



Sunday, June 28
Fourth 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

In the breath of the Wind,
in the life of the Earth,
in the flow of the Water,
in the warmth of the Flame -

Christ's Spirit lives!

In the blow of the Wind,
in the firm of the Earth,
in the depth of the Water,
in the burn of the Flame -

Christ's Spirit transforms!

In the Wind, the Earth,
the Water, the Flame -

**In this Pentecost life,
Christ's life lives! Alleluia!**

Richard Bott

Call to Worship

Every morning, God calls you to be,
and, when you rise and as you become,
God gives a promise:
As I live and as you live,
I will never abandon you.
And each day, we may respond:
As you live and as I live,
I will go with you.
and each day, we may say to one another:
As God lives and as I live,
let us worship and serve together.

Maggie Watts-Hammond, Gilmore Park UC, Richmond BC

Opening Prayer

COVID-19 Prayer from Moderator Richard Bott

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;
when information comes from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray, for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the aides and the caregivers,
we pray, for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected, all around the world...

we pray for safety, for health, for wholeness.
May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick—
in spite of the pandemic, in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all, we pray.
May it be so.

Right Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught 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 thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

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

Voices United #642, vs. 1,2,4

Prayer of Illumination

Ever-revealing God:
Open us this day to your Word;
open us to your way;
open us to your call for us - today!
through the pages of scripture,
make your way and will known to us
and your call as compelling
as it was for those first disciples long ago. Amen.

Beth W. Johnston, Handsport NS

Readings

Reader: Mary Elson

Genesis 22:1-14

The Command to Sacrifice Isaac

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill[a] his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Psalm 13

Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Slaves of Righteousness

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 10:40-42

Rewards

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

Voices United #266, vs. 1,3,5

Sermon

"Ready or Not -- Here I am, Lord"

Catherine Ripley

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
christchurchfernief@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 front line 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 countries experiencing increasing outbreaks of COVID-19, 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.

Commissioning

May you go forth knowing you are a child of God, that you are called by name, that you are precious and honoured and loved, that you need not be afraid, and that just as you have been blessed, called, named, honoured, called precious, you too can bless, name, honour and call precious those you encounter day by day. Godspeed.

David Lander, Grafton 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 #90

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from
Gathering: Pentecost I Year A – 2017