

2 May 2021 - Easter 5 - Communion Sunday



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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

The Easter promise is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, from death to life. **a promise that we celebrate during this Easter season, a promise graciously extended to each of us by Jesus.**

This is a grace that, through the Holy Spirit, empowers our community life to new and deeper experiences.

We light this Christ candle, naming that gracious gift and promise.

Bill Perry, Havelock, ON

Call to Worship

The Ancient Holy Living God, provider of every blessing in abundance, calls us to gather.

May we overflow with prayers of thanksgiving. May we shout and sing for joy. Praise belongs to you, O God.

Come, let us worship.

Dora White, Minnedosa, MB

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 – VU639 v.1 & 4 - One More Step Along the World I Go

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new;
keep my traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Prayer of Confession

Think about all the times when you wanted to do something and didn't.
Think about all the times you wanted to say something and didn't.
Think about all the times when you thought that it was too late.
Hear the good news: It is never too late! Thanks be to God!

Barbara Cairns, Cornwall, PEI

Words of Assurance

Then Jesus says to us: "Peace be with you."

And we say, "Thanks be to God. Hallelujah. Amen"

Bill Stedman, Goulais River, ON

Reader: Beth Ferris

Reading: Acts 8.26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?'

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hymn of Praise - VU559 v. 1 & 2 - Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "Right Place, Right Time"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude
Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

Loving God, you are always faithful.

We turn to you with our hopes and our fears.

We turn to you with a song of thanksgiving and a prayer for help.

Precious Lord, we give thanks that you have chosen us to serve you as a church, by doing our best to imitate your generosity and to copy your loving devotion by sharing our gifts. Trusting your love to multiply our gifts as we react out, we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

Wendy MacLean, Lyn, ON

Please support our ministry by 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

Your Generosity Matters - Aria's Story - Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – VU716 v. 1 & 4 - MyLife Flows On

My life flows on, in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet through far off hymn, that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -- how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learn to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -- how can I keep from singing?

Communion Liturgy

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

We must give thanks to God our Creator!

God's creation blesses us all.

All that is sacred, all that is holy, come from You, our living God.
When we cannot be physically together because of pandemic, you are there.

You created order from chaos, your children from clay, and blessed us
with minds to think, hearts to love and mouths to speak.

Even when we fail you; even when we disappoint ourselves, you are there.

Loving us through the chaos, standing us up when we fall down.

Protecting us from the evil in the world; you are there.

And so, we join with the chorus of heavenly bodies as we say;

Holy, holy, holy God, Holy and blessed are you.

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Glory to you, O God most high.

And so, as we gather from around this fragile earth
our island home to celebrate the night you made the ordinary, extraordinary.

That fateful night, at supper with his friends,
Jesus took the ordinary bread,
bread they had shared many times before.

He took it, blessed it, broke it and said:
“This is my body, broken in love for you”.

Jesus took the cup, what was left from the meal,
a meal shared many times before.
He raised it, blessed it and said
“This is my blood, shed for eternity.
When you take this bread and this cup,
remember that I am with you always.
A covenant and promise I make, to never forsake you”.

And so, as we take this ordinary made extraordinary
this bread and cup, God's promise and love,
broken and poured, blessed and shared,
joining us together as a spiritual family.

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

We take our bread, or that which represents Christ's body.
We take our cup, or that which represents Christ's blood.
When we consume these, we will never be the same.
We will become closer to you, dear God, and to each other.

We thank you God, for the many blessings of this Earth.
We ask you to pray for those we carry on our hearts this day.
We ask you to be with those who need your strength,
and to those you call home today,
may those they leave behind always know your 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**

Distribution of Communion
Taking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The bread of Christ

Broken in love for us.

The cup of salvation.

Our way to eternal life.

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The elements are consumed.

Commissioning

Strength and hope and love flow freely.

You stand in this flow in this Easter season.

It washes new life into you and all the world.

And so we give thanks and praise.

Go share God's blessings of love, strength, and hope.

Amen

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, ON

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we celebrate the resurrection, may we share that joy and hope,

knowing that one day, we know not yet what day,

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 3 May - Worship Prep and Administration

Tuesday 4 May – Andrea+ at Knox United

4:30 pm - Joint Ministry and Personnel Committee meeting

Wednesday 5 May – 10:00 am – Zoom Saints Day Worship @ Christ Church

Office Hours

Noon - Joint Church Committee Meeting

7:00 pm - Synod Technical Meeting

Thursday 6 May – Worship and Homiletic Prep

Noon - Greater Clericus by Zoom

7:00 pm - Fernie Pride Society AGM

Friday/Saturday 7-8 May - Andrea+'s Sabbath

Sunday 9 May – 10:00 am - Zoom Worship from Christ Church Anglican

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Lent-Easter 2021, Voices United and More Voices. Candle extinguishing prayer and Communion Liturgy written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.

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