

# Sunday 15 November 2020 – 24<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost



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## **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. May we be good and gracious guests of this corner of Creation.

## **Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light the Christ candle knowing that Christ's love shines like a beacon for those of us who are troubled, who are anxious, who are unsure, welcoming us into the presence of our God, who loves us into fullness.

*Fern Gibbard, Osooyos, BC*

## **Call to Worship**

One: Our God will provide,

All: even when the cost seems too high.

One: Our God will provide,

All: even when we are in anguish and grief.

One: Our God will provide,

All: even if we have sinned or shut God out.

One: Our God will provide,

All: and so we welcome God as we worship today.

One: Let us pray.

Ever-present God, we are tested and tried  
but just when we think we have reached the  
limitations of our faith, you show us new  
depths of your mercy and grace. You provide  
for us, and we are grateful. Bless us in our  
worship today as we sing of the joy we find  
in your love. Amen.

*Wanda Winfield, Blenheim, ON*

## **Opening Prayer**

A prayer as I put on my mask:

Creator,

as I prepare to go into the world,

help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth -

let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace" -

a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours,

as I love myself.

Christ,

since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,

that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly,

not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully -

and full of care - to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,

and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray.

May it be so.

May it be so.

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

### **HYMN – MV209 Go Make a Diff'rence (Chorus x2)**

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

### **Prayer**

One: Creator, we come together in community, as one heart and body.

All: Braid us together. Let us be bound in love to one another.

One: We recognize in community, that when one of us struggles,  
all of us struggle.

All: Braid us together. Let us be bound in love to one another.

One: We join together this morning with a new desire for understanding  
those in our midst.

All: Braid us together. Let us be bound in love to one another.

One: We come to sing a song of hope.

We come to dance a dance of peace.

We come to share the words of scripture that inspire.

All: Braid us together. Let us be bound in love to one another.

One: We are here in this place together.

Let us be moved to understand the journey of others,  
a little bit better today.

And let us be ever mindful of the opportunities that will  
present themselves to us.

All: Braid us together. Let us be bound in love to one another. Amen.

*Jeffrey Dale, Barrie, ON*

## **Reader: Bruce Elson**

### READINGS FOR THE DAY

#### **Matthew 25.14-30 – The Parable of the Talents**

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

## **HYMN – VU703 v.1**

In the bulb there is a flower,  
in the seed, an apple tree,  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
IN the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "The Gift"

### **We Responding in Giving and Gratitude** **Our Church Tithes and Offerings**

#### **Call to Offering**

Holy God, we humble ourselves as we offer these gifts.  
How wonderful that we can take part in your work.  
Bless these gifts that they may bring healing where there is hurt,  
compassion where there is indifference,  
and new beginnings where there are dead ends. Amen.

*Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota*

### **Hymn of Thanksgiving – VU540 Grant Us, God, the Grace**

Grant us, God, the grace of giving  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.

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

### **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.

## **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; hospital, health unit, police, ambulance and EMT's; grocery clerks, pharmacists and their assistants 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 those in the Elk Valley who care for our corner of creation.  
For our Mayor, Ange; our Premier, John; and our Prime Minister, Justin.  
For Adrian Dix and Dr. Bonnie Henry.

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

Bless all those who lead us in small and large ways.

For our Conference Minister Kathy, our Regional Minister Treena, our Regional Council President Blair, and for our Moderator, Richard.  
For our Regional Dean Neil, our Bishop Lynne, our Metropolitan Melissa, and for our Primate, Linda.

For the Pacific Mountain Region, for the United Church of Canada.

For the Diocese of Kootenay, for the Anglican Church of Canada

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

Bless and protect those who are on our hearts today.

Who's names we offer to you silently or aloud -- PAUSE

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

Be with those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are separated from their families. We give thanks for those who have recovered from the virus. 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.**

## **Joining our prayers and praises together,**

Let us meditate on the prayer our Saviour taught us...

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## **MINUTE FOR MISSION – Mary Elson**

### **Commissioning**

Go. Pray without ceasing.  
Share the God you know in word and action!  
God is powerful through you. Amen!

*Elaine Bidgood Sveet, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota*

### **Extinguishing the Christ Candle**

Our time together has come to an end,  
we now go about the rest of our day,  
knowing in small and in large ways,  
we are connected to each other, through you, O God. Amen

*Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC*



## **SENDING HYMN – MV90 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.

### **Upcoming this week...**

Monday 16 November – Administration and Worship Planning

Tuesday 17 November – Reverend Andrea at Knox United  
2:00 pm – Knox Worship Committee @ Knox United

Wednesday 18 November – 10:00 am Saints Eucharist @ Christ Church  
3:30 pm – Knox Board Meeting (by Zoom)

Thursday 19 November – Noon – Diocesan Greater Clericus (by Zoom)  
6:30 pm – Ears 4 Peers by Zoom

Friday 20 November – Andrea+'s Sabbath

Saturday 21 November – 10:00 am – Regional Council (by Zoom)

Sunday 22 November – 10:00 am Worship – United-Church style

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2020, Voices United, and More Voices. Candle extinguishing prayer and Prayers of the People written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.

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