

The Presentation of our Lord

February 2, 2025 + 4pm



Candle burning in the dark/ image by Mirko Fabian, 2021, Creative Commons.



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 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 (full inclusion and leadership of 2SLGBTQ2IA+ folk) 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 is inspired by monasticism and whose members make commitments to 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.

We Gather

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the Ləkʷəŋən peoples', the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations. We strive to journey toward reparation, right relationship and reconciliation with justice. We confess the complicity of our religious traditions and institutions in the loss of life, lands, languages, spiritualities and cultures of the First Peoples' of these lands. We are grateful for the ongoing wisdom, stewardship and tending of these lands and apprentice ourselves to this good work of caring for creation and seeking to live in right-relationship with each other.

Tolling of the Bells Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

The Blessing of Candles

Light and Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Let us Pray:

Gracious God, source of all light, you created all things out of nothing and by your mysterious command have caused this liquid to become perfect wax by the holy labour of bees: +Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of Jesus Christ, our brother, the light who enlightens all Creation.
As these candles kindle a visible flame, so may our hearts burn within us by the fires of your Holy Spirit, that we might walk in the way of Christ.

God of promise, who on this day was presented in the Temple and received into the humble and aged arms of the prophet Simeon: +Bless and sanctify all those who wait on your promises, give faith where we struggle, and hope where we despair.
May we, like Simeon, find our souls at rest as we wait on God's promises. And may we let our light shine bright in our community and in our world. Amen.

*During this song, folks of all ages (including children and youth!) are welcome to set the table with symbols of faith and hope found on the back table.
Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing:*

Opening Song: Phos Hilaron

Hail Gladdening Light, sun so bright
Jesus Christ, end of night, alleluia, alleluia
Hail Gladdening Light, Eternal Bright
at evening time, 'round us shine, alleluia, alleluia

Refrain: We hymn the Father, We hymn the Son
We hymn the Spirit, wholly Divine
No one more worthy of songs to be sung
To the Giver of Life- all glory is Thine

Hail Gladdening Light, such joyous Light
O Brilliant Star, forever shine, alleluia, alleluia

Tomlin, Croder, Giglio, Gower – WorshipTogether.com / CCLI

The Poem - Selected by **Rebecca Yeo**, Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Malachi: (3:1-4)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

The Psalm: Psalm 84

How lovely is thy dwelling place
O Lord of hosts to me
My soul is longing and fainting
the courts of the Lord to see
My heart and flesh they are singing
for joy to the living God
How lovely is thy dwelling place
O Lord of hosts to me

Even a sparrow finds a home
where he can settle down
And the swallow she can build a nest
where she may lay her young

Within the courts of the Lord of hosts
You welcome us, O God
And happy are all who join their voice
where the song of praise is sung

And I'd rather be a doorkeeper
and only stay a day
Than live the life of a stranger
And have to stay away
For the Lord is shining as the sun
and the Lord lights up our way
And all good gifts God freely gives
to those who walk God's way

Rob des Cotes, Imago Dei Community

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we open our hearts to hear the good news.
(and feel free to sing all the parts)*

Gospel Acclamation

Kent Gustavson / Used with permission - for permission contact <https://drkent.co/>

The musical score is written for a fiddle in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: [A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? [A] You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? [A] Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? [A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Let us trust in your word. The chords D, G, and A are indicated below the notes.

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops! **With our words and with our lives!**

A reading from the gospel according to Luke (2:22-40)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

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

Gospel Acclamation

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of a series of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4. Below the staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia," are written. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4. Below this staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia." are written. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Sermon

Matt Humphrey, ec

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

Please rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith and sing our ancient Story of trust.

Credo

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. A---men.
Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk, alt./ CCLI

Our Prayers

Confession

Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us in silence confess our failings and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

Silence is kept.

[together we say] **Before God with the people of God we confess to turning away from God in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world. Amen.**

Assurance / Absolution

May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

The Peace

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

You are invited to share a sign of peace to those near you.

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

Offering: Contributions to our common life can be made at the back of the space (now or later) in the boxes or using debit or credit card. You can e-transfer donations to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca (that's our preferred method) or by making a donation to AbbeyChurch / Emmaus via CanadaHelps by using the QR Code to the right. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.



The 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 Master's perfect plan
Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand.

Bob Dylan, 1990.

We Celebrate

As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome to receive wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. You are also welcome to come forward for a simple blessing if you do not wish to receive.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

The Great Thanksgiving / The Most 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.**

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. Throughout all time, from ancient days until this very day, you are always seeking us out – longing for us as a Divine Lover.. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbours, in your creation, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you:

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!

Blessed are you, Loving God who calls us to your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbours, but God, since our beginning, we have struggled. And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction. Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:
“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant. Do this in remembrance of me.”
In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again (2x)

+Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again, the body and blood of Christ.

May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into resurrection life. Enliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and all creation is celebrated. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent, we pray as Jesus taught:

Our *Father (*or Parent, or Abba, or Amma, or Source, or Mother)

who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

Forever and ever. Amen.

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 (none compelled!) to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but may contain almond flour, egg and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy / nut option (rice cracker). The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup.
Please refrain from dipping the bread.*

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God (prerecorded) - Jan and Marty Reardon / Trinity music

Song: Come my Way my Truth my Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light,
my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,

such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

George Herbert / R.V. Williams – adapted by a version by the Blackfriars – New York City / OneLicense.

Song: In Your Light

You are the fountain of life
I will drink from your river of delight
and in your house
I will rest in the shadow of your wings

In your light I will find my way
In your light I will find my way
In your light I will find my way
In your light I will find my way

Rob Des Cotes

Prayer after Communion

[we say together] **Eternal God, Father and Mother of us all, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We Are Sent

The Blessing

Closing Song: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine upon each heart and soul, I'm gonna let it shine
Shine and make the broken whole, I'm gonna let it shine
Shine upon each heart and soul, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine in every cold dark place, I'm gonna let it shine
Shine to find deep winter's grace, I'm gonna let it shine
Shine in every cold dark place, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine, O Christ, your light so bright, I'm gonna let it shine
Shine and set all things alight, I'm gonna let it shine
Shine O Christ, your light so bright, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Harry Dixon Loes, Public Domain. Alt verses by MWH.

The Sending

Go as beloved in Christ and let your light shine bright!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Sending Song: Felix Culpa

God who watches over you
Will never slumber nor sleep.
God who watches over you
Will never slumber nor sleep. *(repeat)*

Oh, My child, lay your burden down
Lay them at My feet.
God who watches over you
Will never slumber nor sleep
music and words by Alana Levandoski, alt. / CCLI

Closing Loop

***We'll be back next Sunday at 4pm
QomQem volunteering is ALSO happening in the kitchen now
Any and all are welcome to come help pack sandwiches for the street family.***

Weekday Prayer

Mondays at 9 am - Morning Prayer with Centering Prayer @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office
(off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up) - approx 45 mins - in-person only.

Tuesdays at 9 am - Morning Prayer @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office
- in-person and online on Zoom - approx 25-30 mins.

Thursdays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office and online on zoom.

Fridays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - *on-line zoom only*
Contact us for information on accessible entrance or zoom/liturgies link

Feb 23 : Our Next potluck after worship!

Feb 23 : AbbeyChurch welcomes guest speaker Carl Olsen.

W_SÁNEĆ Elder ZAWIZUT Carl Olsen from Tsartlip will be a guest speaker at the Feb 23rd service and joining us after at the potluck for questions and discussion. Olsen has been holding a vigil for two years to protest a proposed highway development that threatens the salmon and the entire ecosystem of Goldstream River. Olsen will speak to us about Goldstream and about the Douglas treaties which affect all of us living in the Greater Victoria Region.

Next Prayer in The Style of Taizé

Friday February 14 at 6pm and Friday March 21 at 6pm

Our Partnership with QomQem : **ONGOING Call for Food Donations**

We're welcoming food donations for AbbeyChurch / Emmaus partnership with QomQem coastal connections - an indigenous harm reduction organisation. We'll be using this food to support their street outreach on Sunday evenings. Our folk are also welcomed to assist in sandwich prep after church at 5:30pm most Sundays.

Here is the list of desired items:

- large bags of soft candies to make up mixed candy bags (ie sour keys, cherry blasters etc)
- Large jars of peanut butter, Nutella or jam
- Tins of Gatorade powder
- Tins of hot chocolate powder (once it starts to cool)
- Sweet treats like pre wrapped Rice Krispie squares, wagon wheels, ding dongs etc

NON PERISHABLE FOOD URGENTLY NEEDED!

Night outreach - We're at it again!
We are in need of non-perishable foods to support Street Family!



What's Needed?

- Large Tins of: Peanut Butter, Jam & Nutella
- Fruit Cups,
- Packaged treats (wagonwheels etc)
- Large bags of Soft candies
- Gatorade Powder Tins
- Camp gear!



TO ARRANGE DROP OFF, CONTACT:

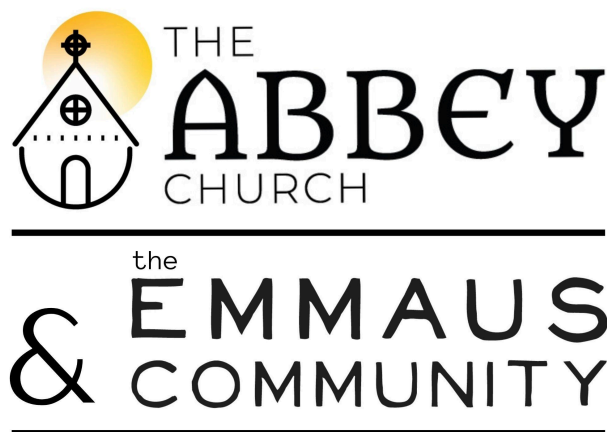
admin@qomqem.com / 250-291-1204

- Fruit cups
- Flavoured Apple sauce cups
- Soft chew granola bars (nutrigrain, etc)
- Small easy peel oranges and bananas (for Sunday drop-off)
- Gatorade/powerade bottles
- Home baking on the day of - starting September 22nd (ideally 150 units)
- Sunscreen, batteries, flashlights

Up to 150 people served each night, so bulk family/sized items appreciated. We now have a treasure chest at the back of the church for collection. Thanks for any help you can be in this amazing work.

Donations to our Common Life and Ministry

We are so grateful for your presence with us! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our ministry in 2024 and made it possible to continue to thrive in the place God has called us to. If you are interested in donating to our common life, you can now send offerings by **e-transfer to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca** or talk to Lynn, our treasurer to sign up for monthly giving (PAR)! There's also a point of sale machine at the back table for debit or credit donations. Or give through Canadahelps by clicking the QR code here: All donations are eligible for a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.



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

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