

Epiphany - 2 January 2022



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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 Christ Candle

Come, all people of God, to a place where our hearts are open and ready to receive God's precious gift, to a time when sharing the news of birth and hope gives us a glimpse of a bright future. Come, let us worship and praise as we celebrate a new year, new beginnings, and new hope for the world. Come into the light of Christ.

The Christ Candle is lit.

Sharon Winegarden, Lion's Head, ON

Call to Worship

The wise men saw the star in the east and followed the star until it, trusting they would find God.

We gather here, today, with the same trust that we too will find God.

Moving past fear and doubt, they followed the star until it stopped right over the place where the Christ child was.

We come hoping to move past our fear and push beyond our doubts so that we, too, might find the Christ among us.

Upon finding him, they offered their finest gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We bring our best gifts too, knowing that in God's presence they will be transformed and so will we.

Let us worship God.

Catherine Tovell, London, ON

Opening Prayer

Arise, shine, and let the light of God be within you:

Be within us, O God, and share with us your light on our path.

Be a beacon of light and hope in a world that is immersed in shadows and despair.

Be among us, O God, and shine your light on our path.

Let the light of the star in the east remind us that we can find God's direction for our lives if we only look.

Be with us, O God, to show your light on our path as we worship today.

Amen

Bill Steadman, Goulais River, ON

Opening Hymn - VU79 Arise! Your Light is Come

Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise your light is come! All you in sorrow born;
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like angels on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Prayer of Confession

When the magi needed a new path, God sent them a dream. When you need a new path, God will send you dreams and inspiration too. This is God's promise. Will you open your heart and mind to receive it? In the silence of our hearts, let us share with God our longings and our challenges, and the places in our lives where we need new paths:

Time of Silent Prayer and Reflection

O Generous God, as we look back on the year just passed, we know that we missed paths you were opening to us, perhaps because we did not have enough hope, peace, joy and love. May the courage and wisdom of the magi be ours in this new year.

Amen

Words of Assurance

The magi followed a star on a long, difficult journey. They had to push aside their fear and doubt. They were cold and weary. Their story reminds us that we too can make the long, difficult journey even with our fear, doubt, and weariness because God is traveling along with us. We too can choose new paths and find the hope, peace, joy and love we need in God.

Amen

Norah Laverty, Sioux Lookout, ON

Reader: Suzanne Artley

Reading: Matthew 2.1-12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Praise – VU87 I Am the Light of the World

I am the light of the world!

Everybody come and follow me!

If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,

when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun.

I am the light of the world!
Everybody come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

– To find the lost and the lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above.

I am the light of the world!
Everybody come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

– To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!

I am the light of the world!
Everybody come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!

I am the light of the world!
Everybody come and follow me!
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of
what you were meant to do and be.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan "Gifts..."

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Invitation to Giving

When we think of Epiphany gifts, we tend to think of the gifts of the magi, and we tend to romanticize those as the most appropriate, even though they were symbols of something bigger. Indeed, it has been asked, "What was so wise about the magi giving such gifts to a poor refugee baby?"

Offering Prayer

May we give Epiphany gifts of ourselves too, just like Jesus. For we, too, do little miracles and challenge convention in the way we care for others and in the way we now give of ourselves in our offering.

David Lander, Grafton, ON

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
christchurchfernie@gmail.com

Your Generosity Matters: The Wisdom of Thoughtful, Intentional Giving **Presented by: Mary Elson**

Communion Hymn – VU46o All Who Hunger

All who hunger, gather gladly, holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered, in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

Communion Liturgy

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to God.

We must give thanks to God our Creator!

The Creator blesses us all!

All that is sacred, all that is holy, come from You, our living God.
When we cannot be physically together because of a pandemic, you are there.
When we lament our physical distance from each other, you comfort us.

You created order from chaos, your children from clay, and blessed us
with minds to think, hearts to love and mouths to speak.

Even when we fail you; even when we disappoint ourselves, you are there.
Loving us through the chaos, standing us up when we fall down.
Calming us as we live with a virus, we were certain would be over by now.

Staying with the remains of children discovered in multitudinous unmarked graves.
Giving protection to those who are traumatised from generations old hurts.
Reminding us that there are alternatives to war as the world struggles for peace.

Protecting us from the evil in the world; you are there.
And so, we join with the chorus of heavenly bodies as we say;

**Holy, holy, holy God, Holy and blessed are you.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Glory to you, O God most high.**

And so, as we gather from around this fragile earth
our island home to celebrate the night you made the ordinary, extraordinary.

That fateful night, at supper with his friends,
Jesus took ordinary bread,
bread they had shared many times before.

He took it, blessed it, broke it and said
This is my body, broken in love for you".

Jesus took the cup, what was left from the meal,
a meal shared many times before.

He raised it, blessed it and said
"Take this cup, the cup of salvation.

When you take this bread and this cup,
remember that I am with you always.
A covenant and promise I make, to never forsake you".

And so, as we take this ordinary made extraordinary
this bread and cup, God's promise and love,
broken and poured, blessed and shared,
joining us together as a spiritual family.

**Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ will come again.**

We take our bread, or that which represents Christ's body.
We take our cup, or that which represents Christ's blood.
When we consume these, we will never be the same.
We will become closer to you, dear God, and to each other.

We thank you God, for the many blessings of this Earth.
We ask you to pray for those we carry on our hearts this day.
We ask you to be with those who need your strength,
and to those you call home today,
may those they leave behind always know your love.

Joining our prayers and praises together,
Let us pray the prayer our Saviour taught us...

**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**

Distribution of Communion

Taking the Bread, Pouring the Cup

The bread of Christ

Broken in love for us.

The cup of salvation.

Our way to eternal life.

The elements are consumed. A moment of silence follows.

Commissioning

Today, we journeyed from afar to see this child whom we call Lord and Saviour. By the light of that same star that lit the way of the magi and shepherds, Jesus has appeared to us, in an epiphany of hope, joy, and love. In faith, we have worshipped him. Like the magi of old, may we always seek the guiding light of his presence as we live and serve day by day. **Amen**

Kate Gregory, Belwood, ON

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we move from this time of community and communion

we hold in our hearts 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 – VU23 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 springs shall give cool water,

in the desert streams shall flow;

Repeat getting faster each time...

Upcoming this week...

Monday 3 January - Admin and Worship Prep

1:30 pm - Meeting with Bride and Groom at Fernie Knox United

Tuesday 4 January – Andrea+ at Fernie Knox United

9:30 am - 12:30 pm Office Hours

1:30 pm - Pastoral Call

Wednesday 5 January - Andrea+ at Christ Church

10:00 am - Saints Day Worship (by Zoom)

11:00 am - Office Hours at Christ Church

1:00 pm - Joint Church Committee Meeting (by Zoom)

Thursday 6 January - Andrea+ away from 6-12 January

Sunday 9 January - 10:30 am Joining Windermere Valley Shared Ministry for Worship. Zoom Worship link to follow.

Resources

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from:

Gathering: Christmas/Epiphany 2021/2122, Voices United and More Voices.

Candle lighting, extinguishing and Communion Liturgy written by

Reverend Andrea L. Brennan © 2022.

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