

24 December 2020 – 9:00 pm



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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

We light one single candle. A candle for hope, peace, joy and love. This one, humble candle can illuminate the darkness enough, that we may feel safe and wrapped in the love of God. We celebrate the birth of a baby in a place so plain and ordinary – the night love came down to earth.

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 – CP120
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Oh 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.

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

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Proclamation of the Word

Reader – Bill Silversides

One: The Lord be with You

All: And also with you.

One: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2.1-20

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he

was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: The gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon – The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan “And so it begins...”

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 - CP138 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King!

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The Incarnation Litany – Norma Bayer

(In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe,
saying, "Lord, grant us peace.")

One: By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel,
hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

One: By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

One: By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

One: By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi,
hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

One: By the submission of the maker of the world to
Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

One: By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan,
hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

One: Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become
the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

Offertory Hymn – CP139

The First Nowell

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

Prayer Over the Gifts

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others.
With the trees of the field, with all the earth and heaven, we shout for joy
at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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

We have celebrated the birth of the Christ-child,
we have seen that love can overcome darkness,
we now extinguish our candles
safe in the knowledge
we will be together again soon.

Sending Song – CP119 Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child, Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Upcoming This Week:

Friday 25 December – 10:00 am – Christmas Day Service

10:00 am – Communion Service Broadcasting from Andrea+'s home

Saturday 26 December – Andrea+ Sabbath

Sunday 27 December – NO SERVICE – Andrea+ Sabbath

Monday 28 December – Worship Preparation

Tuesday 29 December – Office Hours at Knox United

Wednesday 30 December – Office Hours at Christ Church

Thursday 31 December – Homiletic Preparation

Friday/Saturday 1-2 January – Andrea+ Sabbath

Sunday 3 January 2021 – Epiphany

10:00 am – Communion Sunday Broadcasting from Knox United

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.