

Sunday 18 April 2021 - Easter 3



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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. May we be good and gracious guests of this corner of Creation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

we light this candle that represents both the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection and the affirmation of God's love for all. We are comforted by the light that shines within each of us...this light given to us through the Holy Spirit to pass on to others.

Today, let us open our hearts and minds to both the receiving and the giving.

Julie Hutton, Minnedosa, MB

Call to Worship

Come this day with hope because God loves you.
Come this day with peace because you are forgiven.
Come this day with joy, for Jesus Christ is risen.
Because you live, O Christ, we live abundantly.

**Let today's worship testify to our
hope, peace, joy, and love
because of all our great God has done.**

Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota

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 – VU477 v.1 I Come With Joy

I come with joy, a child of God
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

Prayer of Illumination

Sheltering One, keeper of hearts,
as we receive your word today,
bring us into open spaces
where peace and reconciliation will thrive.
With joy and blessings, in Christ's name. **Amen**

Barbara Cairns, Cornwall, PEI

Reader: George Ferris

1 John 3.1-7
Children of God

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

HYMN – VU266 v1. Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "Children of God"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

You startled us when you came into our world.
You startled us when your love touched our hearts.
You startled us with your kindness and open heart.
You startled us when you rose from the dead.

Receive these, our gifts, we pray.
Startle us again by the good work these gifts make
possible that we may startle ourselves with our
generosity, made possible by your love. **Amen**

Bob Root, Peterborough, ON

Hymn of Thanksgiving – VU229. v. God of the Sparrow

God of the sparrow, God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise?

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

Petition and **Response:**

God, as we fear – **Open our hearts to love**

God of love and mercy, be with us as we gather in these uncertain times.
We have just passed one year in this pandemic, and are not finished yet.
Calm our minds, give us the deep peace we seek as we yearn to know you.
God, as we fear – **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 testing their own health so
that they may keep us safe, fed and supported.

God, as we fear – **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 fear – **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 fear – **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 fear – **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 fear – **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 fear – **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 - "Margaret's Story" - Mary Elson

Commissioning

What is the world waiting for?

Glimpses of heaven above?

Or glimpses of the kingdom around us?

Let our witness to the kingdom be a moment of
revelation to it's wonders amongst us. **Amen**

Sandy Ferguson, Edmonton, AB

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we celebrate the resurrection, may we share that joy and hope,
knowing that one day, we know not yet what day,
we will be together again, not necessarily as we wish,
but as we are able. Amen

Andrea Brennan, Fernie, BC

SENDING HYMN – MV90 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 19 April – Administration and Worship Planning

Tuesday 20 April – Reverend Andrea at Knox United
2:00 pm - Knox Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday 21 April – Reverend Andrea at Christ Church
10:00 am - Saint's Day Worship broadcast by Zoom

Thursday 22 April – Worship and Homiletic Prep
Noon - Greater Clericus

Friday/Saturday 23/24 April - Andrea+'s Sabbath

NEXT WORSHIP – 25 April - Easter 4 broadcasting from Christ Church Anglican

Credits:

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Lent/Easter 2021, Voices United, and More Voices. Communion Liturgy and extinguishing prayers written by Reverend Andrea L. Brennan ©2021.

CCLI – Christ Church #3172609

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