

I cannot emphasize enough how this water purification technology is precisely what is needed in rural South Sudan. Not only can the filters be made locally with local materials, but they can be given to schools, clinics, and hospitals where innumerable people will benefit. Without concern about original safety of their accessible water sources, people can benefit from using the filters immediately without having to find cleaner sources or dig wells before they can hold a glass of clear and pure water in their hands. Furthermore, the filters are very user and easy to manufacture and maintain.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the government of Northern Bahr-EI-Ghazal State, the biosands-filters training workshop was held at the Council of Ministers at the Main State Hall in Northern Bahr-EI-Ghazal. Our gratitude is owed to the government of Northern Bahr-EI-Ghazal for allowing us to conduct the demonstration and training in the presence of state government officials. I am very enthusiastic about how well this has been started, and we have developed a system where individuals or organizations can contribute sponsorship for communities, families, or individuals to have their own filters. These are the options available to those who are interested in contributing sponsorship:

\$100 USD to provide one low-income household to have their own filter

Donations of any amount to subsidize the cost of filters for those who cannot afford the full price, but are willing and able to pay part of the cost

Donations to provide multiple filters as needed in schools and medical facilities where more than one filter is necessary

For those who do not have someone sponsoring them to have filters, extra cement will be donated, and in some cases people will have the option of exchanging community volunteer work for a filter. Other more wealthy individuals and organizations that do not need sponsorship will be expected to pay for their own filters.

Note that tax receipts are available upon request.

Please refer to the two links below to view photos of the construction of the clinic and the making of the biosands filters, respectively:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/williamkolong/ClinicPhotos#>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/williamkolong/BiosandFilterPhotos#>

Regards

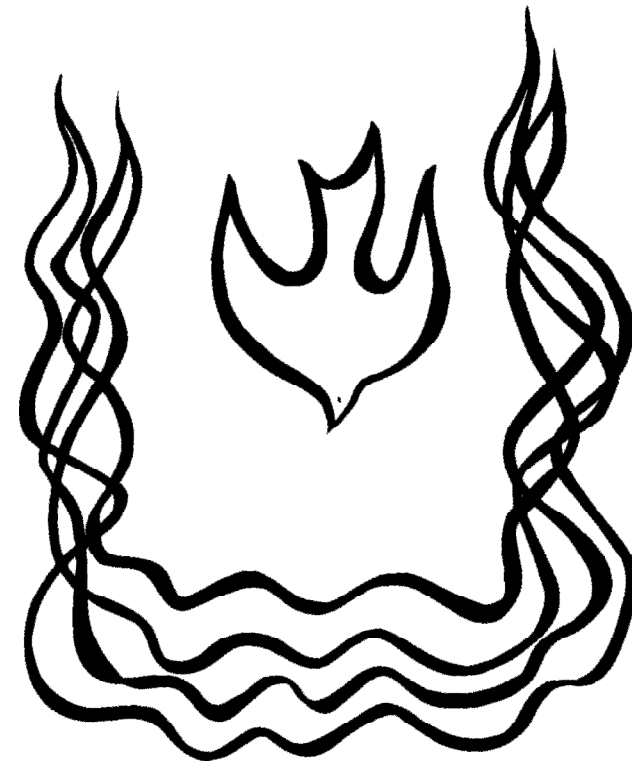
William Kolong Pioth



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2009

Dessert Potluck

Please don't forget our annual dessert potluck next Sunday, **December 20**, after the service. This is the time of the year when everyone is invited to bring a favourite dessert to share.



Our thanks to our Japanese friends from UBC for all their work and time spent on making and finishing 1000 paper cranes (senbazuru) which now hangs over the entry door to the sanctuary. And thanks to all the children and adults from FLC, who participated in this project demonstrating our solidarity with the Lennikovs and our desire to see Mikhail go free.

Advent/Christmas Schedule

December 15

Christmas Tree Decorating, 7:00 pm

December 20

Fourth Advent, 10:30 am
(Advent Lessons and Hymn Service)
Potluck Dessert after service

December 24

Carol & Candlelight, 7:30 pm
(Christmas Lessons and Carols)

December 25

Christmas Day Eucharist, 10:30 am

December 27

First Sunday After Christmas, 10:30 am

January 3

Joint Epiphany/Los Reyes Service with
St. Thomas Anglican
10:00 am at St. Thomas

**Potluck Lunch after service
(we are expected to bring food
too)**



WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14–20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Response after reading: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2–6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isa. 12:6)

Refrain:



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not ¹be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become ¹my salvation.

³**With joy you ¹will draw water from the wells ¹of salvation. R**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call ¹on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name ¹is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done ¹gloriously; let this be known in ¹all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O ¹royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy ¹One of Israel. **R**

Tone:



SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Response after reading: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Let Your Steadfast Love" (Sing before and after reading) p. 103

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Response after announcement: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Response to conclusion of reading: Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (All rise)

SENDING

BLESSING (Threefold Blessing)

p. 115

SENDING HYMN #246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"
v.2-women, v.3-men, v.4-organ

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Hark, the Glad Sound

Paul Manz

Announcements

This Week

Monday
Confirmation, 7:00 pm

Tuesday
Christmas Tree decoration, 7:00 pm

Next Sunday
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Worship, 10:30 am



Our thanks to Pr. Ken Harris for bringing in a message of hope and promise in these last days before the arrival of the One who is our hope and our promise.

Homestay



To those of you who are interested in hosting Japanese students from UBC, please contact the church office at 604 435-6020. About 7 students are waiting for families to welcome them in their homes, individually (or couple), during the Christmas break to help them practice their English while school is not in session.

We rejoice in your strengthening presence this day, O God, for in you there is no fear of retribution. May those who worship in this place find confidence in the welcome of genuine community and the warmth of holy hospitality.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your comforting presence this day, O God, for you promise never to leave us or forsake us. Keep us in communion with all the saints *especially Lucy, whom we commemorate today, and...*, until that day when all tears will be wiped away and sorrow will be no more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Alert and on guard for the coming of the Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Soon and Very Soon* Arr. Jack Schraeder

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*All rise*) p. 107

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*The three-fold exchange is sung unaccompanied*)

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” p. 108

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts) p. 110

FRACTION The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

“LAMB OF GOD” p. 112



It is Christ himself who invites all the baptized members of God's family — and all our guests — to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. During Advent, the wafer is received in the open palm. All may drink from the first (common) cup or, instinct (dip) the wafer into the second (pouring) cup. Those who desire prayer and anointing for the healing of any illness or brokenness in mind, body or spirit are invited to receive these blessings after communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

#260 “*The King Shall Come*”

Legend

Peter Tchaikovsky

“NOW, LORD, YOU LET YOUR SERVANT” p. 113

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows the homily*)

HYMN OF THE DAY #241 “*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*” v.3-unaccompanied

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one. *A brief silence.*

We rejoice in your saving presence this day, O God, for you promise to alleviate disasters and gather outcasts. Through us, bring relief to all for whom any calamity or catastrophe has created suffering and displacement. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your renewing presence this day, O God, for you give us your saving word that makes us die to sin and raises us to newness of life. Keep your church steadfast in your word and receptive to the ways of your Spirit among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your providing presence this day, O God, for you are the supplier of our every need. Provide warmth and food for all who lack such basic human needs, and use our hearts and hands as the means of your gracious provision. Be with and make whole all who are in any need, *especially...* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in your sustaining presence this day, O God, for in your goodness and mercy you bring forth the fruits of the earth. As field and farmland now rest in winter's night, may harvests again be bountiful after seedtime and summer's growth.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**