

7 August 2022 – Pentecost 9



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Opening Hymn – VU679 v.1, 6 Let There Be Light

Let there be light, let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather, let them be face to face.

Let there be light, open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.

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.

We strive for reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings, and pray that the Creator will guide our way.

Lighting the Christ Candle

In a time of change and confusion,
we need a source of unwavering light.

In a time of transition and change,
we need a light to show us the way.

May this light of Christ be this light for every one of us,
May it shine in our hearts all of our days.

Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK

Call to Worship

We know that no matter where we are, God is there.

This is a day of wonder and grace.

This is a day to praise God.

This is a day to marvel at God's handiwork.

This is a day for seeking God's will.

This is a day to join our hearts in prayer and praise.

Let us worship together.

Éric Hébert-Daly, National Church

Opening Prayer

There are no words for the things that break us open, strip us naked in the glare:
for birth and death, for joy and grief,

for the madness of the lost or for the lightning of love.

There are no words for the lash of beauty cutting without warning from sky or land,
stealing the breath; for the stark cold of midwinter midnight along in the desert of
the self hollow with dread; or for the lightning of love

sudden or slow, blue flame piercing mind and bone.

We need words whose power in the throat rises like the welling of ancient water
from the roots of the earth, wise with the secrets of fire and stone;

words for what lives in the eyes of the newborn or the dying or the mad;

words for the breaking open, for the glancing merciless terror

and the unrelenting glory; words for the lightning of love.

from Celebrate God's Presence

Prayer of Confession

People of God, we have come to the holy house of God today. We have brought
with us our joys and sorrows, our strengths and weaknesses, our wandering minds
and the cares of our lives. Let us bring them all to God as we pray. **AMEN**

Jeanne Wilson, St. Catharines, ON

Words of Assurance

While we may falter some days and feel we are losing our way, we rejoice this day
in God's glorious gift of grace given freely to all. We are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

Barbara Johns, Orleans, ON

Prayers for Illumination

Loving God, we open our hearts to your word this morning with appreciation for your loving wisdom. Keep us open to your teaching, ready to feel your presence and receive your words. We share our deepest thanks for Jesus, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, and whose wisdom is revealed in these readings. **AMEN**

Philip Aldis, Fitzroy Harbour, ON

Reader: Annie Cox

Reading: Hebrews 11.1-16

The Meaning of Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

The Examples of Abel, Enoch, and Noah

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and 'he was not found, because God had taken him.' For it was attested before he was taken away that 'he had pleased God.' And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

The Faith of Abraham

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise – MV79 v.3 Spirit Open My Heart

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Andrea L. Brennan
"What is Faith?"

Prayers of the People – Marion Weipert

Loving God,
you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

Hear our prayers:

for the hungry and the overfed

may we have enough;

for the mourners and the mockers,

may we laugh together;

for the victims and the oppressors,

may we share power wisely;

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,
may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony.
for the silenced and the propagandists,
may we speak our own words in truth;
for the unemployed and the overworked,
may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;
for the troubled and the secure,
may we live together as wounded healers;
for the homeless and the pampered,
may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;
for the vibrant and the dying,
may we all die to sin and live to love. AMEN

from Celebrate God's Presence

[We Responding in Giving and Gratitude](#) Our Church Tithes and Offerings

[Offering Prayer](#)

Wondrous God, your love knows no end. As followers of your way, we, too, seek to extend love. May our offerings be an expression of deep mercy and radical love. Help us to offer them with generous spirits. We give in the name of the Redeemer.

AMEN

Kate Gregory, Belwood, ON

Please support our ministry by cheque or e-transfer to:

Knox United Church
Box 1808, Fernie, BC VoB 1Mo
knoxferniefinance@gmail.com

Christ Church Anglican
Box 279, Fernie, BC VoB 1Mo
christchurchfernief@gmail.com

Your Generosity Matters:
WWJD? Here's One of the Church's Best Answers
Presented by: Mary Elson

Communion Hymn – MV195 v.3 – Long Ago and Far Away

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 out his arms as he said:
"Fill the cup and share the bread.
Remember me in love and joy and blessing."

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!

The Creator 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 a pandemic, you are there.

When we lament our physical distance from each other, you comfort us.

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.

Calming us as we live with a virus, we were certain would be over by now.

Staying with the remains of children discovered in multitudinous unmarked graves.

Giving protection to those who are traumatised from generations old hurts.

Reminding us that there are alternatives to war as the world struggles for peace.

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 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

"Take this cup, the cup of salvation.

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.

The elements are consumed. A moment of silence follows.

[Commissioning](#)

You come to God with your suffering and hopelessness. Go from here in the power of Christ's healing and new life. Go from here in gratitude to tell good news of such great love. We will go, in the grace-filled, healing, and redeeming power of God.

**As we go out into the world, we go with hope to share the promise of God's love
with all whom we meet. AMEN**

Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, ON

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**

Sending Song - VU884 You Shall Go Out with Joy

You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you,
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
while you go out with joy!!

Upcoming this week...

Monday 8 August - Admin and Worship Prep

Tuesday 9 August – Andrea+ at Fernie Knox United
Office Hours

1:30 - 3:30 pm - Anxiety Course by Zoom

Wednesday 10 August – Andrea+ at Christ Church

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist and Saint of the Day

11:30 am - Office Hours

Thursday 11 August – Worship and Homiletic Prep

Noon - Kootenay Cluster by Zoom

Friday 12 August - Andrea+'s Sabbath

Saturday 13 August – Catch Up and Sermon Writing

Next Worship

Sunday 14 August – 10:00 am – Morning Prayer Outside in the Grove

Hosted by Christ Church, Fernie – Blended Worship

Please bring a lawn chair, sun hat and water bottle

Resources

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from:

Gathering: Pentecost 1 - 2022, Celebrate God's Presence, Voices United and More Voices.

Candle lighting, extinguishing and Communion Liturgy written by:

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