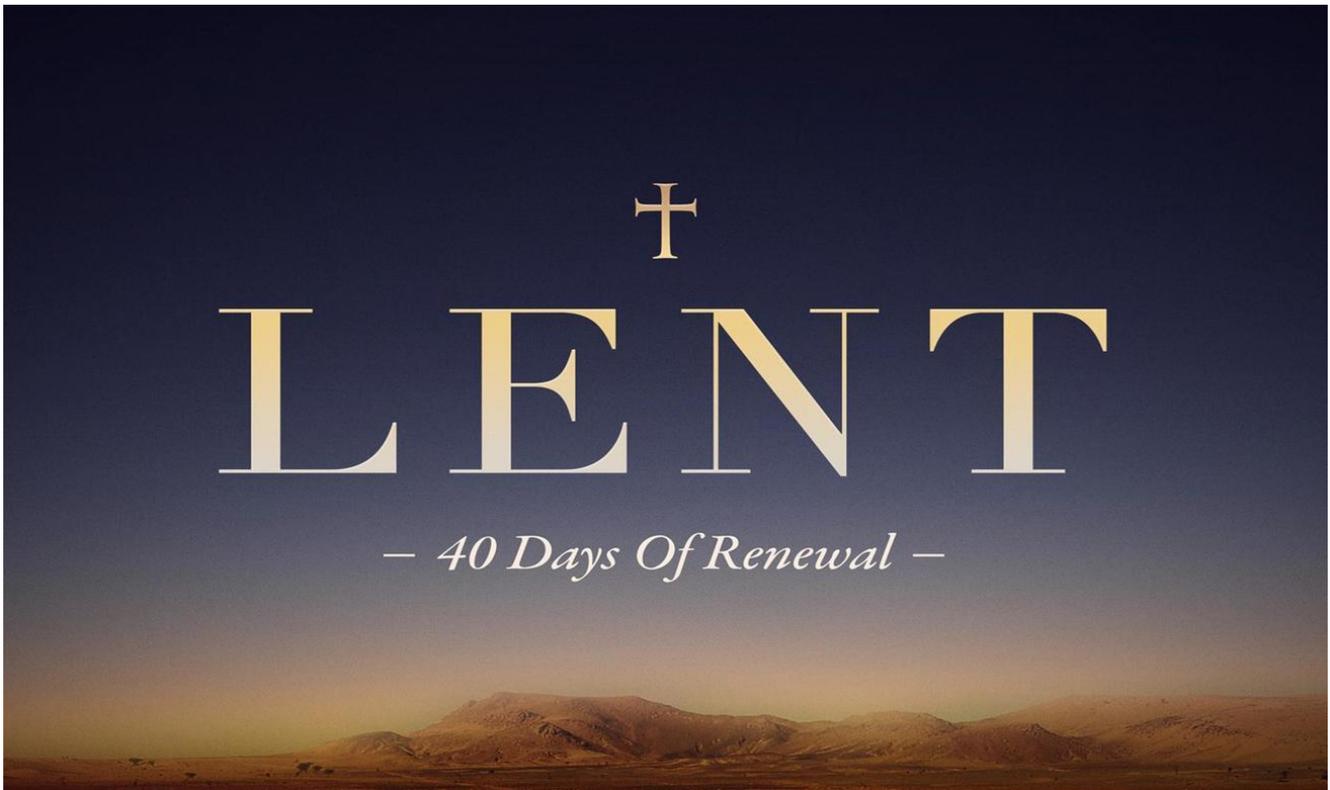


Sunday 21 February 2021 Lent I



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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

As the people of Israel walked in the desert,
they followed the pillar of cloud by day,
and the pillar of fire by night;
as we journey this Lenten path
to Jerusalem, the cross and beyond...
we follow the light of Christ!

Richard Bott, Vancouver, BC

Call to Worship

On this first week of Lent,
we come seeking God.

IN this time of uncertainty in our lives,
we come seeking God.

Quieting our minds, opening our hearts,
and waiting for the divine mystery to make itself known,
we come to worship God.

Catherine Tovell, London, ON

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 – MV144 v.2 Like a Healing Stream

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream

Prayer of Illumination

God of light and life,
God of prophets and law-givers,
God of revelation,
open us to your word and will this day.
Open us to your ways,
so that when we leave this place,
we can be your people
wherever our journey takes us. **Amen**

Beth W. Johnston, Nipawin, SK

Reader: Sandra Colden

1 Peter 3.18-22 - Suffering for doing right

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

HYMN – MV135 v.1 Called by Earth and Sky

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the earth of love again.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - "Why must we suffer?"

We Responding in Giving and Gratitude
Our Church Tithes and Offerings

Call to Offering

For the love of the world,
Jesus offered everything he had, even life itself.
In response to this powerful gift of love,
let us offer our gifts and our lives to God,
as we share in our offering.

Frances Flook, Emo, ON

Hymn of Thanksgiving – VU480 v.1 Let us Break Bread

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

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.
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 Bishop 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.
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 echo 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 - “Lynda’s Story” - Mary Elson

Commissioning

May the path that Christ walks
to bring justice upon the earth,
to bring light to those who sit in shadows,
to bring out those who live in servitude,
and to bring new things to all creation,
may this path run through our lives.
May we be the road Christ takes.

Aaron Palmer, New Liskeard, ON

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

As we enter the 40 days of Lent,
may we hold tight to the promise of the resurrection,
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...

TODAY! Knox United Church AGM beginning at 11:30am

Monday 21 February – Administration and Worship Planning

Tuesday 22 February – Reverend Andrea at Knox United

Wednesday 23 February – Reverend Andrea at Christ Church

10:00 am - Saint's Day Worship broadcast by Zoom

Noon - Kootenay Clericus by Zoom

Thursday 24 February – Worship and Homiletic Prep

Noon - Kootenay Cluster by Zoom

Friday/Saturday 19/20 February - Andrea+'s Sabbath

NEXT WORSHIP – 28 February 2021 – Lent 2

10:00 am Worship – broadcasting from Christ Church

11:30 am - Christ Church AGM

Credits: The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from Gathering: Lent-Easter 2021, Voices United, and More Voices. Candle lighting, candle extinguishing prayer and Prayers of the People written by Reverend Andrea Brennan.

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CCLI License – Knox United Church #3172609