

13 December 2020 – Advent III



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Land Acknowledgement

We gather here, mindful of the many who, for millennia, have called this valley home, or depended on it's 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 our Candles

As the days shorten and the nights lengthen, one small light can illuminate our way to safety. We light this candle for Peace as we continue on our Advent journey of waiting...patiently...for Emmanuel.

Call to Worship

ONE: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have
again brought us together on the Lord's Day
to praise you for
your goodness and to ask your blessing.
Give us grace to see your hand
in the week that is past, and
your purpose in the week to come;
through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Opening Hymn – CP103

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Confession and Absolution

ONE: Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

ALL: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. AMEN

ONE: Merciful God,
grant to your faithful pardon and peace,
that we may be cleaned from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.

ALL: AMEN

Collect of the Day

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist,
through all such faithful ones
you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life.
Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise
that we will walk in the way of Christ,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen

The Proclamation of the Word

Reader – Kathryn Gould

One: A reading from the Prophet known to us as Isaiah.

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11

The Good News of Deliverance

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Reverend Andrea L. Brennan – Waiting...for Joy.

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.

Hymn of Praise – CP109 v.1 **When the King Shall Come Again**

When the King shall come again, all his powers revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,
this is God's redemption day, longingly awaited.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Bill Silversides

ONE: In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work:

ALL: For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

ONE: For this community, our country, and the world;

ALL: For all who work for justice, freedom and peace.

ONE: For the just and proper use of your creation;

ALL: For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.

ONE: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

ALL: For all those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

ONE: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

ALL: For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

ONE: For Neil our Regional Dean, Lynne our Bishop,

Melissa our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate;

For Kathy our Regional Minister, Blair our Regional President,

Treena our Executive Minister, Richard our Moderator.

ALL: For all who serve God in the Church.

ONE: For our own needs and those of others.

ALL: Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.

ONE: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

SILENCE. The people may add their own thanksgivings.

ONE: We will exalt you, O God our king;

ALL: And praise your name for ever and ever.

ONE: We pray for those who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

We pray that they may recover fully.

And if it be that a cure may not be had,

may their death be swift and gentle as they are called home into your arms.

ALL: Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for all those who continue to work on the front-lines;
the medical personnel, the truckers,
the grocery clerks and cashiers;
For the local small-businesses who are
trying to remain safely open;

ALL: Hear us Lord, for your mercy is great.

ONE: We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those
whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your
eternal kingdom.

SILENCE. The people may add their own petitions.

ONE: Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

ALL: Who put their trust in you.

ONE: Gracious God,
you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;
you know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.

Grant our requests as may be best for us.

This we ask, in the name of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN

Offertory Hymn – CP107 2x
Prepare the Way

Prepare the way of the Lord,
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people shall see the salvation of our God.

Prayer Over the Gifts

God of abundance,
we bring you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope
as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son,
our Saviour and Lord. Amen

If you wish to make a donation to support our ministry
please send a 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

COVID-19 Prayer

Holy and Compassionate God,
You accompany us in the wilderness.
You are present with us in this crisis time in our lives and in the world.
We pray for the people of the Diocese of Kootenay,
For clergy, leaders, parishes, and people.
Strengthen our community.
May your Holy Spirit connect us even in our distance.
May we know you abide with us:
Be our Calm as we face uncertainty and readjust plans and routines.
Be our Rock in rapid change; give us resilience.
Be our Shelter in the whirlwind;
hide us under the safety of your loving wings.
Be our Peace; free us from fear.
Be our Strength; replenish us with courage.
Be our Compassion; enliven us to serve those in need.
Into your hands we commend our spirits,
In the name of Jesus, our Healer and Redeemer. Amen

Rt. Rev. Dr. Lynne McNaughton, Bishop of Kootenay

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,
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.

Doxology

ONE: Glory to God

ALL: whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask for imagine.

ALL: Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

ONE: May the God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguishing our Candles

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

Sending Song – MV75 – 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 14 December – Administration and Worship Prep

Tuesday 15 December – Funeral for the Reverend David Fuller @ Noon
Reverend Andrea delivering Sermon and Eulogy

Wednesday 16 December – 10:00 am Saints Day Worship at Christ Church

Thursday 17 December – Reverend Andrea at Knox

Friday/Saturday 18/19 December – Andrea+'s Sabbath

Our Next Worship:

Sunday 20 December – Advent IV

10:00 am – Worship in the Style of the United Church

Credits:

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Service of the Word, Alternative Collects from the Anglican Church of Canada, Common Praise, Voices United, and More Voices. Candle lighting, Prayers of the People and extinguishing prayers written by Reverend Andrea L. Brennan (c) 2020.