

5 February 2023 – Epiphany 5



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Opening Hymn MV79 Spirit, Open My Heart

Spirit open my heart, To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love, In receiving and in giving
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit open my heart, To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love, In receiving and in giving
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit open my heart, To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love, In receiving and in giving
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Spirit open my heart, To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love, In receiving and in giving
Spirit, open my heart.

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

This is a day when light is important. Light of new insight. Light to overcome shadows and despair. Light of hope. Light of promise. May this candle and the light it produces be a symbol and sign of all of these things.

Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane, AB

Call to Worship

When the ways of the world wear us down with constant demands or unrealistic expectations, we are invited to find refuge in God's grace.

Together, in worship, this is where we find our home.

When the morning sun is reflected off the snow and the skies open like a blue gift of joy, we are invited to notice God's creating presence.

Together, in worship, we are being made new.

Come, find refuge, find hope. Experience the Spirit naming you, Beloved.

Together, in worship, let our souls sing praise.

Wendy MacLean, Brockville, ON

A Prayer for Renewal

O God who knows the needs of the Church in every place:

by the light of your Holy Spirit, guide us

as we seek to respond faithfully to you in this time.

May we open our hands to the future you call us to;

May we open our hearts to those you are calling us to serve;

May we open our minds to new insight and new knowledge;

May we open our doors to go out towards those you would have us meet.

Lead us into your future together;
help us to build trust and resilience in our common life;
help us to anticipate and celebrate new possibilities.
We pray these things in the name of Jesus,
the one who invites us into the newness of life.

Amen

Prayer of Confession - Words of Assurance

Dear God, we come to you from out of the shadows:

lead us toward your light.

We come to you as sinners:

lead us toward your light.

We come to you broken and weary:

lead us toward your light.

We come to you fearful and scared:

lead us toward your light.

We come to you, guilty and burdened:

receive our prayers and forgiveness.

(time of silent reflection)

We are thankful for your light, known to us through your son.

You have shown us the path of healing and the way to the light of forgiveness.

We praise you and thank you for the gift of your son, our redeemer. Amen

Sue Carleton, Shallow Lake, ON

Reader: Don Artley

Readings: Isaiah 58.1-12, 1 Corinthians 2.1-16, Matthew 5.13-20

Isaiah 58.1-12

False and True Worship

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

'Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;

you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,

Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 2.1-16

Proclaiming Christ Crucified

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

The True Wisdom of God

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him'—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

'For who has known the mind of the Lord

so as to instruct him?'

But we have the mind of Christ.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

Thanks be to God.

May God be with You.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew.

Praise to you, O God.

Matthew 5.13-20

Salt and Light

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of Praise – U642 Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art--
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom my calm in all strife;
I ever with with thee and thou in my life,
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great King of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Andrea L. Brennan -

Prayers of the People

Led by: John T. Shannon

We thank you, O God, for the day you have given to us,
for the snow 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 passeth 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.**

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude

Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Offering

Our offering is a sign of our confidence in the ministry we share. It's a sign of our gratitude for the blessings we've received and our heartfelt intent to pay forward those blessings as we are able. Let's dedicate today's offering with our prayer.

Susan Ivany, Thunder Bay, ON

Please support our ministry with prayer and by 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

christchurchferniefinance@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: Your Generosity Accompanies Grandmothers Presented by: Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – VU701 What Does the Lord Require of You

What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?

To seek justice and love kindness
and walk humbly with your God.

What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?

To seek justice and love kindness
and walk humbly with your God.

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

In worship today, we have affirmed that we are blessed by the presence of God. While at home, may God soothe us with the blessing of forgiveness, for ourselves and each other.

While at work, may God strengthen us with the blessing of gifts to fulfill our purpose.

In the world, may God nourish us with the abundant and diverse blessings of creation.

In times of quiet, may God comfort us with the blessing of peace.

Each and every day, may we affirm that we are sustained by the loving presence of God. **Amen**

Gill LeFevre, Oakville, ON

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 – VU646 We are Marching/Siyahamba

We are marching in the light of God

we are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

we are marching in the light of God

We are marching, oo

we are marching in the light of God

We are marching, oo

we are marching in the light of God

Siyahamba e-ku-kha-nyen' kwenhos'

Siyahamba e-ku-kha-nyen' kwenhos'

Siyahamba e-ku-kha-nyen' kwenhos'

Siyahamba e-ku-kha-nyen' kwenhos'

Siyahamba Siyahamba oo

Siyahamba e-ku-kha-nyen' kwenhos'

Siyahamba Siyahamba oo

Siyahamba e-ku-kha-nyen' kwenhos'

Upcoming this week...

Monday 6 February - Administration and Worship Prep
10:00 am Pastoral Call

Tuesday 7 February - Office Hours
11:00 am – Ibi from Cranbrook United
1:00 pm – Knox United Board Meeting

Wednesday 8 February - Office Hours
10:00 am – Saints Day Worship - Holy Eucharist
11:00 am – UCW/ACW/Hospitality meeting

Thursday 9 February - Office Hours - 9:30 - 1:00 pm
1:00 pm – Christ Church Finance Committee Meeting
Queer Out Here Conference begins

Friday 10 February – Andrea+ Sabbath – Queer Out Here Conference - Day 2

Saturday 11 February - Queer Out Here Conference - Day 3

NEXT WORSHIP

Sunday 12 February - Holy Eucharist
10:00 am - Blended Worship
1:00 - 3:00 pm - Queer and Belonging Panel Discussion
at Fernie Senior's
Last Day of Queer Out Here Conference

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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