

5 March 2023 – Lent 2



www.tfcanglican.org

[Opening Hymn VU121 v.3 2nd of Lent, Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery](#)

Seed that dies to rise in glory, make we see ourselves in you,
if we learn to live your story,
we may die to rise anew, we may die to rise anew.

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true,
may we live and die confessing,
Christ as Lord of all we do, Christ as Lord of all we do.

[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](#)

From the dim of the early light we seek to see you, O God. As we light this candle may we be reminded that even in times of darkness, you remain the light of the world. A light no Lenten darkness can overcome. Amen

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

Call to Worship

God calls us to live our lives with energy and determination. God is the source of all goodness and strength.

We are not alone, We are a part of God's world.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus called many to follow him in service, in teaching and in healing.

Jesus calls us now to serve and to love, to each and to heal.

Jesus was not alone. He was part of God's world.

Thanks be to God.

Nicodemus called out to Jesus to receive his teachings and to be challenged by his insights. Nicodemus represents you and me – people with many questions and few answers. Nicodemus was not alone. He was part of God's world.

We are not alone.

We gather here to celebrate God's presence as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Bill Steadman, Goulais River, 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

Call to Confession

In this season of Lent, it seems even more important to draw near to God in confession, seeing restoration and the opportunity to begin again.

Let us open our hearts to confession.

Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK

(time of silent reflection)

God's way is the way of love. God's way is the way of mercy.

God's way is the way of forgiveness.

We are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God!

George Allan, Chatham, ON

Reader: Marion Weipert

Readings: Genesis 12.1-4, Psalm 121, John 3.1-17

Genesis 12.1-4 - The Call of Abram

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved *

and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord, the Lord, watches over you; *

the Lord is your shade at your side,

6 so that the sun shall not strike you by day, *

nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil *

and shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John

Praise to you, O God.

John 3:1-17 - Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of Praise – VU595 We are Pilgrims On a Journey

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Andrea L. Brennan – “Seeking Jesus”

Prayers of the People

Led by: Carole Chorostecki

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 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.**

[We Responding in Giving and Gratitude](#)

Our Church Tithes and Offerings

[Invitation to Offering](#)

It seems odd, O God, to ask you to bless what we give. After all, almost everything is given online or digitally, so it seems distant and unconnected – almost unreal. As you bless us and inspire in us generous spirits, may you reconnect us with others who are touched by what we donate. In those connections, may your mission thrive, your call to action be alive within us.
We ask it all in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, 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
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 Belief and Support Make All the Difference
Presented by: Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – VU264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rules in light;
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

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](#)

Let us go from here seeking to proclaim the Good News!

**We will seek to show one another where to find
life-giving water and abundant love.**

Let us go as disciples and servants.

Amen

Beth W Johnston, Nlpawin, SK

[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 – VU684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace](#)

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your healing power,
And where there is doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Spirit grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in giving to all men that we receive,
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Upcoming this week...

Monday 6 March - Administration and Worship Prep

10:00 am – Pastoral Call

2:00 pm – Regional Council by Zoom

4:00 pm – Meeting with Jennifer Robins from the Salvation Army

Tuesday 7 March - Office Hours

Wednesday 8 March - Office Hours

10:00 am – Saints Day Worship - Holy Eucharist

1:00 pm – Pastoral Call

7:00 pm – International Women's Day celebration @ The Arts Station

Thursday 9 March - Office Hours CANCELED

Andrea+ has a dentist appointment in Cranbrook

Friday 10 March – Andrea+ Sabbath

Saturday 11 March – Catch-up and Sermon Writing

NEXT WORSHIP

Sunday 12 March - Holy Eucharist

10:00 am - Blended Worship

11:30 am – Christ Church Committee Meeting

4:00 pm - 2SLGBTQ+ Faith Conversation at Christ Church, Cranbrook

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023, and Voices United. Prayers of the People, Candle lighting, Communion Liturgy and Extinguishing prayers written by Reverend Canon Andrea Brennan. CCLI License #11186206