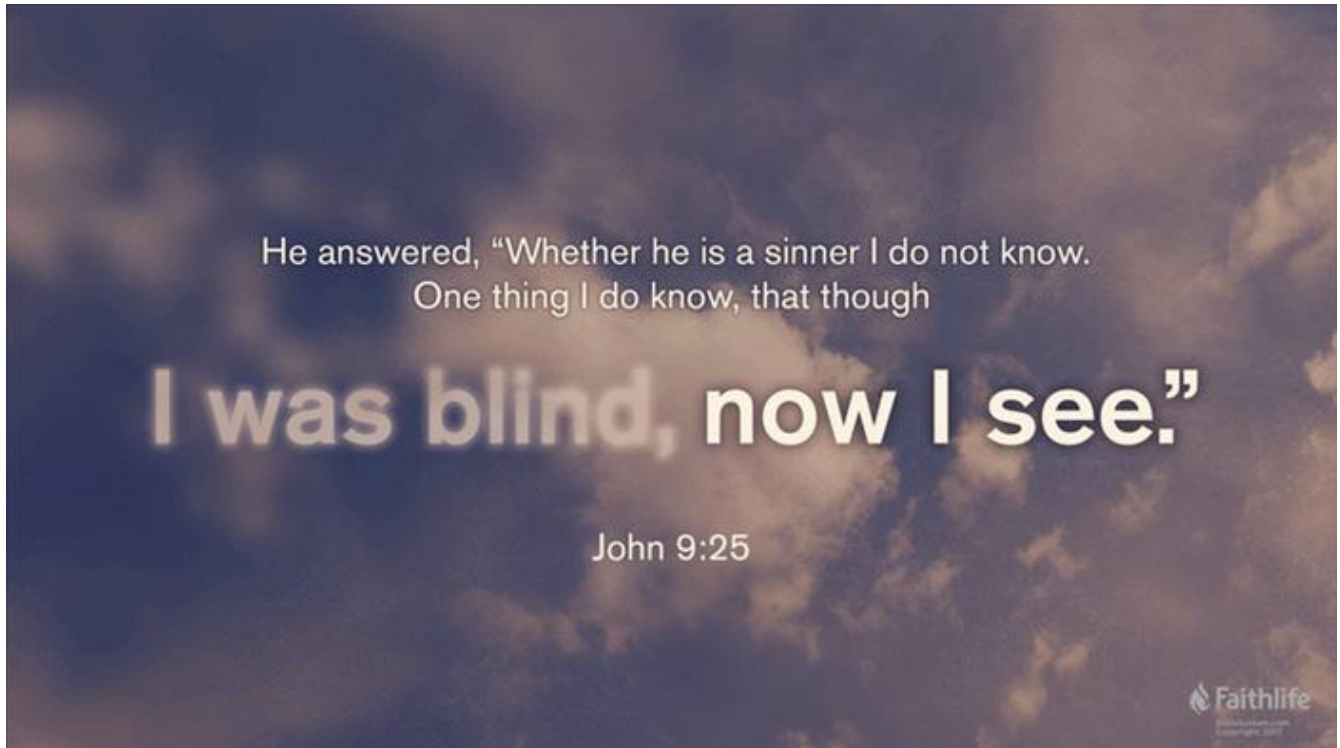


Lent 4 – 19 March 2023



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Opening Hymn - VU121 v.3 4th Sunday of Lent

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

Give us eyes to see you clearly, make us children of your light,
give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright, as your gospel shining bright.

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

When the light of your love grows dim,

may this light rekindle the flame so that your love lights up the room.

[The Christ candle is lit.]

Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK

Call to Worship

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God

give us calm reflection.

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God,

give us faithful friends.

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God,

give us purpose and direction.

Along the Lenten way, may our loving God,

bring us to Jesus Christ and his cross-bound way.

Along the Lenten way, we worship God.

David Sparks, Summerland, BC

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

Reader: Annie Cox

Readings: Psalm 23, John 11:1-45

The 23rd Psalm

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 You make me lie down in green pastures *
and lead me beside still waters.

3 You revive my soul *
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, *
I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me; *
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me *
in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil, *
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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

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

John 9.1-41

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is

not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Holy Wisdom Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise - VU509, I the Lord, of Sea and Sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Andrea L. Brennan - "Spiritual Blindness"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Offering

Loving God, when we ask for a cup of water, you gave us a fountain.

When we asked for living water, you gave us truth.

May these gifts we bring be poured out upon a thirsty world, bringing both comfort and truth. **Amen**

Wanda Winfield, Blenheim, ON

Hymn of Thanksgiving - MV161 I Have Called You by Your Name

I have called you by your name, you are mine,
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine,
I will not abandon you, all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

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 – Your Generosity Increases Food Security](#)

Read by: Mary Elson

Prayers of the People

Led by: Don Artley

*We thank you, O God, for the day you have given to us,
for the rain and 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.**

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

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 servants and disciples.

Amen

Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK

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 - VU266 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me, this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
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.

Upcoming...

1:30 pm - Rocky Mountain Village Worship

Monday 20 March - 10:00 am Pastoral Call

Tuesday 21 March - Office Hours

1:00 pm - Fernie Knox United Board Meeting (??)

Wednesday 22 March - Office Hours

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist Saints Day Service

Thursday 23 March - Office Hours

Noon - Greater Clericus

Friday 24 March - Dentist Appointment in Cranbrook

Saturday 25 March - Sermon Writing and Catch-Up

NEXT WORSHIP - Sunday 26 March @ 10:00 am - Lent V

Holy Eucharist (ACC) -

If joining online, please have your communion elements ready

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from [Gathering: Lent/Easter 2023](#), [Voices United](#), and [More Voices](#).

Candle extinguishing prayer and Prayers of the People, written by Reverend Canon Andrea Brennan. CCLI License #11186206