

Friday 24 December 2021 - Christmas Eve - 7:00 pm



www.rrumc.com

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.

Christmas Eve – Emmanuel

This is the night we have been waiting for – Christmas Eve!

The prophet Isaiah wrote: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel”.
Isaiah 7.14

Tonight we receive the greatest gift.

(light the Christ candle)

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

O God-with-Us is born this holy night
His mother wraps him in the cloths so tight;
A helpless baby born in a stall
From hope, peace, joy and love for all.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, has come to us, O Israel.

Call to Worship

Listen!

The air is still.

Listen!

In the distance we hear the murmur of voices!

Listen!

We hear the cry of a child!

God is with us!

God is with us; let us worship.

Sandy Ferguson, Edmonton, AB

VU62 Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who with God is over all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
there among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern, daily, when on earth he grew
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless, is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God,

through the beautiful dark night

that unfolds with God's love,

**and filled with the Presence that shone
over the Christ child's birth,**

we come, like wise ones of old,

to celebrate the Christ in our lives.

**We come, like wise ones of old,
seeking a sign, a message, a revelation,
as we honour the Child born this night.**

Bless us as we receive the words of scripture.

Alleluia. Amen.

Richard Bott, Vancouver, BC

Reader: Ev Cutts

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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word!

Thanks be to God.

VU2 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "Not the Best Start..."

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

Call to Offering

God of stars and stables, of wealthy sovereigns and homeless youth, we each bring our gifts as we are able, knowing that the strength of community will bless each gift. Our community is empowered by your love, to work peace on earth. We pray to you, O God, bless these gifts, which are our expression of care and concern for each other.

Laura Rousseau, Winnipeg, MB

HYMN - VU74 What Child is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

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

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 Thanksgiving - VU69 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Prayers of the People

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fled into Egypt,
give comfort to all refugees;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fasted in the desert,
give relief to all who are starving;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,
give strength to all who suffer;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Emmanuel, Head of the Church
**hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy forever. Amen.**

from The Church of England

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**

Commissioning

May the comfort promised by Isaiah go with you
as you leave this time of worship.

May the tenderness of God speak to your heart.

May the challenge of Christ give purpose to your rest and your work.

And may the renewal of the Spirit call you into tomorrow.

Bob Root, Peterborough, ON

Extinguishing our Candles

As we move from this time of community and 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

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

Sending Song - VU67 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, Hallelujah,
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...

Christmas Eve

9:00 pm – A traditional Christmas Service
broadcasting from Christ Church Anglican, with hymns

Friday 25 December – Christmas Day

10:00 am – Christmas Day Christmas Communion Service,
with hymns, broadcasting from Christ Church Anglican
If joining from home, please have your Communion Elements ready

Sunday 26 December - NO PARISH SERVICE

[Diocesan Service available here](#) at 10:00 am MT

NEXT WORSHIP – 2 January 2022 – Epiphany! Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship – Broadcasting from Fernie Knox United Church
If joining from home, please have your Communion Elements ready

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from [Gathering: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2021-22](#), [Voices United](#), [More Voices](#), and The Church of England. Candle lighting litany, candle extinguishing prayer written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.

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