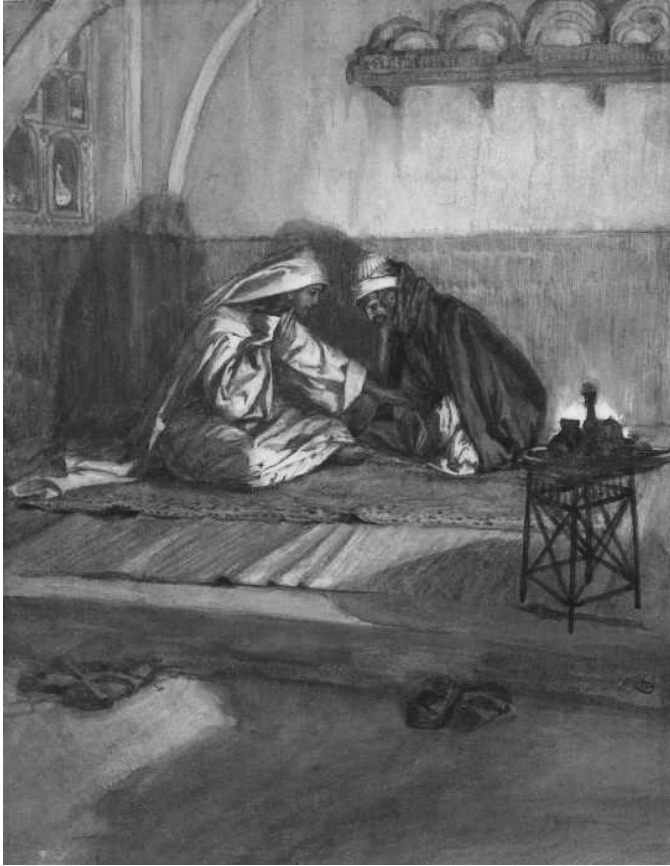


# **The Second Sunday in Lent**

## **February 26, 2023 + 4pm**



*Interview Between Jesus and Nicodemus Jacques Joseph Tissot 1836–1902*



*Beloved companions in the Spirit -  
Come as you are offering our lives  
in the beautiful struggle of faith...*

## **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 our Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God - with our questions and doubts, our disillusionment with our institutions and our concern for our world.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressive, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together and renews our hope as we gather each week at Jesus' table of welcome.

# **We Gather**

## **Opening Loop / Tolling the Bells**

### **Welcome and land acknowledgment**

### **Video Meditation: Psalm 121 A Song of Ascents**

(The Work of the People)

### **Confession**

We gaze upon the Crucified One, our victim,  
and look our awfulness in the eye  
and only there grasp forgiveness,  
and only then become truly alive.

On the cross is lifted up  
our racism, our violence, our materialism,  
Our sexism and heterosexism.  
our deep seated me-first-ism.

Posted there is our last text to God,  
“I’ll let you know when I need you.”

We look at it, look at it hard,  
to get free of the lie that we’re just fine,  
the lie that keeps us from knowing  
how deeply we are forgiven,  
how vastly we are blessed,  
how infinitely we are loved.

Steve Garnass-Holmes via <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>

*Silence for Confession*

### **Trisagion**

Ho—ly God.

Ho—ly and mi—ghty.

Ho—ly I—mmortal One.

Have mer—cy. Have mer—cy on us. *repeat 3x*

4th century or earlier. This version Juan Fernando Ortega 2011 Stylos / CCLI

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

*During the next song, the children will set the front table with symbols of our  
faith and common life together.*

## **Opening Song: He Comes To Us As One Unknown**

A breath unseen unheard,  
As though within a heart of stone,  
Or shrivelled seed in darkness sown,  
A pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie,  
And thoughts of day depart,  
Half-seen upon the inward eye,  
A falling star across the sky,  
Of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,  
The ocean's fume and foam,  
Yet small and still upon the breeze,  
A wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
A voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came,  
By flesh and blood and birth,  
To bear within our mortal frame,  
A life a death a saving name,  
For every child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown,  
Believed obeyed adored,  
The Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
As yet unseen but not unknown,  
Our saviour and our lord.

1973 Hope Publishing Company / OneLicense

**Poem:** Read/selected by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

## **We Proclaim**

### **The Hebrew Scripture**

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (36:24-28)**

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I

will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

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

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.*

**Psalm 121** I Lift My Eyes Up

I lift my eyes up to the mountains  
Where does my help come from  
My help comes from You  
Maker of heaven Creator of the earth

Oh how I need you Lord You are my only hope  
You're my only prayer  
So I will wait for you to come and rescue me  
Come and give me life

Brian Doerksen 1990 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing CCLI

**Gospel Acclamation: Lord to Whom Shall We Go**

Lord to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life  
We've come to believe and to know  
That You are the Holy One of God *repeat*

Carolyn Arends 2021 / © Running Arends Music/ASCAP CCLI

**The Gospel**

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

**With our words and with our lives!**

A reading from the Gospel according to John (2:23-3:15)

When Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone, for he himself knew what was in everyone. Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one

can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You all must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?” “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you all do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

**With our words and with our lives!**

### **Gospel Acclamation: Lord to Whom Shall We Go**

Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life

We’ve come to believe and to know

That You are the Holy One of God

Carolyn Arends 2021 / © Running Arends Music/ASCAP CCLI

### **The Sermon**

**Meagan Crosby-Shearer EC**

*Silence for meditation.*

*Bell / Silence / Bell*

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as affirm our faith with  
the Shema - The Hear, O Israel (Israel = "God-wrestlers")*

## **Hear, O Israel**

*[we say together]* **Hear, O Israel,**

**the Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it:**

**Love your neighbour as yourself.**

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

## **Our Prayers**

**Jesse Robertson**

### **The Peace**

Beloved in Christ, The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you!**

*We acknowledge the peace of Christ in each other.*

*During this next 'offertory' song, the table is set. We welcome you to  
place financial contributions to our common life in the record player in  
the back of the space. Cheques made out to 'The Emmaus Community'.*

*Charitable receipts will be issued if you provide your address.*

### **Offertory: Lead Us to the End**

O God we are crying out  
Marked by the violence of Cain  
Our hands are bloodstained, forgive us  
O God, your children are suffering

You hear the groaning  
You know the sorrows, have mercy  
We are sow-ing in tears  
May they be, Lord, seeds of your peace

Take our hearts of stone  
Give us hearts of flesh  
Lead us to the end of  
Us versus them

Spread wide your table Lord  
Gather us in  
Tear down the barrier walls  
Between us and them

There is a light shining in our darkness  
There is a spring whose waters never fail  
There is a voice crying out in the wilderness  
There is a way of peace through the valley  
through the shadow of death

By the power of the Spirit  
By the word made flesh  
In the kingdom of heaven  
With the wolf and the lamb  
The earth is the Lord's  
And all it contains  
Lead us to the end of us versus them

Songs from the Parish Collective Tom Wuest 2018. Brass Trumpet Publishing

## **We Celebrate**

### **Invitation to the table / Prayer Over The Gifts**

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.

**Amen.** *Church of England resources for Black history month.*

### **The Communion / The Holy Eucharist**

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 our thanks and praise!**

Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands! All of creation echoes the silent music of your praise. When sin had scarred the world, You made a covenant to renew the whole of creation. You embraced a people as your own and filled them with longing for a peace that would last and a justice that would never fail.

**Glory to you forever and ever.**



Through countless generations your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them you raised up Jesus, the living bread, in whom all our hungers are filled.

You have sent your Holy Spirit as a mighty stream to refresh and renew the face of the earth. Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your 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.**

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.

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Show us your presence in the wilderness and shape us into a people of hope, justice, and love. As grain was scattered across this land then gathered and made one in this bread, so may your church, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your love. **Amen.**

*St. Lydia's Table, alt.*

## **The Prayer of Jesus**

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

**Our Father (Mother/Source/Parent) 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.**

*Silence is kept.*

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 welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free. It contains dairy and/or almond flour. If you'd like a dairy or nut free option, please let the presider know. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup. Please do not dip the bread into the cup.*

## **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

Pre-recorded. Agnus Dei (feat. Jen Reardon) · Trinity Music · The Anima Christi © 2009 Marty Reardon / CCLI

## **Communion Song: Deep Love of Jesus**

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus  
Vast unmeasured boundless free  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me

Underneath me all around me  
Is the courage of His Love  
Leading homeward leading homeward  
To Thy glorious rest above

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus  
Tis a heaven of heavens to me  
And it lifts me up to glory  
For it lifts me up to Thee

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus  
Spread his praise from to shore to shore  
How he loveth, ever loveth  
Changeth never, nevermore

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## **Communion Song: We Shall Be Known**

We shall be known by the company we keep  
By the ones who circle round to tend these fires  
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap  
The seeds of change, alive from deep within the earth

It is time now, it is time now that we thrive  
It is time we lead ourselves into the well  
It is time now, and what a time to be alive  
In this Great Turning we shall learn to lead in love  
In this Great Turning we shall learn to lead in love  
(repeat)

Karisha Longaker of MaMuse - sung with permission

## **We Are Sent**

### **Prayer after Communion / Blessing**

Creator of heaven and earth,  
we thank you for these holy mysteries,  
which bring us now a share in the life to come,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Anglican Church of Canada / BAS

Let us sing our blessing to one another...

*(Sung twice responsively)*

Courage **(Courage)**

My Friends **(My friends)**

**You do not walk alone**

We will **(We will)**

Walk with you **(Walk with you)**

**And sing your spirit home**

And the blessing of God...

### **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  
Jesus, remember me when you enter your \*Kingdom  
Jesus, remember me - when your Kingdom comes

*Gord Johnson / Signpost Music 2008 / CCLI*

*\*Or "Kin-dom"*

*We are invited to leave the space in silence  
during this holy season...*

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778 557 4166 Community Cell.

We would love to connect! Call, Text, Email.

