



Stanley Spencer (British, 1891–1959), Christ Overturning the Money Changers' Table, 1921.

Lent III
March 7, 2021 + 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.

The AbbeyChurch worships, prays, plays and gathers on the traditional and unceded lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

***Come as you are. a wilderness people...
basking in grace.***

Announcement Loop / Tolling of the Bells

Opening Words

God our loving Creator, touch our hearts that we may enter the silence where you wait for us...

Bell / Silence / Bell

...Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.

Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, so that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship.

Let your breath enter and calm us, your mystery surround us, your truth fill us and the wings of your love enfold us. Amen.

Tenebrae Candles and Confession

We welcome this wandering-wilderness-lent as a time to seek conversion and reconciliation. Let us offer our gratitude and draw to mind the places in our lives, in our world, in our community in need of mending.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy)
Eric Wyse / Brentwood / 2006 VineRidge / CCLI and OneLicense

Let us pray,

Holy God, today we give thanks for your wild and diverse creation. For the creatures in the depths of the dark ocean, for the arbutus and the cedar, for the birds that rise and fall on ribbons of wind and we imagine the life that may exist in the deepest darkest parts of the universe, on remote asteroids or planets where we could not survive. We confess the injury done to the earth and its ecosystems. In the holy darkness of Lent, remind us that we are a creature in your interconnected creation and turn our lives to the care and tending of your good earth. Amen.

[We extinguish the first three candles]

Song of Descent: Gone Is the Light

Into the darkness we must go
Gone, gone is the light
Into the darkness we must go
Gone gone us the light
Gord Johnson / Signpost Music 2008 / CCLI

Absolution

Song: You Are My Reason to Sing

You are my reason to sing
At the root of all my joy
the Giver of everything
Your law it revives my soul

The heavens declare the work of your hands
Day after day they bear witness to your glory
May the words of my mouth, the mediation of my heart
Be pleasing in your sight O Lord my rock and my redeemer

The way of our Lord is true
It is righteous and everlasting
His laws are radiant
His commands make wise the simple

The heavens declare....
Words and music by Peter La Grand / 2013 Ordinary Time Music / CCLI

Poem by mary kerr selected and read by our poet-in-residence
céline chuang (莊善寧)

The Readings

Psalm 19 Cæli enarrant

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.
One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, *
more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, *
than honey in the comb.
By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how often they offend? *
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; *
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, *
and innocent of a great offense.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable in your sight; *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Glory to you Source of All Being, Incarnate Word and Holy Spirit - as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Epistle

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE
CORINTHIANS (1:18-25)

Chivonne Graff

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one

who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Mass

Praise and honour, honour and glory,
glory to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Christopher Walker / OCP / OneLicense

The Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO JOHN

Rev. Arleigh Alexander

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

....The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We repeat the gospel acclamation.

Bell / Silence / Bell

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that God is present
In the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in Jesus, a with-us God
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit and a faith
that takes us beyond a safe place:
into action, into vulnerability
and onto the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live and pray powerfully
and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen** (Iona, alt.)

Our Prayers

Cornelia van Voorst

The Peace

ASL by Nancy Walker

The peace (of Christ) be with you.

And also with you!

Offertory Song: God Has Chosen What is Foolish

God has chosen what is foolish,
what is easy to despise,
to save us from our own wisdom
and to shame what we call wise.
God has chosen what is weakest,

what cannot be counted on,
to save us from our own power
and to shame what we call strong.

What is strong by human measure?
War and wealth seem strong and real.
What is weak? A human body,
met by fists and wood and steel.
Yet the body of our Jesus
has defied the cross and grave.
God has cherished what is fragile,
come in Christ to mend and save.

God has chosen what is nothing
to be something in his sight,
and to send into the shadows
those who seem to own the light.
Some things seeming now the greatest
will be dream-like, fading fast.
God has chosen what is empty
to be filled with joy at last.

Text: Richard Leach; Tune: HOLY MANNA (Traditional American) / OneLicense

Prayer Over The Gifts

Help us to hunger for the Bread of life and the Cup of salvation
so that we will truly desire you – and in desiring you, seek you –
and in seeking you, find you in the great sacrament of your
love. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands...
...and a justice that would never fail.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Through countless generations your people hungered for the bread of freedom... ...and join with heaven and earth in the hymn of unending praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. Lord God of power and might.
He---av'n and earth are full. Full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Ble--ssed is he who come comes,
Who comes in the name of Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Tune: Picardy / French Carol 17th cent.

While Jesus was eating with his disciples,
he took a loaf of bread,
and after blessing it,
broke it, gave it to them, and said,
“Take, this is my body.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Glory to you forever and ever.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine
and after blessing it, poured it,
gave it to them and said,
“take, this is my blood,
do this in remembrance of me.”

Glory to you forever and ever.

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

**Dying you destroyed ou-r death,
rising you restored ou-r life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Tune: Picardy / French Carol 17th cent.

As you sustained Jesus in his hunger and thirst, strengthen us
to keep our Lenten fast... ...be gathered and made one in your
love. Amen

As beloved children of a loving parent, let us pray... (this may
be said in a language or paraphrase of your choice, or as below):

**Our Father, (or Parent, as you prefer)
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. 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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us. Caroline Allen

Prayer after Communion

The heavens declare your glory O God,
and the firmament shows your handiwork.
God of love, at this table we have set aside our power in order to
feast on the weakness found in the broken bread; we have let go
of our wisdom, that we might drink from the cup of your foolish
grace. Send us nourished for your holy work of subversive hope
and foolish love. **Amen.**

The Blessing

God who watches over you, will never slumber nor sleep.
God who watches over you, will never slumber nor sleep.
Oh my child lay your burdens down. Lay them at My feet.
God who watches over you, will never slumber nor sleep.

Alana Levandoski / CCLI

...and the blessing of God...

Closing Song: Yet Still This Will Not Be

The trees are great with summer
But the sunrise seems much colder
We're teaching brutal lullabies
And nurturing child soldiers
With munitions from our factories
We're sending them our best
A metal sash of bullets To wear across their chest. *Chorus.*

Yet still this will not be
Though all around is rage
The story getting darker
With each turning of the page
Yet still this will not last
This kingdom of the fool OWill be humbled and made low
When the broken hearted rule. *Chorus.*

We legislate much more for us decree for you much less
We mouth platitudes on justice
Whilst exporting lawlessness
The doctrine of self interest
Is our testament and style
We fire missiles at the heavens
And put the moon on trial. *Chorus.*

And narrow is the access
To our strong rooms and our vaults
As we toast our toxic riches
And reinforce the bolts
And we'll film you and your wasting bones
Your dignity and pride
As we carry on expanding
Our bankruptcy inside. *Chorus.*

There's a journey that's now calling
Towards the ocean's heart
It's an offering of mercy
Where we play the selfless part...
We'll leave our treasure by the roadside
And our trinkets in the dirt
Giving back life and ruby riches
To the ruined and the hurt. *Chorus.*

Martyn Joseph

The Sending

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God

Bell x 3



**admin@emmauscommunity.ca
www.abbeychurch.ca + 778 977 7562**