

Sunday 17 January 2021 – Epiphany 2



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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

One: We gather here as a community of seekers

All: looking for the light.

One: the light that will give us clarity,

All: the light that will guide our way.

One: May God refresh our perception that we may discover

All: God's manifestation in Christ.

One: Let us glimpse here today the truth revealed

All: in the life and love of Jesus.

One: May epiphany be not just a word

All: but a gasp of wonder at the promise revealed.

Cheryl Stenson, Toronto, ON

Call to Worship

One: Do you notice the voice of the Holy One?

All: We experience the gentle nudgings of God's Spirit!

One: Are you aware of the hand of the Mysterious One at work?

All: **We are surrounded by hints of the Divine.**

May we be open to God's presence and answer God's call.

Laura Turnbull, Penticton, 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 epidemic, 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

HYMN – VU509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (v.1)

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.

Prayer of Illumination

God of the ages:
as we open the scriptures this day,
let us take heart, for you are calling us.
As we seek your will for us,
free our spirits to receive the truths
that you have for us today. Amen

Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK

Reader: Sandra Colden

1 Samuel 3.1-20

Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time.

And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.' As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

HYMN – MV161 I Have Call You by Your Name (v.4)

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.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan – "Who is Calling You?"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

Lord Jesus Christ,
we bring all we have –
our faith, our doubts,
our hopes, our dreams,
our lives in all their untidiness,
and we offer to you some of the gifts that you,

in your generosity, have shared with us.
Bless these gifts, and bless us, we pray,
for the good of your love at work in the world. Amen

Bob Root, Peterborough, ON

Hymn – VU268 Bring Many Names, v.4

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna, old, aching 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

A Statement of Faith

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose over-arches everything we do.
You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and provided
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

From A New Zealand Prayer Book

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 join in a paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer

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 test, 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

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Your Generosity Matters – Mary Elson - “Jason's Story”

Commissioning

One: Go forth in the name of Abba God, Mother Spirit, Brother Jesus.

All: We go now to fulfill our destiny as beloved children of God.

One: God bless you. God keep you. God's face shine upon you.

All: Amen.

Jani Francis, Indian Head, SK

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As the days continue to slowly lengthen,
we extinguish these candles,
knowing that one day soon,
we will be together again,
not necessarily as we wish,
but as we are able. 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 18 January – Administration and Worship Preparation

Tuesday 19 January – Andrea+ at Knox

1:00 pm – Marriage Policy Committee

2:00 pm – Knox Worship Committee by Zoom

Wednesday 20 January – Andrea+ at Christ Church

10:00 am – Saints Day Worship by Zoom

2:00 pm – PMRC by Zoom

3:30 pm – Knox Board Meeting by Zoom

Thursday 21 January – Noon – Kootenay Cluster by Zoom

2:00 pm – Knox Hymn Selection

6:30 pm – Ears for Peers

Friday/Saturday 22/23 January – Reverend Andrea's Sabbath

Sunday 24 January – 10:00 am – Worship broadcasting from Christ Church

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2020, A New Zealand Prayer Book, Voices United and More Voices.
Candle extinguishing prayer and Prayers of the People written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.

CCLI – Christ Church #3172609

CCLI – Knox United #11186206