

Sunday 20 December 2020 – Advent 4B



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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

As the days shorten and the nights lengthen, one small light can illuminate our way to safety. We light this candle for Love as we continue on our Advent journey of waiting...patiently...for Emmanuel.

Call to Worship

One: Amid the boastful words,
All: your hopeful Word endures, O God.
One: Amid the self-serving words,
All: your selfless Word ensures, O God.
One: Amid the uncaring words,
All: your compassionate Word endures, O God.

One: Amid the indifferent words,
All: your courageous Word endures, O God.
One: Amid the apathetic words,
All: your Word of love endures, O God.
One: God says to us: Heaven and earth will pass away,
All: but Jesus, my Word, will never pass away.

David Sparks, Summerland, BC

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 – VU2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus v.1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, in this season of gifts and giving, help us to accept with joy that great gift of sacred scripture. As we unwrap the readings for today, bless us in our receiving of the wisdom of our ancestors in faith. Amen.

Susan Ivany, Thunder Bay, ON

Reader: Ev Cutts

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Luke 1.26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN – MV 134 Dreaming Mary v.2

One holy day an angel came
with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
He promised blessed would be her name
when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.

Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.
She spoke of justice for the poor.
She spoke that kings oppressed no more
when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "Wait...for Love"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

One: Loving One,

All: receive us and our tokens as an offering for
the betterment of the world. Today we lift our
hearts for love for a better world and for the
coming of your kin-dom on earth. Amen.

Jim McKean, Orillia, ON

Hymn of Thanksgiving – MV120 My Soul Cries Out v.1

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west, shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

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

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Mary Elson

Commissioning

May the comfort promised by Isaiah go with you
as you leave this time of worship.
May the tenderness of God speak to your heart.
May the tenderness of God speak to your heart.
May the challenge of Christ give purpose to your rest and your work.
And may the renewal of the Spirit call you into tomorrow.

Bob Root, Peterborough, ON

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As the days continue to grow shorter
and we are spending more time in darkness
we extinguish these candles,
knowing that as the days will eventually lengthen
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 21 December – Administration and Worship Planning

Tuesday 22 December – Reverend Andrea at Knox United

Wednesday 23 December – 10:00 am Saints Worship @ Christ Church

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Andrea+ broadcasting from home (pjs optional)

7:00 pm – Andrea+ broadcasting from Knox United

9:00 pm – Andrea+ broadcasting from Christ Church

Friday 25 December – Christmas Day

10:00 am – Andrea+ broadcasting from home (pjs mandatory)

Saturday 26/Sunday 27 December – Andrea's Sabbath

NEXT WORSHIP – 3 January 2021 – Epiphany! Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship – broadcasting from Knox United

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

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