

## Sunday 21 March 2021 Lent 5

CREATE IN ME A  
CLEAN HEART, O GOD,  
AND RENEW A RIGHT  
SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

PSALMS 51:10

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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**

Light and warmth are returning to the land outside these walls. Light and warmth are represented in the light that glows from this flame. May the symbol of this lit candle remind us of the reality of the land and the light and warmth of our presence with God.

*Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, NT*

### **Call to Worship**

We gather in Lent, not to beat ourselves up,  
not even to confess our sins or to be dour,  
but to be real,  
to be authentic,  
and to be as wholly ourselves  
and in our relationships as we can muster.  
We worship.

*David Lander, Castleton-Grafton, 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 – MV115 v.1 Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New**

Behold, (behold), behold (behold), I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, (behold), behold, (behold), I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

### **Prayer of Illumination**

Radiant and Glorious God, Creator of Earth and Sky,  
come be our still point. We worship, seeking nourishment,  
renewal, and comfort. Most of all, we seek to discern your will.  
Open our sources to glimpse your kingdom,  
unblock our lives that we might be open to your kingdom,  
and free our spirits that we might soar with you. **Amen**

*Laura Turnbull, Penticton, BC*

### **Reader: Kirsten Gillespie**

#### **Psalm 51**

#### **Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone into Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgement.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

### **HYMN – MV12 v.4, Come Touch Our Hearts**

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

Sermon: The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan - “Cleansing...”

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

#### **Call to Offering**

You have promised, O God, that if we reach out in faith,  
you can and will do the impossible.  
We pray that you will take these gifts that we have brought today,  
and by your grace, transform them into  
what you need to further your kingdom here on earth. **Amen**

*Fern Gibbard, Penticton, BC*

### **Hymn of Thanksgiving – MV1 v.5 Let us Build a House**

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

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 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 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 - “Arwa’s Story” - Mary Elson**

### **Commissioning**

Let your path be guided by love,  
loving each other and serving God in the world.  
In the name of Jesus Christ who is love,  
shows us how to love, and loved us first of all. **Amen**

*Gill Le Fevre, Oakville, ON*

### **Extinguishing the Christ Candle**

As we move towards the end 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...**

Monday 22 March – Administration and Worship Planning

Tuesday 23 March – Reverend Andrea at Knox United

Wednesday 24 March – Reverend Andrea at Christ Church

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

3:30 pm - Knox United Board Meeting

Thursday 25 March – Worship and Homiletic Prep

Noon - Greater Clericus

5:30 pm - Christ Church Parish Council

Friday 26 March - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm - Susan Beaumont Course 4 of 4

Saturday 27 March - Andrea+'s Sabbath

**NEXT WORSHIP – 28 March 2021 – Palm “Cedar” Sunday**

10:00 am Worship – broadcasting from Christ Church

Please have a cedar branch for waving at the appropriate time!

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

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