing us up when we fall down.
Calming us as we live with a virus, we were certain would be over by now.

Staying with the remains of children discovered in multitudinous unmarked graves.
Giving protection to those who are traumatised from generations old hurts.
Reminding us that there are alternatives to war as the world struggles for peace.

Protecting us from the evil in the world; you are there.
And so, we join with the chorus of heavenly bodies as we say;

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

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

That fateful night, at supper with his friends,
Jesus took 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; "Take this cup, the cup of salvation.

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".

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

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

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.

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 those who need your strength,
and to those you call home today,
may those they leave behind always know your love.

Joining our prayers and praises together,
Let us pray the prayer our Saviour taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN**

Distribution of Communion

Taking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The bread of Christ - **Broken in love for us.**

The cup of salvation - **Our way to eternal life.**

The elements are consumed. A moment of silence follows.

Commissioning

The star has led us across blooming deserts, up to the heights of Zion, through Bethlehem, and on to Nazareth in Galilee.

May we, like the magi, continually follow the light of Jesus wherever it takes us.

We go with God's blessing: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Taylor Croissant, Lethbridge, AB

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we move from this time of community and communion

**we hold in our hearts 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 – VU87 I Am the Light of the World

I am the Light of the World, Everybody come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone.

When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.

The work of Christmas is begun!

I am the Light of the World, Everybody come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

To find the lost and lonely one, To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above!

I am the Light of the World, Everybody come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

To free the prisoner from all chains, To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To see God's children everywhere.

I am the Light of the World, Everybody come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to every task you do, To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old man's heart, And sing to the colours of the earth!

I am the Light of the World, Everybody come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

Upcoming this week...

Monday 9 January - Administration and Worship Prep

Tuesday 10 January - Office Hours - 9:30 - 1:00 pm

Wednesday 11 January - Office Hours - 9:30 - 1:00 pm

10:00 am - Saints Day Worship - Holy Eucharist

1:15 - 3:15 pm - Joint Church Committee et al

Thursday 12 January - Office Hours - 9:30 - 1:00 pm

10:00 am - Pastoral Call in Fernie

Friday 13 January - Andrea+ Sabbath

Saturday 14 January - Catch-up and Sermon Writing

NEXT WORSHIP

Sunday 15 January - Anglican Morning Prayer

10:00 am - Blended Worship

11:30 am - Joint Finance Meeting

1:30 pm - Rocky Mountain Village Worship Service

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023, Voices United and More Voices. Prayers of the People from the Church of England. Candle lighting, Communion Liturgy and Extinguishing prayers written by Reverend Canon Andrea Brennan.

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