



**Advent I**  
November 29, 2020 + 4pm

Welcome to the AbbeyChurch

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today, know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's creation – and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey - but we share a guiding sacred Story as found in scripture (The Bible) and summarized in ancient Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God, and with our questions and doubts.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressives, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together in unity as we gather each week at Jesus' table of welcome.

## Welcome

*Bell x3*

As we gather to worship, we acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, worship, and play. Recognizing and lamenting the harm of colonialization, we seek ways to enter into new relationships based on gratitude, respect, truth-telling and justice.

*(We invite you to take a moment to remember and name with gratitude the people who have stewarded the lands on which you live - at AbbeyChurch this is the land of the Lekwungen People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations).*

*[together we say]* **From many places and many peoples, we come to this house in prayer.**

As quietly as the winter steals upon us, the season of Hope approaches.

**We wait for you Redeemer, for your love to come in its fullness.**

From the rising of the winter sun to its setting

**Scatter the shadows with the light of your hope and prepare our hearts for your coming.**

Let us pray: God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence!

But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead, you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead, you are born among us as an infant.

Instead, you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least we will try because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. **Amen.**

### **Opening Chant**

Creator of The Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior, to set free  
Your own in glorious liberty.

Words: Lati, 9th century; Music: *Conditior alme siderum*, painsong

### **Candle Lighting**

If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is it! We hardly know how to describe the year we have lived through. All we know is that nothing seems right, nothing seems like it used to be, nothing. We need God to come and enter the mess with us - to be God-With-Us! The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence." So tear through and enter our mess, O God, and come to us again. We long to be your people, a people refreshed with hope.

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope!

*(Candle is lit)*

Hope that God will meet us, even in the mess of our world. Hope that God will see us, though we feel we are lost and alone. Let this single light be a guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Be our God-With-Us!

## **Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

C. Wesley / Public Domain - tune: Hyfrydol

## **The Readings**

### **The Hebrew Scripture**

Liz Dieleman

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people...The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

*Chanted* Caroline Allen

You have been gracious to your land O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their head to you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Lord you will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

*[ending with]* ...Glory to you Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.\* **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.*

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Come to us, Emmanuel we wait for thee with bated breath  
And hope filled hearts and anxious minds

Longing to see your face and worship at your feet

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

## **The Gospel**

Vanessa Caruso

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark: Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."... The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

So come to us Emmanuel - we live in hope of your return  
to bring new life - to this old world  
to end all wars and to heal all hearts  
and to reign forevermore - to reign forevermore

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

### **Sermon**

Rev. Katherine Brittain

*Bell / Silence / Bell*

## **Affirming our Faith / Magnificat**      Zion Crosby-Shearer

My soul doth magnify the Lord  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For \*he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm  
he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our \*forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.  
\*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

Dyson Magnificat in Cm / OneLicense \*Or "God" \*Or "forebears"

\*Or "Glory to you Source of All being..."

## **Prayers of the People**      A Visual & Musical Reflection

Video from ReThink Worship - painter Daniel Giesbrecht

<https://www.rethinkworship.com/painting-advent-videos-downloads/>

### **Confession**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in mercy and infinite and goodness, let us turn to the light and confess our sins...

*Bell. Silence is kept.*

Merciful God, **we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Jesus, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.**

### **Absolution / Assurance of Grace**

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the incarnate One be with you.

**And also with you!**

### **Offertory Song: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish

As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six wingèd seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia - Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Fifth Century / Paraphrase Moutrie / Public Domain

### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

Jesus our hope, we believe that you are present in this Sacrament we will share. We love You above all things and desire to receive You into our soul. Since we cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as if You were already there, and unite ourselves wholly to You. Receive our we offer you this day - our lives, our hearts and this bread and wine. Never permit us to be separated from You. **Amen.**

*Adapted from Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)*

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**Cantor: And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts

**Cantor: We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Cantor: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands... a justice that would never fail.

**Cantor: Glory to you forever and ever.**

...Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your creation we sing:

**Holy holy holy Lord God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest +Blessed is the One who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna is the highest.**

Presider: While Jesus was eating with his disciples...:

“Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**Cantor: Glory to you forever and ever.**

Presider: As supper was ending... do this in remembrance of me. **Cantor: Glory to you forever and ever.**

Presider: Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your Child:

**Cantor: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit ...and made one in your love. Amen. Cantor and people: Amen

As beloved children of a loving parent, we pray a paraphrase of the prayer that Jesus taught us... *(this may be said in a language or paraphrase of your choice, or as below):*

***Abba, Amma, Beloved hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

*Silence.*

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world. Feed on Christ in your hearts through faith with thanksgiving! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Communion Song: We Will Feast In The House of Zion**

*Refrain:*

We will feast in the house of Zion

We will sing with our hearts restored

You have done great things, we will say together

We will feast and weep no more

In the dark of night before the dawn my soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning, O how long?  
O God of Jacob, be my strength. *Refrain*  
Sandra McCracken / Drink Your Tea Music / CCLI

### **Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, strengthen our faith, increase our hope and grant us a place at your heavenly table. Nourish us with your Word and send us with your Spirit, that we may create tables of welcome in our lives this week. Through Jesus Christ, we pray, **Amen**

### **The Blessing**

#### **Closing Song: Wait For the Lord**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!  
Ateliers et Presses de Taize / OneLicense

### **Sending**

Go in hope to prepare the way of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

### **Postlude: May You Find a Light**

Lyric Video by the Brilliance



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