



**Season Of Creation**  
**Sept 12, 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, challenge each other toward decolonization, 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, over housed, 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, people of the Spirit...  
Filled with the breath of God!*

## We Gather

### **Tolling of the Bells Welcome Land Acknowledgment**

*Bell x 3*

#### **A gathering prayer for liberation<sup>1</sup>**

Written by Rev. Anna Blaedel. Read by Catherine Pate

“We will make this place our home

**The dirt in which our roots may grow”<sup>2</sup>**

Come, let us dwell in God’s shelter.

**Let us dwell in God’s work of art.**

Come, because the Earth is the Lord’s,

**And God’s Earth is our home.**

*During the song, AbbeyKids will set our season of creation altar and then are welcome to stay or head over to the hall for AbbeyKids. If you have symbols of home, you would like to add feel free to bring them up at this time!*

#### **Gathering Song: Let All Things Now Living**

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving

To God the creator triumphantly raise.

Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,

Who still guides us on to the end of our days.

Love’s banners are o’er us, God’s light goes before us,

A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.

Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished

As forward we travel from light into Light.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/a-gathering-prayer-for-liberation/>

<sup>2</sup> North: Sleeping at last

God's law still enforces the stars in their courses  
And causes the sun in its splendour to shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean in praises combine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis; Tune: ASH GROVE, Welsh Traditional/Public Domain

## **Poem**

selected/ written by Benjamin Hertwig  
AbbeyChurch Poet-in-Residence

## **We Proclaim**

### **Scripture Song: How Long?** (Based on Proverbs 1:20-33)

Wisdom cries out in the street  
In the square she raises her voice  
At the center of town you can hear her speak  
Over all the other noise

She says: How long o simple ones?  
How long will you ignore?  
Wake up you walking dead  
Open your ears to the Lord!

My child do not forget  
The path I show to you  
All other ways only lead to death  
Ways so easy to choose

Trust in the Lord only  
With all your heart and mind  
Then you shall not stumble  
All that you seek you shall find

Wisdom cries out in the street  
In the square she raises her voice

Peter La Grand © 2009/CCLI

## The Psalm

*\*We say the psalm responsively.*

Psalm 19 *Cæli enarrant*

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \* and the firmament shows the handiwork of the Lord.

**2 One day tells its tale to another, \* and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

3 Although they have no words or language, \* and their voices are not heard,

**4 their sound has gone out into all lands, \* and their message to the ends of the world.**

5 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.

**6 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.**

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; \* the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. 8 **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; \* the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; \* the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10 More to be desired are they than gold, \* more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, \* than honey in the comb.**

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \* and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12 Who can tell how often they offend? \* Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 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.

**14 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, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

I Praise You, O God

61

Unison  
♩ = 104

The musical score is for a unison song in 3/4 time, marked with a tempo of 104. It features a melody line and a bass line. The melody line starts with a Dm chord and includes notes for G/D, Dm7, G/D, and Bb. The lyrics are: "I praise you, O God, with all of my heart. With all the earth I will sing your prais-es. I prais-es." The score includes a "Repeats" section and a "Last time" section. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords C, Bb, C, Bb, C, and Dm. The piece concludes with a piano (p) marking.

*A shorter song of praise suitable as an acclamation or a psalm refrain.*

Words and music: David Robertson, after Psalm 138:1

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**The Gospel: Mark 8:27-37**

Margot Spence, EC

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*We repeat the acclamation*

**Sermon**

Matt Humphrey, EC

*Bell / Silence / Bell*

**The Creed** (sung)

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 is 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 catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, +the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Ryan Flanigan, alt., © 2017, Common Hymnal, CCLI

## **Our Prayers**

Jesus Christ could not find a place to lay his head.

**Because of our will to dominate, millions of our human family are displaced from their homes. Many lack access to clean water and sanitation. Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

Foxes of the field and birds of the air have a place to call home.

**Because we misuse the land, the soil, water and air, habitats are desecrated, and millions of species no longer have a home. Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

Your promise was to be a blessing for all the peoples of the Earth.

**But when we exploit the gifts of creation, Indigenous lands are devastated and those who live close to the Earth lose their ways of life. Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

The mustard seed provides shelter for many.

**But we seek security for ourselves, instead of mutual care and faithful hospitality towards our co-creatures. Have mercy on us, for the sake of the Earth and all that is in it.**

Let us remember "that we ourselves are dust of the earth" our very bodies are made of her elements, we breathe her sacred air and we receive life and refreshment from her sacred waters. May we hear it as a promise and a calling.

*We take a moment in silence to offer our prayers of lament and rejoicing*

**Turn us O God, from our desire to unroot ourselves from our home in the garden, and from our will to dominate your Earth. Call us again, to till and to keep. Gather us into the power of just relationships that heal and sustain. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth and safeguards a home for all. Amen.**

### **The Peace**

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you!**

### **Offertory Song: Take Up Thy Cross And Follow Me**

I walked one day along a country road,  
And there a stranger journeyed too,  
Bent low beneath the burden of His load:  
It was a cross, a cross I knew.

*Chorus:*

“Take up thy cross and follow Me,”  
I hear the blessed Savior call;  
How can I make a lesser sacrifice,  
When Jesus gave His all?

“Oh, let me bear Thy cross, dear Lord,” I cried,  
And, lo, a cross for me appeared,  
The one, forgotten, I had cast aside,  
The one, so long, that I had feared. *Chorus*

My cross I'll carry till the crown appears—  
The way I journey soon will end—  
Where God Himself shall wipe away all tears,  
And friend hold fellowship with friend. *Chorus*

A.H. Ackley 1922/Public Domain.

## We Feast

### **The Invitation**

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.  
It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,  
with whom Jesus identified himself.

It is the table of communion with the earth,  
in which Christ became incarnate.

**Made one in Christ and with God's creation, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.** *Iona Community.*

(chanted)

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, all of creation echoes the music of your praise...

...therefore with all of 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 in the highest.**

As Jesus was eating with his disciples...

...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

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us...  
...be gathered and made one in your love.  
(Chanted) **Amen**

### **Silence**

As beloved Children of a loving parent let us pray:  
*(as below or in a translation or language of your choosing)*

**Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker, Source of all that is and shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The Hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your Justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth! With the bread that we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God, given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*All are welcomed to receive at Jesus' table. For those in-house the bread is gluten-free.*

### **Communion Song: Gather Around**

Come take this bread, Come share this cup  
The presence of the Lord is near

At the table, Our lives grown whole  
The presence of the Lord is here

Gather around the broken body x2

Tom Wuest and Peter La Grand/Brass Trumpet Publishing/Used with permission

## **Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, you pour forth your extravagant bounty without measure upon your whole creation: teach us such generosity, that the fruits of our spirits and the work of our hands may build your commonwealth of blessing.

**Amen**

## **We Are Sent**

### **Blessing of the Backpacks and Bikes**

*We process*

#### **Song: We Shall Go Out with Joy**

We shall go out with joy and be let forth with peace,  
the mountains and the hills shall break forth before us.  
There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the fields  
will clap, will clap their hands.

*Chorus:*

And all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,  
And we'll go out with joy.

Steffi G. Tubin & Stuart Dauermann/© 1975 Lillenas Publishing Company/OneLicense

Today, we celebrate backpacks and bikes with those who carry and ride them! **These backpacks will contain work to be done, work that's been returned, books to be studied, games to be played, homework, art and poetry to be created, instruments to be played. These backpacks represent work required of students, teachers and learners now gathered here. May their minds and their pencils be sharp; may their lunches never be forgotten at home; and may their erasers help them to remember that mistakes are okay - and an important part of the process. In every aspect of our life, may we remember our belovedness.**

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, we lift to you today, these students, their teachers, admin staff, custodians, parents and volunteers.

They stand here ready to receive your blessings and they commit themselves to study, learning, creativity and fun in the school year ahead. We ask your blessing on each of them and on these backpacks in the name of God; +Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. As they carry these backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this community that surrounds them each and every day. **Amen.**

God we ask you to bless these bikes; Let all who ride be like flashes of lightning. Pour out your protection on our helmets. Take our handlebars and steer us ever true. Bless our wheels that move us throughout your good Creation - transporting us wherever you would take us. Anoint our brakes that we may know our limits. Fix our seats so that whenever we roam, we might always return safely. +May God bless you and keep you safe on this bike. May you encounter the risen Lord in your travels, in the freedom of the open road and in each person you meet. **Amen.**

Let us pray together:

**May the sun rise up in front of me, may the rain fall behind me, and the wind follow beside me. May God guard my travels. Keep me safe through swirling turns and rolling hills. Let the eagle guide me to the mountaintops, let the moonlight guide me through the night, let the Spirit breathe life into my soul, to begin a new journey and adventure, out on the open road. In Jesus' name we pray.**

Go in the peace of Christ to tend the earth and care for God's good creation.

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*Bicycle bells are rung together joyfully*

*Bell x 3*





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