

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024 + 4pm



Image: traditional icon of the triumphal entry.



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 practise 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 summarised 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).

As a witness to unity in diversity, the AbbeyChurch is an affirming shared ministry of The United Church of Canada and The Anglican Church of Canada.

We draw on those spiritual traditions, as well as others across the Christian spectrum. We're also connected to Emmaus, an intentional community that makes commitments to one another for prayer, presence and simplicity.

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



admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca
778.557.4166 We would love to connect.

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Welcome to the Season of Lent

Welcome to the holy season of Lent! This year at AbbeyChurch we are walking into this wilderness aware of how much we are each carrying – our weariness, our concern over the state of our world and our families and our selves, unsure of how best to direct our energies in a world of such complex need. We rage against all the violence and pain... and we weep over the violence that lives inside of us...

The invitation to each of us in these 40 days is simple:

Rest.

Re-lent.

What might it mean to enter Lent as a time of rest? To enter a space where we might entrust ourselves to the God who meets us in our need?

What might it mean to Re-Lent? To relent is to ease up, to change course, to turn, or to abandon or mitigate a harsh or cruel intention. There is much wisdom for us in these two postures:
Rest and Relent.

They carry the freedom our friends in the recovery community find in the first and second step: as we acknowledge our lives are unmanageable and we are powerless, but we come to believe a power greater than ourselves can and will restore us to sanity.

May Lent be a time of rest and freedom as we turn our gaze back to our Maker! There is much repentance in that, yes, but it's less about self-flagellation and more about relenting our endless efforts to live as though God does not exist.

So put away the hair shirts and feel the delicate warmth of a prayer shawl being draped over your tired shoulders. Open your dry cracked hands to allow palms up to receive the Rest your maker longs to give you.

And know you are not alone in the wilderness – Courage my friends, we will walk with you and sing your spirit home.

There are many invitations to enter Lent differently as we gather for worship - look below for instructions for how we might embody a posture of Rest and Relent...

We Gather

Gathering Words

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zech 9:9)

As the people spread their coats palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him today.

Sovereign of Glory, Christ of Peace, Servant of the Poor, reign in our hearts and lives this day and everyday, that we might praise your holy name.

Blessing of the Palms

God of Creation, we thank you for these branches of palm.
By your blessing may they be for us signs of the victory of your Son.
May we who carry them in his name ever hail him as our Messiah,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Let us praise Jesus who rescues us, as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem!

Gathering Song: Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The happy children sang;
Through pillared court and temple,
The joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to His breast;
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed,
'Mid an exultant crowd;
The victory palm branch waving,
And singing clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven,

Rode on in lowly state;
Content that little children,
Should on His bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer,
Earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice;
And in His humble presence
Eternally rejoice!

Public Domain. Jennette Threlfall (1873) VU123

Collect: Living Christ, example of peace, you rode into town on a donkey.
This is how you proclaim victory: gently, humble, turning the ways of war on their head.
We desire to fan the flame of your ministry—Calling healing victory.
Calling loving presence victory. Calling undoing the ways of empire victory.
Come, Holy Spirit, fan with us the embers of Love.
In the name of Jesus, humble sovereign we pray. **Amen.**

Procession Song: All Glory, Laud and Honour

Refrain: *All glory, laud and honour
to thee, redeemer king.
To whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou art the king of Israel,
thou David's royal son,
who in the lord's name comest,
the king and blessed one. *Refrain*

The company of angels
are praising Thee on high,
And we with all creation
in chorus make reply. *Refrain*

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present. *Refrain*

To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Circa 820 (St. Thodulf of Orleans)
translated JM Neale 1854 / Public Domain

Poem: Selected and read by poet-in-residence, Rebecca Yeo

We Proclaim

A reading from Zechariah (9:9-12)
Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from
Ephraim and the war horse from
Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall
be cut off, and he shall command
peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the
earth. As for you also, because of the
blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the
waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O
prisoners of hope; today I declare that
I will restore to you double.
...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.

The Gospel Acclamation: The Time is Fulfilled

The time is fulfilled. The Kingdom of God has drawn near
Come let us repent and believe the Gospel (3x) Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / With Permission

The Gospel

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the +Gospel of Mark (11:1-11)
[Jesus said] "The hour has come for the
When they were approaching Jerusalem, at
Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of
Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said
to them, "Go into the village ahead of you,
and immediately as you enter it you will find

tied there a colt that has never been ridden;
untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you,
'Why are you doing this?' just say this: 'The
Lord needs it and will send it back here
immediately.'" They went away and found a
colt tied near a door, outside in the street.
As they were untying it, some of the
bystanders said to them, "What are you
doing, untying the colt?" They told them

what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve...

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ!
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation: The Time is Fulfilled

The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God has drawn near

Come let us repent and believe the gospel (3x) Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / With Permission

Sermon

Lynn Mills

Bell + Short Silence

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm the ancient story of faith.

Affirmation of Faith

[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: Interactive stations

For Lenten prayer times, you are invited to pray in several ways:

- *quietly in your seat or kneeling upon pillows near the altar and rocks (centre);*
- *Praying in the side chapel with icons including many for black history month (left of the band);*
 - *through written words and prayer requests, left in our prayer weave (Left station);*
 - *lighting candles in the chapel (out either of the doors and across hall);*
- *ACTION: sign a letter of support around WSÁNEĆ concerns with Goldstream infrastructure proposal sign letter and we'll email them. (right near Balmoral doors)
...and/or through singing along with us in this time of quiet contemplation.*

Pre-recorded Song: O Jerusalem

Song: Breath of God

O breath of God, you stir our hearts
We're weary with longing for you
Come raise our dead, mend every breach
We're weary with longing for you

Blessed is the King
Who comes in the name of the lord
Who comes in the name of the lord (2x)
Yeshua bring tidings of joy
We're waiting with longing for you

Stand with your poor, the trodden down
We're waiting with longing for you

Restore all things, remove the veil
We're watching with longing for you
We take this bread, we drink this cup
We're watching with longing for you

(Refrain)

Who comes in the name of the lord
Who comes in the name of the lord
(Repeat)

Who comes in the name of the lord

2017 Brass Trumpet Publishing Tom Wuest. Permission

The Confession

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, the Servant King, our kin, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world.

Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedicated to service, to you and to our neighbours, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness and lay them down at your feet.

Bell. Silence is kept for personal confession. Bell.

Absolution / Assurance of Grace

The Peace

...The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

All are invited to offer a gesture or sign of God's peace to those around them.

During the 'offertory' song, the communion table is set.

Contributions to our common life can be made at the back of the space (now or later).

As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome to receive wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. All are welcome to Jesus' table - as you feel ready.

The Offertory Song: You Shall Reign

Come broken, come captive
Come all you who mourn
Oh groaning creation, rejoice

A child, a saviour, our healing you bring.
What freedom! What consolation!

You shall reign (you shall reign),
you shall reign
You shall reign (you shall reign),

you shall reign (X2)

You'll order your kingdom
With justice and peace
Oh merciful one, oh Lamb of God
All nations, all people, all heaven and earth
Will bow down and to you proclaim

El reignara, (El reignara) El Reignara
El reignara, (El reignara) El Reignara
You shall reign....

Tom Wuest, alt. / Brass Trumpet Publishing

We Celebrate

The Prayer Over the Gifts

Sacred Disrupter, Source of our Salvation, you lure us out of the dull and destructive. You capture our attention with your love, turning us toward the gifts of heaven. With joy and expectation, we cry, "Hosanna!" Receive all we offer this day and show us the way to follow you. **Amen.** *enfleshed, alt.*

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
 O Lord our God, creator, redeemer, sovereign of the universe.
 You wept over Jerusalem and entered with triumph and humility
 Marking a way of peace in a time of tension.
 With the rocks and all creation we cry out: Hosanna in the highest!



Glor-y to you for-e-ver and ev-er.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

 A musical score in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The lyrics are:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow'r and might. Heav - en and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Blest is the One who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Schubert Deutsche Messe.

You are holy, O God of all mercy, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 When the hour was near he gathered his friends around a table of welcome.
 He gathered with those who were close to him, those who would betray him, with those who
 understood what was happening, and those who didn't. He welcomed them all:



Glor-y to you for-e-ver and ev-er.

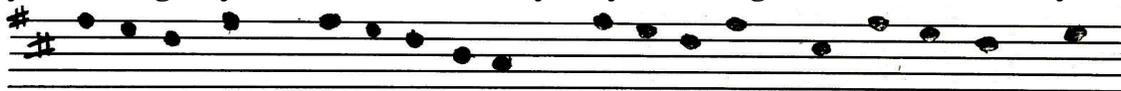
Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
 we take from your creation these gifts of bread and wine
 we joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

As 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

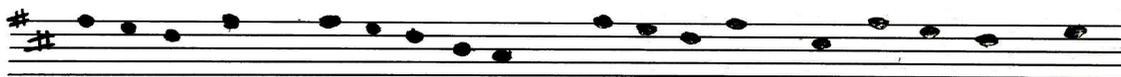
As supper was ending Jesus took the wine
And after blessing it, Poured it, gave it to them and said,
Take, this is my blood shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me. **Glory to you forever and ever**

Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your child.



Chri-st has died. Chr-ist is Ri-sen. Chri-st will come will co-me a---gain.

Gracious God, +pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be to us the body and blood of your Christ.
By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.
With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, now and forever.



A-----men. A-----m-en. A----- men. A- m-en. A----men.

*Euch. Prayers for Lent, Year B; Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Alt.
Tone: Holloway Acclamation by Jack Holloway, St. Lydia's Table (Lutheran) Brooklyn NY*

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent, we pray as Jesus taught:
(said in a language, translation or paraphrase of your choice)

**Our *Father (*or Parent, or Source, or Mother) 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.**

Silence.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world.

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but contains almond flour and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy / almond option. The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup. Please refrain from dipping the bread.

During communion there are a couple of folks who are available to pray with you in our new side chapel to the left of the band (enter through the opening in the curtain)

Song: Agnus Dei (pre-recorded) - by the Poor Clare Sisters of Arundel 2020 Decca Record

Communion Song: My City of Ruins

There's a blood red circle
on the cold dark ground
And the rain is falling down
The church door's thrown open, I can hear
the organ's song
But the congregation's gone

My city of ruins, My city of ruins.

Now the sweet bells of mercy drift
through the evening trees
Young men on the corner,
like scattered leaves
The boarded up windows, the empty streets
While my brother's down on his knees

My city of ruins, my city in ruins
Come on, rise up (repeat)

Now there's tears on the pillow,

darlin', where we slept
And you took my heart when you left
Without your sweet kiss my soul is lost,
my friend
Tell me, how do I begin again?

My city's in ruins, My city's in ruins.

Now, with these hands, with these hands
With these hands, with these hands

I pray, Lord -
with these hands, with these hands)
I pray for the strength, Lord...
Pray for your love, Lord...
Pray for...

Pray for the faith, Lord ...

Come on, rise up (repeat)

Bruce Springsteen / Sony/ATV Pop Music Publishing and
Eldridge Publishing Co. c/o Sony/ATV Pop Music Publishing

Communion Song: My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown-
my saviour's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?

What makes this rage and spite?
He made the slow to run;
He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save;
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
that He His foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing-
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman 1664 / Public Domain

The Prayer after Communion

God of the Way, on this Palm Sunday, we recall the energy of collective hope. The kind that cuts through oppressive lies. The kind that catches like fire. The kind that is born of faith in You and in each other. Walk with us as we walk with you through death and into resurrection, for the sake of Jesus our Companion. **Amen.** *enfleshed, alt.*

The Blessing

We Are Sent

Closing Song: Into Jerusalem Jesus Rode

Into Jerusalem Jesus rode
triumphant King acclaimed
Palm branches spread
to honour his way
Garments laid down
as tokens of praise
Shouts of hosanna
surged through the throng
Into Jerusalem

Within Jerusalem Jesus stood
masquerade King reviled
Thorns made a crown
(Grim satire of truth)

Carl Daw / Hope Publishing Company / OneLicense.

Robe like a wound
thrown over his back
Echoes of crucify filled the air
within Jerusalem

Outside Jerusalem Jesus hung
crucified king despised
Wood formed a cross
suspending his life
Soldiers cast lots
to deal out his clothes
His lonely cries
My God it is done
Outside Jerusalem

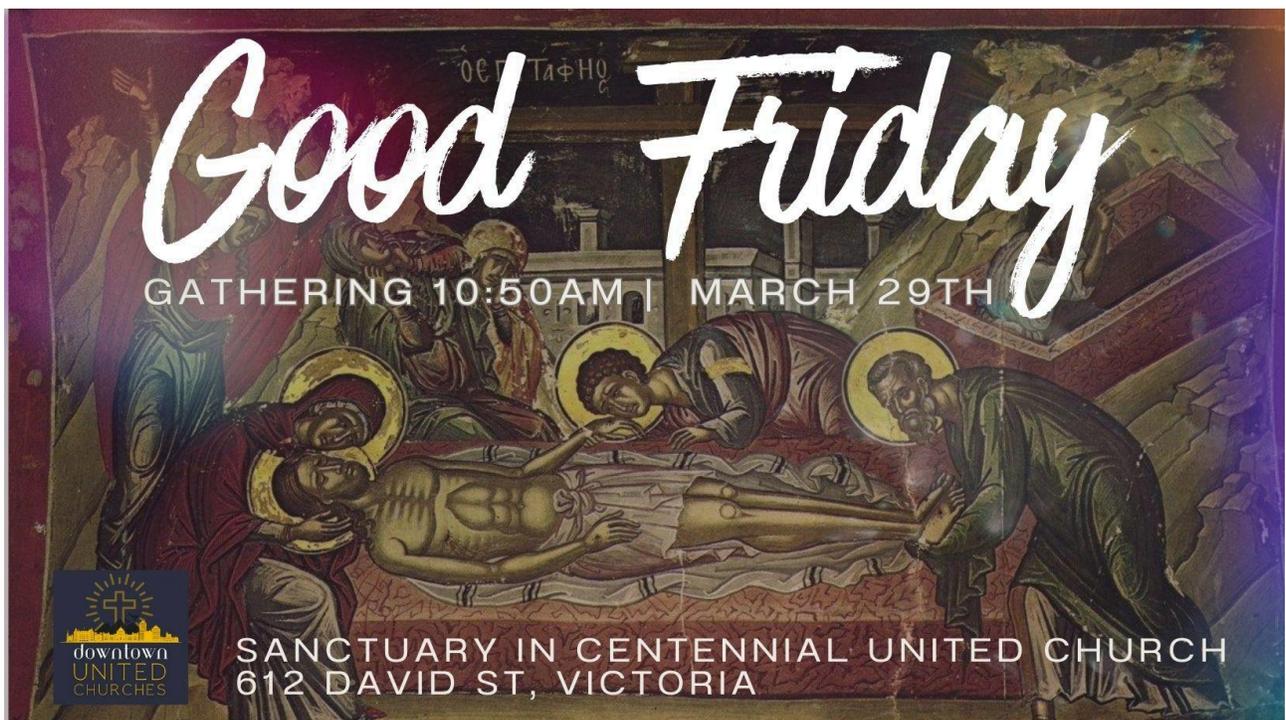
Sending

Go in peace knowing Christ walks with you in the way of the cross - and beyond.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Felix Culpa

God who watches over you will never slumber nor sleep.
God who watches over you will never slumber nor sleep.
O, my child, lay your burdens down, lay them at my feet.
God who watches over you will never slumber nor sleep. Alana Levandoski / CCLI, alt.

*We depart in silence or continue to sit in the stillness of the space.
Folks are welcomed (and encouraged) to gather in the foyer.*





Holy Week Plans

Maundy Thursday - Potluck at Belmont House (1702 Belmont) followed by a screening of Jesus Christ Superstar and then a short foot washing communion liturgy - 6:30 Potluck, then movie. Closing worship around 9pm.

Thurs - Friday Prayer Vigil - at 3am (online, zoom - usual link) and 8am (Balmoral Chapel and zoom).

Good Friday Worship *with Downtown United Churches* (Fairfield, AbbeyChurch, Centennial) Good Friday at 10:50am at Centennial United (612 David St - Rock Bay neighbourhood). Music, ritual, prayer to remember the crucifixion with the AbbeyChurch musicians and others.

Good Friday Pilgrimage for Palestine: A small group will walk - gathering at Centennial Square at 12:45 to depart at 1pm. We'll end at Abbey Church for silent candle-lighting. Walk some or all of the route - approximately ½ the length of Palestine (17km). Bring food and/or water (or fast). Email us to let us know you're coming.

Saturday Easter Egg Hunt Holy Saturday March 30 11am (with Fairfield United) - we could use volunteers to help out too a bit earlier. Robert Porter Park - 1350 Fairfield Rd, Victoria

Easter Sunday!

- + **Easter Dawn Sunrise worship** at Willows Beach - Gather at 6:30am in the parking lot for a 6:45am start.
- + **AbbeyChurch Easter worship** - 4pm at the church.

Easter Monday Potluck at Matt's.

Come continue to feast at 1181 Clovelly Terrace - bring a contribution if you can.

Prayer / Communion until Easter

- **Tuesday at 8:15am-Morning Prayer.** in-person/online at Lynn and Phil's (email for location-near Castle Hardware on Cook) and on Zoom.
 - **Wednesday communion - 4pm at Our Place Cancelled this week.**
 - **Thursdays at 8:15am - Morning prayer** at Quadra/Balmoral Chapel in person only. Enter from parking lot at 932 Balmoral.
- **Fridays at 8:15am - Morning Prayer. NONE THIS WEEK DUE TO GOOD FRIDAY - 8am in the chapel.** This week in-person (with Zoom) in the chapel.

Our weekday common prayer is liturgical and based on ancient monastic practices. It's open to anyone who wants to join in-person or online.

Save the date: Saturday April 6th - **solidarity fundraising Dinner for Gaza** - at the church with middle eastern food and Latin American music. See details at solidaritydinner.eventbrite.ca

Martyn Joseph Live - Saturday April 20, 2024.
<https://www.abbeychurch.ca/events/martyn-joseph-live/2024-04-20>