

Sunday 20 September 2020 – Creation 2



www.seasonofcreation.org

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: The news is grim.

All: One party is fighting with another.

One: The news is grim.

All: One country is fighting with another.

One: The news is grim.

All: Too many governments are oppressing their own people.

One: There are too many walls, too much hate.

All: Let this candle be a beacon of peace and love.

Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK

Call to Worship

One: God created the heaven and the earth.

All: God made it all, and it is good.

One: God gave us darkness and light, night and day.

All: God made it all, and it is good.

One: God created planets and animals, birds and humans,
water, land and sky.

All: God made it all. Praise be to God.

Scott Martin, Georgetown, 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 – MV28 God of the Bible

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise
God always faithful, you do not change.
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise
God always faithful, you do not change.

Prayer

God of the mountains and the seas,
of dry land and living waters,
may we always look for you
where your Spirit leads us, in truth.
May we always notice you
where hope does not disappoint us,
because we know that your love
has been poured over all.
Amen

Wanda Winfield, Blenheim, ON

Reader: Susan Schmitz

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Matthew 20.1-16

The Labourers in the Vineyard

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

HYMN – VU227 For the Fruit of All Creation v.1

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gift to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan – That's not FAIR!

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

We do not stand alone for the world is interconnected.
Bless these gifts, O God,
helping us to draw the circle wide,
encouraging us to discover Jesus' face in the faces of others
and in the face of the earth itself,
challenging us to act out of love and out of hope.

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, ON

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 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 pray the prayer our Saviour taught us...

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

Children of the Creator God,
go forth from this place knowing that in you,
the fruit of all creation is strong and true.
As you take your gifts of love out into the world,
know that you go with the blessing of God, the love of Christ,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit.
Go now in love and peace to serve your Lord
as you join in the mending of creation.

Deborah Ambridge Fisher, Fredericton, NB

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 21 September – 11:00 am Joint M&P Meeting

Tuesday 22 September – Reverend Andrea at Knox United

Wednesday 23 September – 10:00 am Worship @ Christ Church

11:00 am – KFF Worship rehearsal

1:00 – 3:00 – CRT Conference (by Zoom)

Thursday 24 September – Kootenay Faith Fest! (by Whova)

Friday 25 September – Kootenay Faith Fest! (by Whova)

Saturday 26 September – Kootenay Faith Fest!

3:00 pm – Pride Festival Outdoor Worship

Back lawn at City Hall (weather permitting)

Sunday 27 September – Kootenay Faith Fest Worship

BEGINNING AT 11:00 AM – Invitation to come by email.

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