

## 7 February 2021 - Epiphany 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

We gather here as a community of seekers,

**looking for the light:**

the light that will give us clarity,

**the light that will guide our way.**

May God refresh our perception that we may discover

**God's manifestation in Christ.**

Let us glimpse here today the truth revealed

**in the life and love of Jesus.**

May epiphany be not just a word

**but a gasp of wonder at the promise revealed.**

*(the Christ candle is lit)*

*Cheryl Stenson, Toronto, ON*

Call to Worship

The world blares out: bigger, stronger, greater.

**And we wonder why we feel smaller, weaker, less.**

We look around at others and notice newer, smarter, more together.

**We look inside ourselves and fear we are not enough.**

We come today seeking God's presence,

**seeking to be reminded that throughout every struggle, God is with us.**

God knows us in all our frailty.

God knows us with all our failings.

**And yet God loves us.**

**With care and compassion, God holds us close.**

**With trust and encouragement,**

**God calls us as capable servants.**

*Gill Le Fevre, Oakville, 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 – VU808 – On Eagle’s Wings, v.1**

You who dwell in the shelter of our God,  
 who abide in this shadow for life,  
 say the Lord: “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!”  
 “And I will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
 bear you on the breath of dawn,  
 make you to shine like the sun,  
 and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

#### Prayer of Confession

Great calling God, we have noticed your voice  
 calling our name, but we have often turned over  
 and gone back to sleep.  
 You have called to our innermost selves,  
 but we have ignored your voice.  
 You have met us where we live and work,  
 but we have found many reasons not to respond.  
 Forgive us, Gracious God.  
 Call us once again and we will listen.

*Beth W Johnston, Nipawin, SK*

#### Words of Assurance

The good news is that we do not live our discipleship  
 merely with our own strength, but with God’s grace holding us up.  
 In our times of fear and frailty, we know that God is closer to us  
 than our breath. And God’s faithfulness is ours,  
 even in our doubts.  
 Thanks be to God!

*Frances Flook, Emo, ON*

Reader: Ev Cutts

### READING OF THE DAY

#### **1 Corinthians 9.16-23**

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

**Hymn of Praise - MVU145 v.3 - Draw the Circle Wide**

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no-one stand alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no-one stand alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan  
"Being All Things to All People"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude  
Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

Gifts of money and of time,  
gifts of passion and of heart,  
gifts of our very selves --  
we present all of this to you, O God.  
Bless us and them, we pray,  
for your purpose in the world. Amen

*Gord Dunbar, Kincardine, 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 - Mambud's Story - Mary Elson**

### **Communion Hymn – VU467 V.1 - One Bread, One Body**

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth  
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth  
we are one body in this one Lord.

### 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

We have been healed and fed  
by God's grace,  
by God's word,  
by God's people.  
Let us go forth to heal and feed  
all God's people  
by God's grace,  
with God's word,  
knowing that we are never alone,  
knowing that we abide  
in the shadow of God's wings,  
knowing that our God who is  
Creator, Redeemer and Comforter  
moves with us each step of the way. Amen

*Anna Atkinson, Nanaimo, BC*

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As the days continue to grow shorter  
and we are spending more time in darkness  
we extinguish these candles,  
knowing that as the days will eventually lengthen  
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 8 February - Worship Prep and Administration

Tuesday 9 February – Reverend Andrea at Knox United

Wednesday 10 February – 10:00 am – Zoom Saints Day Worship @ Christ Church  
Office Hours

Thursday 11 February – Worship and Homiletic Prep  
Noon - Greater Clericus by Zoom

Friday/Saturday 12/13 February – Reverend Andrea's Sabbath

Sunday 14 February – 10:00 am - Zoom Worship from Christ Church

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Advent - Christmas - Epiphany 2020 - 2021, Voices United and More Voices. Candle extinguishing prayer and Communion Liturgy written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.

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