



Daniel Bonnell, Road to Emmaus I; 2011, Earth Day Poster

Easter III and Earth Week
April 18, 2021 + 4pm
(Earth Day - April 22)

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 joyful resurrection people ... basking in hope!

Why are we still celebrating Easter?

Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. Just as Lent was a 40+ day journey into the wilderness where we focussed on God's abundant mercy and gave up those things that might be drawing us away from God and each other, so Eastertide is 50 days celebration - taking up practices that lead to abundant life, that let us live as people of the resurrection in our daily lives!

In worship you will notice that we keep a joyful tone, we sing and say more alleluias and the Paschal candle that we re-lit on Easter as a symbol of Christ's resurrection stays burning. We also often stand instead of kneel during the Prayers and while we keep our personal times of confession, we put away our corporate confession on Sunday morning as a way to mark Christ abundant love that vanquished the power of sin and death.

We are Easter people and each Sunday is the feast of the Resurrection. This special time of year allows us to enter fully into the joy, liberation and hope that this season brings. That God is continuing to bring life out of death, love out of hate and is calling us all to practice resurrection. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Bell x 3

Opening Responses

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The risen Christ meets us on the road,
and turns our disbelief into joy.

For meeting us in the ordinary moments of our days and lives we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes to us in the Scriptures, revealing a God who
lives through self-giving love, and offers us hearts that
burn.

For meeting us in the ordinary moments of our days and lives we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes to us in the breaking of the bread, in the
daily life and work of a household, in dirty dishes and
sweeping floors, Christ steps into our lives and offers us
peace.

For meeting us in the ordinary moments of our days and lives we give you thanks, O God.

Christ breaks the bread, and offers the life of God for us
and for the life of the world. In this time of Easter, Christ
bids us to Feast on his Risen life.

Thanks be to God.

We need your presence on the long road, Lord.
The road between fear and hope,
the road between the place where all is lost
and the place of resurrection.

Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,
we are in need of your company!

Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,
let this time of worship, open our eyes, and help us see
you, our companion and hope. **Amen.**

Carol Penner [alt]

Song: Now the Green Blade Rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that arising green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love wby hatred slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that arising green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that arising green.

Text: John Macleod Campbell Crum; Tune: NOEL NOUVELET, Old French Traditional

Poem written and read by poet-in-residence Benjamin Hertwig

They Recognized Him when He held the Bread

The road was dusty
and the man they loved
was dead. He cried like
a child when his pinned
body broke.
In their dreams
the soldiers were still
laughing.

They were walking
because they were grieving.

Their bodies were humming
with fear. How many
had been made ghosts by war,
and sickness and soldiers?
The day was almost
over, but even the grieving
must eat.

At the table, the candle
was lit, and they saw him,
as the women had been saying,
all along.

Was it the way he cradled
the bread or the crack
when the crust was broken?
Was it the bright song of the blessing,
how his words
broke open the burning?

Could this be real?

But he was not
a ghost: he was sitting at
the table, asking for food,
like a child. And he ate:
fish and honey.

A body that rises
from dust is hungry.
And they listened,
their sadness blossoming
like olive trees.

The Readings

The Psalm: Psalm 104 *Benedic, anima mea (1-5,16-24)*

Bless the Lord, O my soul; *

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

You are clothed with majesty and splendour.

**You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak *
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.**

**You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters
above; ***

**you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the
wings of the wind.**

You make the winds your messengers * and flames of fire
your servants.

You have set the earth upon its foundations, * so that it
never shall move at any time.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap, *

**the cedars of Lebanon which you planted, in which the
birds build their nests, ***

and in whose tops the stork makes its dwelling.

The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.

You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *
and the sun knows the time of its setting.

**You make darkness that it may be night, *
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.**

**The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.**

The sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.

Mortals goes forth to their work *
and to their labour until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! *

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

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.**

Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Jesus, Let Your Kingdom Come

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! x2

May the works of my hands bring You joy. x2

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus let your kingdom come! X4

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The Gospel

Marilyn Gough, EC, Rev. Elaine Julian and Mark McDonald

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Now on that same day (of the resurrection) two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then

beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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

We repeat the gospel acclamation.

Bell / Silence / Bell

The Creed

I believe in God, the Maker Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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 heav'n,
and it seated at the right hand of the Maker.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy cath'lic,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. A---men.
Ryan Flanigan / Liturgical folk / CCLI

Our Prayers **Cornelia van Voorst** - Artist-in-Residence

The Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

Offertory Song: On the Road to Emmaus

Chorus: Halle! Hallelujah! He is, He is risen!

We're on the road to Emmaus
We are walking with the Lord
Though we do not recognize him
He is right beside us

Refrain: He is risen! He is risen indeed! (x4)

No grave could hold him inside
For he has defeated death
Do our hearts not burn within us
For we know our Saviour lives *Refrain*

Let us open up our eyes
Let us listen to our Lord
In the broken bread we know him
We know him in His Living word *Refrain*
Peter LeGrand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

Prayer Over The Gifts

Oh God, We act as if we are going on, but you urge us to stay, inviting us to this Table where your Spirit blesses the bread and the cup, and your children scattered though gathered together. We take the bread you have blessed and in its breaking, our eyes are opened to see the despair around us, to glimpse the grief of our friends, to witness to the suffering in our midst. We take the cup you give us, and as we drink from it, our hearts burn for the oppressed in our world, for those we walk past, for the hungry and homeless, the joyous and those who are alone. Receive all we offer you this day and make of us your new creation. **Amen.** -Thomas Shuman

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 Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

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:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...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/Source, 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 the risen Christ in your hearts through
faith with thanksgiving! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Communion Song: Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

Be known to us in breaking bread, but do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread Thy table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine; Thy body and Thy blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.

We would not live by bread alone, but by Thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place.

Text: James Montgomery; Tune: NEW BRITAIN

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Remember us, separated by pandemic, but united by faith in the body of the risen Christ; May those who see this celebration of the Eucharist know the presence of Christ in heart, mind and body. Sustain us in our isolation by the power of your Spirit, that we may practice resurrection in your new creation. **Amen.**

Closing Song: Because He Lives

God sent the Son, they called him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
And empty grave is there to prove my saviour lives

Refrain: Because he lives I can face tomorrow
Because he lives all fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living just because he lives

How sweet to hold a new born baby
And feel the pride and the joy that he gives
But greater still that calm assurance
We can face uncertain days because he lives *Refrain*

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns *Refrain*
Gloria and William Gaither / Gaither Music / CCLI

The Sending

You have risen O Christ. Let all creation greet the good news with a jubilant shout!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go from here renewed and strong, Weep with those who weep.
Rejoice with those who celebrate. Tell the story of hope, that Christ is risen from the dead... and the blessing of God...

**All you that sleep, awake, arise from the dead,
for Christ has set us free. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

Earth Week Benediction: The Peace of the Earth

The peace of the earth be with you,
the peace of the heavens too;
the peace of the rivers be with you,
the peace of the oceans too.

Deep peace falling over you;

Christ's peace growing in you. (*Repeat*)

Words: Guatemalan traditional Trans: Christine Carson Music: Guatemalan traditional Arr: John L. Bell T 1998 Christine Carson & WGRG, Iona Community, GIA / Onelicense

Bell x 3



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