

## Sunday 15 August 2021 - Pentecost 12



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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

Oh, warm and comforting flame, sparkle, sparkle now!

Guide into a safe soul refuge.

Though shadows prevail, in mood or mind, we follow the light into the calm.

How we long for the light and look for this light, and flickering, here it is:

Christ -- the light of day -- the bright and comforting twinkling night light,  
the infinite and lovely flame of serenity.

We welcome you, Light of Christ

*Jani Francis, Indian Head, SK*

## **Call to Worship**

Welcome, dear friends and members of  
Knox United Church and Christ Church Anglican.  
We each connect from our own homes,  
but we gather as one in the Spirit.  
And in that Spirit, we pray...

*Juanita Austin, Salmon Arm, BC*

## **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 – MV12 v.1,4 - Come Touch Our Hearts**

Come touch our hearts, that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;

love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Living God,  
as we listen to these old, old texts, inspired by you,  
may we listen with inquisitive minds and compassionate hearts.  
May your words of wisdom speak to us in unexpected ways and  
unexpected places in our lives in today's world.  
May your wisdom move, illuminate, deepen, inspire, and  
motivate us to act in your world, of which we are part. Amen

*Sheryl McLeod, Admaston, ON*

## **Reader: George & Beth Ferris**

**John 6:51-58**  
**The Living Bread**

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.'

**Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN – VU376 -- Spirit of the Living God**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all.

    humble, caring, selfless, sharing,

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

## Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "Living Bread?"

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

#### **Invitation**

Our offering today, and every day, is an act of love.  
We give from what we have and as we are able;  
but always, we give in hope and faith and love.

*Gil LeFevre, Oakville, ON*

#### **Hymn of Thanksgiving – MV79, 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.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

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.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

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.

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  
christchurchfernie@gmail.com

## **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 hope – **Open our hearts to love**

God of love and mercy, be with us as we gather in these uncertain times.

The pandemic is drawing to an end, the world is beginning to re-open.

Calm our minds, give us the deep peace we seek as we yearn to know you.

God, as we hope – **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 tired from carrying never-ending stress during the pandemic, and who seek deep rest and peace.

God, as we hope – **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 hope – **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 Archbishop 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 hope – **Open our hearts to love.**

Bless and protect those who are on our hearts today.  
Those who have received, are waiting to receive the vaccine.  
Whose names we offer to you silently or aloud -- PAUSE  
God, as we hope – **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 hope – **Open our hearts to love.**

Bless those who have received their first and second doses of the vaccine. Give patience to those who are still waiting. Bring calm to those who are uncertain whether or not to receive the vaccine.  
God, as we hope – **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 hope – **Open our hearts to love.**

### **Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer**

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

### **Your Generosity Matters - “Good Grief” - Mary Elson**

#### **Commissioning**

God send you from here in the power of love.  
God keep you filled with the Holy Spirit.  
God build in you the reign of Christ.

*Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, ON*

# Extinguishing our Candles

### **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...

Reverend Andrea will be on vacation from later this afternoon until the 6th of September.

If you have a pastoral concern, please speak to Carole Chorostecki, Bill Silversides or Mary Elson. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact the aforementioned, who will contact Father David who is on call for emergencies.

**NEXT WORSHIP** – 22 August - Zoom Worship at 11:30 MT with the congregation from St. Saviour's Pro-Cathedral in Nelson.

## Credits:

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2021, Voices United, A New Zealand Prayer Book, and More Voices. Prayers of the People and Extinguishing prayers written by Reverend Andrea L. Brennan ©2021.

CCLI – Christ Church #3172609  
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