



Image: Meagan Crosby-Shearer, EC

Lent 5

March 21, 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

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 give thanks for the life that stirs beneath the barren winter landscapes, for the universe that births the stars, the darkness of the womb as life

prepares to be born - The slow and patient turning of the season that must exist for there to be a spring. We confess our impatience and our despair. In the holy darkness of Lent, let us find your presence in all that is hidden and waiting, open us to the mysterious life of your Spirit..

Amen

[We extinguish the first five 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

Unless the seed falls to the ground

ain't gonna be no life, ain't gonna be no life at all

Unless this grain of wheat dies

It ain't nothing but alone

Day and night we cry (X3)

Hear us Lord, Hear us Lord

Day and night we cry (X3)

Preserve our lives, preserve our lives

2006 Tom Wuest; CCLI

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

The Readings

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH (31:31-34)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord”; for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;*
in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak*
and upright in your judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,*
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,*
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins*
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,*
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence
*and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again*
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of

this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die...The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We repeat the gospel acclamation.

Sermon

Matthew Humphrey, EC

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

Song: With Great Gentleness

Come to Jesus, He will never cast you out
Come you thirsty, put aside your fear, your doubt
With great gentleness, with great gentleness
He draws you, how He draws you,
See how He draws you to Himself

Come to Jesus, He will satisfy your heart
With His presence, and be your lantern in the dark
With great gentleness, with great gentleness
He draws you, how He draws you
See how He draws you to Himself

Come to Jesus, He will never cast you out
Come you thirsty, put aside your fear, your doubt
With great gentleness, with great gentleness
He draws you, how He draws you,
See how He draws you to Himself

Sandra McCracken, 2017 CCLI

The Peace

ASL by Nancy Walker

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Offertory Song: Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Keith Green / Public Domain

Prayer Over The Gifts

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and takes on new life, it remains just a single grain.

With grateful hearts, we bring the fruit of our lives and the fruit of your earth to this table. Though we cannot receive you now in person, come into our hearts that we may be fed by your life-giving Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray,
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/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

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you draw us and all people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we follow you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing the Seeds

O God, we meet you, in colour and scent, texture and pattern, The humble perfection of all that grows. In abundance you have given seed to the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people will sow in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season.

Amen

Closing Song: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Text: Thomas Obediah Chisholm 1923; Music: William Marion Runyan; Public Domain

The Sending

Bell x 3



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