

3 October 2021 - World 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 and Métis Nation. May we be good and gracious guests of this corner of Creation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

In a world that can be chaotic and frightening,
we light a candle of hope.

In a world where the way is uncertain,
may this light of Christ show us the way.

Beth W. Johnston, Nipawin, SK

Call to Worship

Come into this place of worship and know you are not alone. Christians around the world gather today to celebrate worldwide communion.

We come to be immersed in the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

Come from living rooms, from offices, from bedrooms, from backyard decks -- come from wherever you are as we commune over the distance.

We come despite missing one another so deeply, missing conversations, the hugs, and handshakes, the small talk, and the deeper sharing -- yet knowing we are part of the Spirited whole.

Come as we pay attention to God's eternal presence as we pray:

Loving God, who is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge and above perfect description, in love may you embrace us within life-giving relationship.

Tend us as you mend us.

Enlight us as you transform us.

May we become the harmony of the beloved who sing of your good news.

Open our hearts to the diversity of hearts committed to Jesus, making us beacons of self-giving love worldwide. Amen

Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, ON

Opening Hymn - MV195 - Long Ago and Far Away

Long ago and far away Jesus lived and worked and prayed
Healed the sick and the fearful and lonely lived his life to show God's way.
Stretched his arms out as he said "Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing".

Jesus gathered the children around him spoke of Love and the joy to be found
told them stories of wisdom and wonder God's creation in all that's around.
Stretched his arms out as he said "Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing".

Jesus called all his friends to be with him share the bread and the cup once again
life to you I will offer it gladly love will be with you right to the end.
Stretched his arms out as he said "Fill the cup and share the bread
Remember me in love and joy and blessing".

Prayer of Confession

These are the times of suffering, but you, O God, have promised,
up ahead is the glory.

These are the tough days, but you, O God, have promised,
up ahead is the glory.

These are the testing situations, but you, O God, have promised,
up ahead is the glory.

The hopeless and despairing feelings within clamour for our attention, and we offer these feelings and thoughts for you, Gracious God:

(a time of silent prayer)

God promises this:

for our worries and fears, our despair and frustration, for us,
peace will be a reality, for

up ahead is the glory. Amen

David Sparks, Summerland, BC

Reader: Mary Elson

Reading: Job 1.1, 2.1-10

Job and His Family

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Attack on Job's Health

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the Lord, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.' The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.' Then Satan answered the Lord, 'Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.' The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.'

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.' But he said to her, 'You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Mark 10.2-16

Concerning Divorce

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.'

Jesus Blesses Little Children

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise – VU460 v. 1,2 All Who Hunger

All who hunger, gather gladly, holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered, in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "A Tale of Two Gods"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude
Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Offering

You have brought gifts of money for blessing, and you have brought gifts of bread and wine to the table of Holy Communion for blessing,

and with them, we bring our anticipation.

With the money, the bread and wine, comes the promise that God's realm will be established,

and the hope that we will be among those who will welcome it's coming.

As these gifts are blessed, we recognize how they can be used to bring God's realm closer,

and for this, we give you thanks, Gracious God.

Amen

David Sparks, Summerland, BC

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: Creating A World Without Hate
Presented by: Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – VU457 As We Gather at Your Table

As we gather at your table, As we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story Till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet How to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness In the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, Bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion To forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image In the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon, other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us, nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels, to repeat the sounding joy.

Invitation to the Table*

Welcome friends and relations!
We meet here in the house of the Creator
at the great feasting table.

The Holy One who walked with our ancestors,
walks with us now, and will walk with our children
for years to come.

In the very air that we breathe,
in the sound of whistling wind
and in the slap of the waves on the shore,
we give you thanks for your presence.

In the sound of children's laughter,
and in the songs of our elders,
we give you thanks for your presence.

Lift up your broken hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us honour our Creator.

It is right to honour God.

It is right to honour God and to give our thanks.

We give our thanks to God.

The Great Thanksgiving

Creator and Giver of all life, Source of love.

We bless you for all your gifts.

You brought creation to birth and sent prophets
to awaken us to your great dream—

a dream in which everyone is treated with dignity and love,
justice and mercy,
honour and hospitality.

We praise you for elders and prophets,
visionaries and leaders, teachers and preachers,
all who have shared the great truth of your love.

We praise you for our brother Jesus,
Love in Human Form,
who showed to us in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion,
your Great Heart of Love.

With the flying ones, the swimming ones,
the four-legged ones, and the crawling ones,
with rocks and trees, mountains and plains,
with all creation,

we humans raise our voices to you 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.

we remember that on the night before he died,
Jesus feasted with his friends.

He took a loaf of bread,
thanked you as we have thanked you,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Whenever you feast together, remember me.”

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:

“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood.
Whenever you drink together, remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love
shown to us in Jesus Christ,
we offer you our praise,
as we proclaim the great mystery of our faith:

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

Holy Spirit,
unite us at this feast and may it strengthen us
to live the resurrected and reconciled life of Christ in creation.

Prayers of the People

We remember the children of the Indian residential schools.
We remember how they were plucked up from their homes
by a system of arrogance that denied a good way of life.
Their tears, their hunger, their loneliness, and their fears are not forgotten.

The shame that was taught, lingers yet.
The pain that was inflicted upon their bodies remains.
We remember the parents; the aunties; the uncles;
the grandmas and grandpas left to grieve the empty places
in their homes and their communities.

Mothers were left with tear-stained aprons;
fathers suffered in unyielding silence;
how was it they were expected to carry on,
having lost their joy, their purpose?

And how was it that their community could continue to come together
to celebrate life and move together toward a bright future,
when their future was gone?

How long will it take to strengthen family, homes, and spirits?

How long will it take to heal the memories?

Who must we be and what must we do
to restore integrity and dignity to your world?

God of all great transformation, in our lament, we cry out to you.

God of all healing power, in our pain, we call your name.

God of all life, in our hope, we come before you in humble prayer.

We pray that all your children may once again sing

and dance the songs planted in their hearts since time immemorial.

We pray that in their play and in their learning
they be strengthened in wisdom and truth.

May they carry the knowledge of their ancestors—those ways of life that brought abundance and joy to this pilgrimage on earth.

We pray for the children's health and wholeness; may they reconnect with your unending love that they may once again know who they are, their giftedness and their value.

We remember those children who have found their home in you.

We acknowledge those who left this earth having heard no words of apology or lament. We are grateful that you hold these ones close and have granted to them eternal peace.

As we move ahead into a time of truth-telling and reconciliation: We pray for parents and extended family. Release them from their feeling of guilt and burden. Lift them from their grief. May their homes once again ring out with laughter and hope.

May their communities reflect the joy of their presence. May they come together to work toward reclaiming and renewing minds, bodies, emotions, and spirits. And finally, we pray that one day this world, your world, will be a place where children are no longer harmed and will never again be removed from a mother's embrace or a father's helping hand. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, who showed us a way to your Kingdom come on earth. All my relations.

Through, with, and in Jesus,
united in love by the Holy Spirit,
we offer all glory to you, Creator, Source of Love,
now and always.

Amen

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**

Words of Institution

Christ's body broken and healed for you.
The cup of rich blessing poured out for you.

Welcome to the Table

Come, for all things are now ready.

**Come to the table with all your kin
and share with all in need—**

the gift of healing for those of us in pain,
the gift of reconciliation for those of us estranged,
the gift of assurance for those of us in doubt,
and the gift of hope for those of us in tears.

**May we who share these gifts,
share Christ with one another and with all our kin.**

**written by: Teresa Burnett-Cole, used with permission*

[The elements are distributed.

Please come forward in your bubbles, leaving distance between you and the person ahead of you. Standing at the front, you will remove your mask, receive the bread, replace your mask and return to your seat.]

Commissioning

Having been united with Christians across the globe to this holy meal, may we continue to remember that we are all made one body in Jesus Christ.

As we go forth, may this foretaste of God's grace assist us in breaking down divisions of prejudice, across borders, and closer to home. **Amen**

Taylor Croissant, Lethbridge, AB

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we move from this time of community and communion
**we hold in our hearts those who are with us in person,
on screen and in our hearts,**

knowing that one day, we know not what day,
**we will be together again, not necessarily as we wish,
but as we are able. Amen**

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

Sending Song – Masithi: AMEN

SING AMEN: **Amen we praise your name O God**

SING AMEN: **Amen, we praise your name O God**

SING AMEN: **Amen Amen, Amen Amen, Amen we praise your name O God!**

MASITHI: **Amen, Siakudumisa**

MASITHI: **Amen, Siakudumisa**

MASITHI: **Amen, bawo, Amen, bawo, Amen Siakudumisa!**

Upcoming this week...

Monday 4 October - Administration and Worship Prep
6:00 pm - Fernie Pride Society Board Meeting

Tuesday 5 October – Andrea+ at Knox United

Wednesday 6 October - Andrea+ at Christ Church
10:00 am - Saints Day Worship (by Zoom and outdoors, behind Christ Church)
11:00 am - Office Hours at Christ Church

Thursday 7 October - Clergy Conference Registration due - collating information
2:00 pm - Clergy Conference Committee Meeting

Friday/Saturday 8/9 October - Andrea+ Sabbath

Sunday 10 October - 10:00 am Worship, Blessing of the Animals
Weather permitting, from the back lawn at City Hall.
Please bring your pet(s) or a photo of your pet, living or deceased.

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Pentecost II, 2021, Voices United and More Voices. Candle extinguishing written by Reverend Andrea Brennan. Communion Liturgy written by: Teresa Burnett-Cole. Gathering, Lent Easter 2017, pages 86–7. Used with permission.

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