

The Feast of Epiphany

January 9, 2022



Image: @louishansel
Errachidia Province, Morocco



THE
ABBHEY
CHURCH

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, 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 lands of the łk^wəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation.

*Come as you are, people hope...
Filled with the revolutionary joy of God*

We Gather

Announcement Loop

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Opening Words

Let us be strong and let our hearts take courage,
all of us who wait for the Lord.

Holy One, whose coming we await, we lift our hearts to you: Remind us of your faithfulness, that we may trust ever more deeply in your grace. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ whom heav'n and earth adore,
so may we with hurried pace
Run to seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger crude and bare,
so may we this holy day,
Drawn to you without delay,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Christ Redeemer, with us stay,
Help us live your holy way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

In the heav'nly city bright
None shall need created light;
You, its light, its joy, its crown,
You, its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix; Tune: DIX, Conrad Kocher / Public Domain

Poem

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

We Proclaim

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

(60:1-6, Wil Gafney translation)

Arise, shine; daughter, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you, daughter, shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Song: Come Light Our Hearts

Refrain: For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait. 2X
Truly our hope is in You. 2X

O Lord of life, our only hope,
Your radiance shines

On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts. *Refrain*

O Joy above all other loves,
In you we find more than enough,
We come as we are, O heal and restore
Come light our hearts.

Sandra McCracken / © 2014 Drink Your Tea / ASCAP / CCLI

Psalm 67: 1-7 (*Wil Gafney trans.*)

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of her countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us her blessing.
May God give us her blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of her.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

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The Gospel

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.
With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

(2:1-12, Wil Gafney trans.)

Now Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod. Suddenly sages from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the one born king of the Judeans? For we have seen his star at its ascent and have come to reverence him." When King Herod heard this, he was shaken, and all Jerusalem with him; then calling together all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah would be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
by no means are least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel”

Then Herod secretly called for the sages and learned from them the time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go, search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and reverence him." When they had heard the king they left, and there suddenly was the star that they had seen at its ascent going before them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they rejoiced; their joy was exuberant. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and revered him. Then, opening their treasure, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives!

We repeat the acclamation

Sermon

Rev. Meagan Crosby-Shearer

Bell / Silence / Bell

Reflection Song: Everlasting God

Everlasting God, You alone are the LORD
Over all the Kingdoms of the earth.
You bring out your starry host one by one
And call them all by name.
Everlasting God, you weigh clouds with heavy dew,
Pour spring rains over barren land.
You warm soil with golden light,
Rolling hills you drape in silken moss.

Refrain:

Your grace holds us near
Your mercies rise
Long will our hearts behold you
Everlasting God

Everlasting God, You grant us daily breath,
Guide our feet along the path of peace.
You preserve the poor outcast,
hear prisoner's cries and soothe our broken hearts.
Everlasting God, You alone are the Lord
Over all the creatures of the earth.
You feed us in bread and wine,
body and blood. Your mercies ever new. *Refrain*

Everlasting God, by the star you led forth
Showed the way for shepherds and magi
You bid us: "come and see"
The God in flesh, our world is redeemed.
Everlasting God, we heard the voice,
Saw the dove. And into Christ we are baptized
You speak over us the words:
"You are my Child, your Father is well pleased." *Refrain*

Tom Wuest / Add. verse: Matt Humphrey / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission

Apostle's Creed

We believe in God Almighty, Maker of all heav'n and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, our Saviour:
God's own Son of matchless worth;
By the Spirit was conceived of the virgin Mary born,
God in whom we have believed: God Almighty Three-in-One.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, on the cross, he bled and died;
Placed within the grave so silent, where for three days he did lie;
Then the stone-sealed tomb was empty;
we believe he did arise;
Triumphed o'er the grave forever, over death He is the Christ.

Into heaven he ascended – seated at God's own right hand
'Til he comes again in glory, gracious judge o'er every land;
We confess the Holy Spirit who was sent through Christ the Son
Who is Lord and giver of life – God, the Spirit, Three-in-One!

We believe the Church of Jesus, catholic, it 'ere remains;
We are one through all the ages, the communion of the saints.
We believe sins are forgiven, that our bodies shall be raised
Everlasting life the promise – may God's holy name be praised.
Mindy Deckard, Arr. Bruce Benedict / © Cardiphonia Music 2006 / CCLI

Our Prayers

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

**O Great Spirit, our *Father from above, (*or Parent)
we honour your name as sacred and holy.**

**Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways
in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.**

Provide for us day by day

All the things we need for each day.

**Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others
for the things done wrong to us.**

**Guide us away from the things that tempt us
to stray from your good road,**

**and set us free from the evil one and his worthless
ways... May it be so!**

First Nation's Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament, 2021. Alt.

We Are Sent

Blessing

Closing Song: Arise, Your Light Is Come

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck; Tune: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walker / © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc. / OneLicense

Go in love to prepare the Way.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

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