

Sunday 19 December 2021 - Advent IV



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

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

Three candles are lit for Hope, Peace and Joy

The fourth Sunday of Advent we mark with Love.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

“Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life”.

Isaiah 43.4

How extraordinary it is to love and to be loved.

(light the Love candle)

To the Tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

The fourth Sunday of Advent is Love  
The greatest of which comes from above;  
Our dream that He will set the world free  
A promise made for you and for me.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to us O Israel.

### Call to Worship

It is Advent,

Jesus is coming, be alert.

In times of joy and abundance,

**we are ready.**

In the midst of difficulty and danger,

**we are ready.**

In times of uncertainty and fear,

**we are ready.**

In times of apathy and despair,

**we are ready.**

With anticipation and with hope, we look for God’s long-promised one.

**We will not be disappointed.**

**We will not be disheartened.**

**Jesus is coming and we are ready.**

*David Sparks, Summerland, BC*

## **HYMN – MV134 There was a child in Galilee (Dreaming Mary)**

“There was a child in Galilee who wandered wild along the sea.  
A holy child, alone was she, and they called her Dreaming Mary.

And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour;

She dreamed of justice for the poor.

She dreamed that kings oppressed no more

When she dreamed, that Dreaming Mary.

One holy day an angel came with voice of wind and eyes of flame.  
He promised blessed would be her name when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.

Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour.

She spoke of justice for the poor.

She spoke that kings oppressed no more 

When she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.

And did she dream about a son?

And did he speak, the angel one?

We only know God’s will was done in the son of Dreaming Mary.

Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour.

She taught him justice for the poor.

She taught that kings oppressed no more

When she taught, that Dreaming Mary.

Then Jesus grew in Galilee, they wandered wild along the sea.

Now he calls to you and me to dream with Dreaming Mary.

And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour.

We dream of justice for the poor.

We dream that kings oppress no more as we dream with Dreaming Mary.”

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Gracious and Wonderful God,

we come to your word seeking refuge from the chaos of the world.

Hug us gently so that we may feel your comforting Holy Spirit.

Fill the yearning of our hearts and souls with your love and peace.

Feed us with your holy word so that our longing will cease.

We come exhausted from fear, anxiety, stress, despair, and frustration.

Allow us to rest in your love and ease our burdens.

We come, O Lord, to receive the words of scripture.

**Amen**

*Judy Sears, Sault Ste. Marie, ON*

## Reader: Kirsten Gillespie

Luke 1.39-55

### Mary Visits Elizabeth

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

### Mary's Song of Praise

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN – VU29 Hark the Glad Sound**

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace, to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring, with your beloved name.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "The definition of Love"

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

**Invitation**

It is the season of Advent, the season of gifts and giving.  
We love in our hearts, let us worship God with our offerings  
as we anticipate in wonder, the birth of the Christ Child.

**Amen**

*Lori Van Santivoort-Jansekovich, Thunder Bay, ON*

**Hymn of Thanksgiving – VU64 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

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

## **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 - Kirsten Gillespie**

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, as well as their booster shots. 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 “Alone at Christmas” - Mary Elson**

### **Commissioning**

As we go forth in this Advent season,  
Let there be love and light!

Amen. Shalom. Peace. Paix. Mit Migwetch. Amen.

*Carman McClelland, Brampton, ON*

### **Extinguishing our Candles**

As we move from this time of community in communion  
**we hold in our prayers 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 – Joy Shall Come**

Joy shall come, even to the wilderness,  
and the parched land shall then know great gladness,  
as the rose, as the rose, shall deserts blossom  
deserts like a garden blossom.

For living springs shall give cool water,  
in the desert streams shall flow,  
for living streams shall give cool waters,  
in the desert streams shall flow.



### **Upcoming this week...**

This afternoon - 1:30 pm Rocky Mountain Village - Carol Sing

Monday 20 December - Christmas Worship Preparation

Tuesday 21 December - Office Hours at Knox United Church

Wednesday 22 December - 10:00 am Worship at Christ Church  
Office Hours

Thursday 23 December - Christmas Worship Preparation

Friday 24 December - Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm - Zoom only - Pajama Mass "The Gospel According to Sheep"

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve - Fernie Knox United

9:00 pm - Christmas Eve - Christ Church Anglican

Saturday 25 December - 10:00 am Communion Worship Christmas Day

Sunday 26 December - NO PARISH WORSHIP

Worship is available on the Diocese of Kootenay YouTube Channel

**NEXT WORSHIP** – 2 January 2022 – 10:00 am

First Sunday, Holy Communion

hosted at/by Fernie Knox United Church

### **Credits:**

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2021-2022, Voices United, A New Zealand Prayer Book, and More Voices. Advent Candle Litany, Prayers of the People and Extinguishing prayer written by Reverend Andrea L. Brennan © 2021.

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