

A Worship Service to Honour
National Indigenous Day of Prayer
20 June 2021



"One With Christ" Roy Henry Vickers

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

Lighting the Candle

The light is all around us -- a sign of the season for us as northern people.

(light the Christ candle)

The flame of this Christ candle reminds us of the beauty and presence of the light that paints the sky, bathes the land, and brightens our path. Thanks be to the Creator for fire and sun, for flame and symbol, for the light of Christ.

Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, NWT

Call to Worship

We gather to worship, to celebrate, and to lament!

We honour the Ktunaxa and Métis people of this unceded territory and their long stewardship of this territory.

We rejoice that God calls us to be distinct, yet united.

We praise God with joy and thanksgiving, and seek God's wisdom for right relationship!

Hymn – MV79 Spirit, Open My Heart

Spirit, open my heart to the joys and pain of living. as you love, may I love,
in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joys and pain of living. as you love, may I love,
in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joys and pain of living. as you love, may I love,
in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joys and pain of living. as you love, may I love,
in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

Prayer for NIDP from ACIP

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name.

You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness.

Mercifully grant that your people journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ who is our light and our life.

AMEN

Reader – Sandra Barrett

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gospel According to John - John 1.1-18

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Hymn of Praise – MV157 v.1,4,5 I Am a Child of God

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,

I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,

I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

Interview with Reverend John Snow,
Indigenous Minister, Pacific Mountain Region

The Reverend Andrea L. Brennan
Sermon – Shame...

Images of Reconciliation
Gimikwenden Ina - Corey Payette

Prayers in the Four Directions

There are gifts from each of the peoples in the four directions of the world. The winds of the different directions remind us of these gifts.

Let us turn now to the East. The east represents the yellow-skinned peoples of the world. This direction symbolizes new life on the earth and reminds us of our connectedness to creation. The sun rises in the east; each day is a gift; life itself is a gift. We offer the gift of tobacco to cleanse us. Help us to be mindful of the new life offered in your Son, we pray.

Creator, Great Mystery, hear our prayer.

We turn to face South. South represents warmth and growth. This direction represents women, the doorway to life. The colour of the south is black, representing the black-skinned peoples of the world. May we be encouraged to walk through the doorway to life and light. We offer the gift of cedar to clear our minds and thoughts.

Warm our lives with the passion of the Good News in Jesus Christ.

Creator, Great Mystery, hear our prayer.

We turn to face West. West, symbolized by the colour red, represents the gift of rest, the passing of time and of those who have gone before. Aboriginal peoples of the earth are symbolized in this direction. We offer the gift of sage to clear away the darkness and despair. Fill us with the deep peace of Jesus as the darkness of night wraps around us and brings us to a new dawning.

Creator, Great Mystery, hear our prayer.

We turn to face North. North is symbolized by the colour white, and represents coolness and the white-skinned of the world. A gift of this direction is clarity of vision and a sense of the strength we need to live each day. We offer the gift of sweetgrass to enlighten our minds. Creator of Wisdom, teach us to love as Jesus loves, and to see him in all our relations.

Creator, Great Mystery hear our prayer.

We turn to complete the circle and to look:

To God who cleanses our Earth

With snow, wind and rain.

To Jesus Christ who fills us with the wideness of mercy and

Lovingly embraces us all,

And to the Holy Spirit who inspires us.

Creator, source of all healing, you hear the deepest prayers of our hearts, touch the lives for all whom we have prayed with the healing only you can give. AMEN

Creator, we offer the gifts of sweet grass, tobacco, sage and cedar as a prayer for purification and as a reminder for those gathered here to cleanse our thoughts and hearts that we may hear and be guided by your word and direction.

We thank you for all our relations:

the four leggeds, the wingeds,

the star people of the heavens

and all living things you have blessed us with to sustain this life.

Empower each of us through the bringer of Peace,

your Son Jesus,

to see and change for better the common life

of all people and creation.

Hear our prayers this day and everyday.

Accept our thanks for all the blessings you have given us,

and for the opportunities to use these blessings

for your honour and glory in service to others.

AMEN

Hymn of Praise – MV18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary x3

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy, tried and true;

with thanksgiving I'll be a living

sanctuary for you.

Confession

Creator and Loving God, we want to say we're sorry for all the times we have separated ourselves from you and closed our hearts to your give-aways. We have not always respected the gifts you have given us so that they will be there for the seventh generation. Forgive us and help us to walk the sacred path shown to us by the Great Peacemaker Jesus Christ.

AMEN

Absolution

May the Creator forgive us, may Jesus renew us, and the Holy Spirit enable us to grow in love.

AMEN

A Litany for the Healing and Restoration of our Church

Holy Creator, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being.

Have mercy on us.

Risen Christ, through whom the whole creation is reconciled to God,

Have mercy on us.

Life-giving Spirit, whose love and truth fills the world and searches the depths of our lives,

Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

Have mercy on us.

From our failure to recognize and respect the revelation of your truth and love in the First Peoples of this land,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our participation in the systemic oppression of Indigenous sovereignty, language, culture and spirituality,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our role in the Indian Residential Schools designed to eliminate the unique society, wisdom and beauty of the Indigenous peoples of this land,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

From our continued acceptance of unjust legal, educational, health and social structures that continue to oppress and destroy the lives of many Indigenous people,

Saviour, forgive and heal us.

Oh God, we pray for the gifts of your grace and your love which never gives up on us and is forever faithful. Inspire our minds with a vision of the reconciliation of your kingdom in this time and place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see the sacredness in all creation.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may hear from every mouth of every people the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may speak of the beauty of every tongue and dialect proclaiming the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our minds that we may witness to your Good News in our neighbourhoods, communities and all parts of the world.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may forever shun violence and embrace the work you give us to do.

Hear us, O Christ.

Draw your Church together, O Lord into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving you in your mission in the world, and together witnessing to your love on every continent and island of your creation. We ask this in the name of the Risen Christ in whom we are one. **AMEN**

Meditations on 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 the 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 for ever. AMEN

Your Generosity Matters - Mary Elson

Prayer Over the Gifts

Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your Creation.
Feed us with the Bread of Life, your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN**

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

Concluding Prayer

Let us pray. In gratitude for this moment, and these people,
we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and
cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the
commonwealth of heaven. **AMEN**

Blessing

From this place we are connected to each other..

Though your faith may differ from mine, and your language may be unfamiliar to me, we
are each created in a spirit of love.

From this place we are responsible for each other..

**Though we may be worlds apart, boundaries of land, race, economics, and religion can
have no meaning and borders fall away if you are in need.**

From this place we reach out to each other..

And together we will seek justice, respect creation, grow in faith, and build the future.

From this place we bless each other..

**We give thanks for your being, we bless your creation, made in the image of God who
delights in you and cherishes you.**

Extinguishing Our Candles

As we prepare to continue with our day
we extinguish our candles, knowing
we will be together again, soon --
not necessarily as we wish, but as we are able.

Sending Song – 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 21 June - National Indigenous Day - Sermon Prep and Admin

6:00 pm - Watch Party "Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts" by Zoom

Tuesday 22 June - Office Hours at Knox United

2:00 pm - Knox United Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday 23 June - 10:00 am Saints Day Worship broadcast from Christ Church

Office Hours

Thursday 24 June - Worship and Sermon Prep

Friday/Saturday 25/26 June - Andrea+'s Sabbath

Our next worship:

Sunday 27 June @ 10:00 am broadcasting from Outside Christ Church Anglican
on the back lawn of City Hall. All are welcome, COVID protocols to be followed.

Worship Resources:

The liturgy today has been compiled with resources from the National Indigenous Day of Prayer (NIDP), Anglican Council of Indigenous Persons (ACIP), New Zealand Prayer Book, 600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World, Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2021, and More Voices.

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