

Sunday 19 July – Pentecost 7



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

This candle dances with the presence of the Spirit, reminding us of the warmth of the community in which God calls us to gather and the light that shines with wisdom, insight and clarity for us in our time of worship.

Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, NT

Call to Worship

One: We gather in the presence of God's Spirit.

All: The Spirit is life and peace.

One: The Spirit offers promise to each new day.

All: The Spirit brings hope out of despair.

One: And even in death – through God's Spirit, we discover life.

All: God's Spirit dwells within us.

One: We gather to worship in the presence of God's Spirit.

Frances Flook, Emo, ON

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 – VU240 Praise my Soul, the God of Heaven (v.1,5)

Praise my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise,
ransomed, healed, restored forgiven,
who like me should sing God's praise,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days.

Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face,
sun and moon and all creation,
dwellers in all time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Illumination

Life-Giving God,
open our hearts and minds,
that we will receive and then act
on your message of love, hope,
and grace in your living Word, Jesus.
Amen.

Fraser Williamson, Port Loring/Golden Valley, ON

Reader: Annie Cox

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Genesis 28.10-19a

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Romans 8.12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Future Glory

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

HYMN – MV157 I Am a Child of God

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan
Title:

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

Call to Offering

Our God-I-Am-Who-I-Am,
has seen great suffering among God's children.
God calls us to "let love be genuine; hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection" (Romans 12.9-10a).
Jesus says,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16.24).
In humility, let us deny ourselves
and bring to God some of the many blessings
with which we have been provided,
so that everyone might have hope,
through the gifts of God.

Bill Steadman, Goulais River, ON

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 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

HYMN – VU234 Let Us With a Gladsome Mind (v.1, 4)

Let us with a gladsome mind praise our God, forever kind;
whose great mercies still endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed, with full measure meets their need;
for God's mercies still endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Mary Elson

Commissioning

Go out [safely] in Jesus' name with ready hands
to bring God's kingdom into this world.
Go out [safely] to bring love and justice
into a world of hurt and pain,
knowing that God is with us always.
Amen.

Fern Gibbard, Penticton, BC

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 (2x)

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 20 July – Administration

Tuesday 21 July – Reverend Andrea at Knox United – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday 22 July

9:00 am – Reverend Andrea at Christ Church

11:00 am – East/West Kootenay Clericus (ACC) (by Zoom)

7:00 pm – Meeting with J&T (by Zoom)

Thursday 23 July – 11:30 am – Kootenay Cluster (UCC) (by Zoom)

Friday/Saturday – Reverend Andrea's Sabbath

Sunday 26 July – 10:00 am – Worship (Anglican-style) (by Zoom)

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.