



Photo: Cornelia van Voorst

Lent 4

March 14, 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.

Tolling of the Bells

Introitus: Laetare Ierusalem

Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: ut exsultetis, et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis vestrae.
Psalm: Laetatus sum in his quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus.

*Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult, and be filled from the breasts of your consolation.
Psalm: I rejoiced when they said to me, we shall go into God's House!*

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.

Eric Wyse / Brentwood / 2006 VineRidge / CCLI and OneLicense

Let us pray,

Holy God today we turn to you in rejoicing. We honour the beauty and joy of the fireflies, the owls, the crickets, the stars, the light of the fire and nights warm embrace. We give thanks for the beauty and joy to be found all around us and we confess the ways that we let our fear overtake our joy. We recall the ways that fear wounds our lives and the lives of others, leading to division and exclusion. In the holy darkness of Lent, teach us again how to love and trust and return to you, the source of our joy. **Amen**

[We extinguish the first four 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: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,

Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty;

Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,

Feed me now and ever more;

Feed me now and ever more.

Open now the crystal fountain,

Whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fire and cloudy pillar

Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of deaths, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams; Tune: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes

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

The Readings

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS (21:4-9)
From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107 *Confitemini Domino* (1-3, 17-22)

Give thanks to the Lord who is good, *
and whose mercy endures forever.
Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
The Lord gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south
Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.
Then they cried to you, O Lord, in their trouble, *
and you delivered them from their distress.
You sent forth your word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
Let them give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy *
and the wonders you do for your children.
Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of your acts with shouts of joy

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.

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

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that

whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

We repeat the gospel acclamation.

Sermon

Meagan Crosby-Shearer

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

Vanessa Caruso

The Peace

ASL by Nancy Walker

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Offertory Song: Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son
Thou in my dwelling, and I with thee one

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Text: Irish trad, trans. Mary E. Byrne; Tune: SLANE, Irish trad.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Holy one, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our trust in you and our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. 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, if 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

O God, who enlightens everyone who comes into the world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendor of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing and Commissioning of Rob

Closing Song: How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

(R) Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze (R)

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin (R)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art! (R)

Text: Carl Boberg; Tune: Swedish folk melody

The Sending

As you leave this place,
remember you are God's community in the world:

for God's love endures forever!

As you leave this place,
remember you are alive with Christ:

for Christ's light shines in the deepest shadows!

As you leave this place,
remember the gifts God offers to you:

**for the Spirit fills us with good works to do,
and glad songs to sing to the world!**

Bell x 3

Postlude: Joy to the World (Jeremiah Was a Bullfrog)

Joy to the world
to all the boys and girls
Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea
And joy to you and me!

Hoyt Axton



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