



Sunday, August 16

Eleventh after Pentecost

Land Acknowledgement

We gather here mindful of the many people who, for millenia, 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.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Divine creation does not cease
until all things have found wholeness, union, and integration
with the common ground of all being.

As children of the Timeless One,
our time-bound lives will find completion
in the all-embracing Creator.

In the meantime, we embrace the present,
embodying hope, loving our enemies,
caring for the earth,
choosing life.

Call to Worship

You are the wave, the shower, the cup of water that revives. Listen to the call of the great waters, the voice of the river, the calm of the oasis. Gather here as at a pool, a lake, an ocean of love, good humour and wisdom. Prepare to be drenched by the Spirit of Life.

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto

Opening Prayer

When human life is disturbed, disrupted, and threatened by the novel coronavirus, we pray to you, God of life.

Grant us the compassion, humility and self-discipline to value, care about and protect each life.

We pray to you, God of mercy,

for all who have suffered directly and indirectly during this global pandemic.

May you sustain, console, and heal them.

We pray to you, God of grace,

for all good efforts to rescue life and to maintain our health.

May you strengthen, guide and protect all who have committed to fight against this disease.

We pray to you, God of righteousness,

for justice to prevail.

May you lead us to combat racism, discrimination, stigmatization and xenophobia with courage in the midst of this health crisis.

We pray to you, God of love,

for an early end to the transmission of COVID-19 that is harming all, and for health and peace for all, through your mercy, grace and loving care, and through human solidarity, integrity and mutual support. Amen.

Rev Dr Manhong Melissa Lin, China Christian Council

Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

1 - God the still-point of the circle, round whom all creation turns
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

2 - Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

3 - Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

More Voices #145

Prayer of Illumination

Welcoming God, as you welcome us into your presence, we welcome you into our week.
In this hour, we open ourselves to you, to what you have to offer us:
your word, your wisdom, your challenge.
Help us to use what we experience here for our journey of faith in the week ahead.
We pray in the name of the Christ. Amen.

Anita Rowland, Monticello UC, Grand Valley ON

Readings

Reader: Sandra Barrett

Genesis 45: 1-15

Joseph is reunited with his brothers.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.

You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm 133

The blessedness of unity.

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Matthew 15: 21-28

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace,
streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Voices United #559

Sermon
"Laughter is the best medicine"
Mary Cosman

We Respond in Giving and Gratitude

Call to Offering

Like a cup of cool water in the deep of the night,
may God's presence wake us up.

Like a cup of cool water on a dew-soaked morning,
may God's Word be sweet on our tongue.

Like a cup of cool water in the heat of high noon,
may God's Spirit shock us, renew us, refresh our lives!

Like a cup of cool water in another's hands,
**may we offer Christ's cup,
and give, even as we have received.**

Richard Bott

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures high and low.
Give thanks to God in love made known
Creator, Word and Spirit, One!

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.

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
christchurchferniefinance@gmail.com

Prayers of the People

Petition and Response:

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love**

God of love and mercy, be with us as we gather in these uncertain times.

Calm our minds, give us the deep peace we seek as we yearn to know you.

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

Bless all those workers who are testing

their own health that they may keep us safe, fed and supported.

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

Bless all the elected and appointed ones in this city, province and country who are leading us with wisdom and care.

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

Bless all those who lead us in our spiritual lives: for the Pacific Mountain Region, the United Church of Canada, and for the Diocese of Kootenay, the Anglican Church of Canada

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

Bless and protect those in communities here and around the world experiencing new and increasing outbreaks of the virus, and bless and protect those close to our hearts, whose names we offer to you silently or aloud -- *PAUSE*

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

Be with those who are separated from their families and into whose lives the virus has spread. We give thanks for those who have recovered. We pray that for those whom cure is not possible, that their death may be merciful, swift and gentle.

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

God of Mercy be with those who will die this day. Draw them into your arms and let them know they have found a home with you.

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed by 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

For thine is the kingdom,

The power and the glory,

For ever and ever. AMEN

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.

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.

Minute for Mission

Reader: Mary Elson

Commissioning

And may God who brought us into being to care for creation and one another,
bless us as we leave:

**may we be blessed in the air we breathe,
the relationships we nurture,
and the acts through which love is shared,
that God's blessing, light, and love
will be known by all.**

Go in joy!

Bob Root, Peterborough ON

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we prepare to continue with our day
we extinguish our candles, knowing
we will be together again, soon.

SENDING HYMN – Don't Be Afraid

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
and I have promised, promised to be always near.

More Voices #75

Notes: Reverend Andrea is on “Staycation” until the 24th of August.
In the event of Pastoral Emergency, please call Lynda Bird or Carole Chorostecki.

Next Service is Sunday, August 23 at 10am and will be Anglican-style, led by Catherine Ripley and Jael Wong-Fehringer.

Sunday, August 30 is the Service celebrating our First Anniversary of Shared Ministry, via Zoom. If you know of parishioners who do not have access to technology, please consider inviting them to attend with you. More details available shortly.

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Pentecost I Year A – 2020, and from World Council of Churches #StayAtHome #PrayAtHome
Candle extinguishing prayer written by Reverend Andrea L. Brennan (c) 2020
Prayers of the People written by Andrea Brennan, with a few unauthorized edits by Mary Cosman