

Sunday 5 July – Pentecost 5



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: Oh, what a lovely light!
It is the light of the Christ in our midst!

**All: Filled with this light,
Jesus bids us shine our own lovely light.
May it be so for each of us. Amen.**

Jani Francis, Indian Head, SK

Call to Worship

One: Come.

All: Come softly.

One: Come singing.

All: Come sorrowing or in joy.

One: Come prayer-filled and in wonder.

All: Come now.

One: Come worship, you, whom God made for love.

Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, NT

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 – MV216 Wherever You May Go

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
we will travel side by side and
God's love will be our guide.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

From the beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
when you need me, I'll be there,
you can trust my faithful care.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

Prayer of Illumination

What do we do, Gracious God, with stories that stretch not only our imaginations, but even more so, our scientific minds?

What do we do with walking on water and miraculous healings?

These are your words to us, O God. What do they mean? Amen.

Susan Lukey, High River, AB

Reader: Bev Delyea

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.'

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Song of Solomon 2.8-13

Springtime Rhapsody

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Romans 7.15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

Jesus Thanks His Father

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

HYMN – VU333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (v.1-3)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan
"There's Nowt as Queer as Folk"

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

Call to Offering

One: In the community of Jesus Christ,
there is commitment.

All: The faithful are willing to give
talent, time and money for the common good.

One: In the community of Jesus Christ,
there is compassion.

All: The faithful are willing to recognize suffering
and offer help.

One: In the community of Jesus Christ,
there is a welcome.

All: The faithful are willing to live with hospitality
and acceptance.

One: In the community of Jesus Christ,
love is at the centre.

All: The faithful are willing to make the love of Christ
come alive in the midst of despair and fear.

One: Our small gifts can bring great hope, Loving God,

All: the hope of comfort and understanding,
the hope of learning and worship,
the hope of serving our neighbours,
the hope of meeting desperate needs.

One: Bless these gifts and those who give,
we ask in the name of Jesus, the hopeful one. Amen.

David Sparks, Okanagan Falls, BC

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 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, 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 all critters, large and small, who need to cross our roadways that
they may do so safely. And to all drivers, may they pay close attention to
those critters who are about to cross to avoid collisions.
God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love.**

We lift up to you the hotspots and red zones in the world, especially in our
neighbours to the south. May common sense prevail to strengthen those
governors who need to walk back re-opening. May our siblings in those
states practice common sense in wearing of masks, keeping physical
distance and washing their hands.
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 in the way our Saviour taught us.**

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever. AMEN

HYMN – MV97 Listen, God is Calling (2x)

(Listen) Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. (Listen)

MINUTE FOR MISSION – Mary Elson

Commissioning

One: Let us go forth as God's agents.
All: We go to live and proclaim hope.
One: Let us go forth as God's ambassadors.
All: We go forth ready to proclaim a way of love and compassion.
One: Let us forth as God's disciples.
All: We go to be the people of God. Amen

Beth W. Johnson, Nipawin, SK

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 6 July – 2:00 pm – Hymn selection at Knox United Church

Tuesday 7 July – Reverend Andrea at Knox United – 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday 8 July

9:00 am – Reverend Andrea at Christ Church

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

3:30 pm – Knox Board Meeting (by Zoom)

4:30 pm – Meeting with B&E (by Skype)

Thursday 9 July – 11:30 am – Kootenay Cluster (UCC) (by Zoom)

Friday/Saturday – Reverend Andrea's Sabbath

Sunday 12 July – 10:00 am – Worship (Anglican-style) (by Zoom)

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Lent to Easter, Year A – 2020, Voices United and More Voices.
Candle extinguishing prayer and Prayers of the People written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.