

*'Consider the Lilies' by Kelly Latimore*

**Harvest Thanksgiving**  
**Sunday October 10, 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, people of the Spirit...  
Filled with the breath of God!*

# We Gather

## **Tolling of the Bells**

### **Welcome**

### **Land Acknowledgment**

*Bell x 3*

### **Table Setting Song: The Bounty is Come**

*During the song, you are invited to set our thanksgiving table!*

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah the bounty is come

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah the bounty is come

When the Autumn leaves have fallen  
And the harvest is safe in the barn  
We'll again give thanks and remember  
it is all the Creator's design

*Chorus:* Creation rejoices, and lifts up her voice  
For what Jehovah has done  
The fruit of our labour, the fruit of the earth  
Hallelujah the Bounty is come

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah the bounty is come  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah the bounty is come

In the coldest days of the winter  
When a blanket of snow hides the fields  
Summer's bounty will sustain us  
As we wait for what Spring shall reveal *Chorus*  
Kenny Meeks / 2016 / CCLI

### **Gathering Words**

We pause today to give thanks and to remember each other as those whose precious and precarious lives are inherently bound together. We pause to give thanks for the basic gifts of water, of trees, of beauty, of the land we gather upon.

**O God, thank you for your abundant harvest in our lives and in the world.**

We give thanks for all those who hunger for justice and liberation today. For the ones who lay down their lives for their friends. For the ones who tell the truth. For the ones

who take risks, who dream, who feed and pray, who fight for bread and roses, both. For the ones who are eager to learn and grow and offer their gifts to the work of enfleshing your dreams.

**O God, thank you for your abundant harvest in our lives and in the world.**

We pray in gratitude for all that nourishes and sustains us. For the gifts of beauty and friendship, shared meals, and art, and love. For laughter. For pleasure. For the friends, lovers, and comrades who lift our spirits, always by our side when the days are heavy. For the freedom we have in Christ. (*enfleshed*)

**O God, thank you for your abundant harvest in our lives and in the world.**

Creator of the fruitful earth, give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that all of creation, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your love. **Amen**

### **Opening Song: For the Fruit of All Creation**

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
for the gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Fred Green/1970 Hope Publishing Co./AR HYD Y NOS/Welsh traditional/ OneLicense

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

## **We Proclaim**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Joel (2:21-27)**

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. Children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM 126** *In convertendo*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

**Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

.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: Alleluia**

Alleluia, alleluia (x4)

Tom Wuest / 2017 / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission

## **The Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (6:25-34):“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today...The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*We repeat the acclamation*

## **Sermon**

Jessica Ziakin-Cook

*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**

### **Confession**

Let us turn to the God of abundant mercy and confess our sins.  
*Bell. Silence. Bell.*

God of Grace, you have gifted us with a world of abundance; a  
land of plenty; We come before you this day to repent from our  
inability to share this plenty.

**God, we declare our own complicity in systems that sustain  
some of us, while forsaking many others.**

**And we come before you to seek your forgiveness,  
even as we pray for your justice.**

Righteous God, you hear the cry of the poor.

You listen to those who do without, while so many spend  
recklessly and our leaders invest the wealth of the nations in  
instruments of destruction.

**Merciful God, hear our prayers of confession.**

**Touch our hearts with gratitude that we may be faithful  
witnesses and effective voices for justice. Amen.**

### **Absolution/Assurance of Grace**

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you!**

#### **Offertory Song: Every Grain of Sand**

In the time of my confession, in the hour of my deepest need  
When the pool of tears beneath my feet

flood every newborn seed

There's a dyin' voice within me reaching out somewhere,

Toiling in the danger and in the morals of despair.

Don't have the inclination to look back on any mistake,  
Like Cain, I now behold this chain of events that I must break.  
In the fury of the moment I can see the Master's hand  
In every leaf that trembles, in every grain of sand.

Oh, the flowers of indulgence and the weeds of yesteryear,  
Like criminals, they have choked the breath  
of conscience and good cheer.

The sun beat down upon the steps of time to light the way  
To ease the pain of idleness and the memory of decay.

I gaze into the doorway of temptation's angry flame  
And every time I pass that way I always hear my name.  
Then onward in my journey I come to understand  
That every hair is numbered like every grain of sand.

I have gone from rags to riches in the sorrow of the night  
In the violence of a summer's dream,  
in the chill of a wintry light,  
In the bitter dance of loneliness fading into space,  
In the broken mirror of innocence on each forgotten face.

I hear the ancient footsteps like the motion of the sea  
Sometimes I turn, there's someone there,  
other times it's only me.

I am hanging in the balance of the reality of man  
Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand.

Bob Dylan / Universal Music / 1981

## We Feast

### **Prayer Over The Gifts / Invitation**

[we say together] **We are grateful**

**You have given us this day  
and have given us this way  
to say thank You.**

**And so we ask You  
to take our small thank you  
into Your great act of thanksgiving  
You, Lord of the loaves and fishes  
You, Lord of the wheat and grapes  
You who are from God,  
with God and for God.**

**You in whom it is all!** Mary Jo Leddy, alt.

*(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.**

Bountiful Lord, we meet in this place, surrounded by evidence of your generosity and give thanks for your gifts.

For the produce of the earth which sustains our earthly life we thank you. For the cross, the bread, the cup, symbols of your grace in Christ we thank you. For each soul here with our own stories of how your love has reached us we thank you.

In gratitude we raise to you our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Therefore with all creation we bless your holy name: **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.**

We thank you, Lord, that you have made yourself known in creation and through your people. When we had fallen into sin, you reached down to us with your conquering love. You were not ashamed to meet us face to face, to associate with sinful humanity, or to take our griefs upon yourself.

We thank you that our Lord Jesus, the same night that he was to be handed over to captivity, torture and death, shared a meal with his friends. In that meal he declared the full extent of his love. He shared the deep feelings of his heart. He took upon himself the task of a slave and washed their feet.

When he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them, he invited them to be sharers in the gift of his body. When he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, he invited them to be sharers in his blood which was shed for them and for us.

We recall that it was at a harvest celebration, the day of Pentecost, that you poured out the Holy Spirit, to make us your people. The Spirit assures us that the body of Christ was given for us and that his blood was shed for us. Send now your Holy Spirit on these gifts that they may be the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.**

Through that same Spirit we cry to you the giver of every good gift on the fruitful earth: Through that same Spirit we cry for peace and justice: Your reign come, Your will be done on earth. Through that same Spirit we cry for wrong to be ended: Come, Lord Jesus.       *Silence.*

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 in heaven hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. 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: God And We At Table Are Sat Down:**

Welcome, all ye noble saints of old  
As now before your very eyes unfold  
The wonders all so long ago foretold.  
God and we at table are sat down.

Worship in the presence of the Lord  
With joyful songs and hearts in one accord.  
And let our Host at table be adored.  
God and we at table are sat down.

Elders, martyrs, all are falling down;  
Prophets, patriarchs are gath'ring round.  
What angels longed to see now we have found:  
God and we at table are sat down.

Who is this who spreads the vic'try feast?  
Who is this who makes our warring cease?  
Jesus, Risen Savior, Prince of Peace.  
God and we at table are sat down.

When at last this earth shall pass away,  
When Jesus and his Bride are one to stay,  
The feast of love is just begun that day.  
God and we at table are sat down.

Robert J. Stamps / © 1972 Dawn Treader Music

**Prayer after Communion** (*spoken together*)

**We give You thanks for You sustain us  
with real food and real drink.**

**You nourish us**

**with friends as real as food**

**with joy as clear as the cool river**

**with love as good as this meal.**

**This is enough.**

**We do not ask for more.**

**This is more than enough -**

**reason to bless Your name forever:**

**Make us mindful of those who do not have enough  
food and friendship - water, love and joy.**

**Give them enough**

**and send us as agents of your enough-ness**

**that all may be thankful.**

**Amen.**

(mary jo leddy, alt.)

**The Blessing**

**Amen**

**We Are Sent**

**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 mighty thunder  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

*Refrain:* 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 *Refrain*

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 *Refrain*

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! *Refrain*

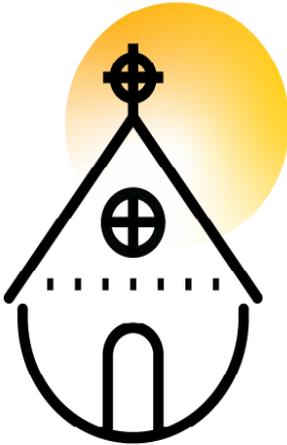
Carl Gustav Bober; trans. Stuart K. Hine / Swedish folk melody / © 1949, 1953 The  
Stuart Hine Trust CIO / OneLicense.

## **Blessing**

### **The Sending**

Go into the world rejoicing in the abundant gifts of the  
Spirit! **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*Bell x 3*



THE  
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CHURCH

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