



'We Gather'

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost and Pride Sunday
June 29, 2025 + 4pm**



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



**CEASE
FIRE
NOW**

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 2SLGBTQIA+ 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.

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the Lək'wəŋən 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.

We Gather

Opening Loop and Tolling of the Bells

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Bell x 3

Gathering Words

The grace of our +Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

God of wild love and extravagant acceptance...

Spirit of boldness and beauty...

You are faithfully present in both the grit and glitter of life,

and you are present here with us now.

Awaken us to your dream for creation:

**A world in which every member of the human family is free
to flourish however you have made them.**

Forgive us for the moments we have held back
your ever-flowing current of love, dignity, and justice.

**Remake us into a people eager to see you
in the faces, bodies, and expressions of all people.**

Remind each of us to step out of the shadows of our lives
and shine fearlessly and courageously.

**Ignite the Divine Light within us to sparkle through the prism
of our bodies and brighten every corner of this Earth.**

Holy One, You call each of us beloved.

Each of us cherished.

Each of us desired.

Each of us sacred.

And so, we give you thanks now and forever. **Amen.**

Rev. Sam Lundquist - Opening Prayer for Pride

Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing, and our community altar is set.

Opening Song: Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away.

See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

gather us in – the lost and forsaken; gather us in – the blind and the maimed;

call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old – who yearn for your face.

We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in – the rich and the haughty; Gather us in, the proud and the strong;

give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;

nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place a new light is shining; now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.
Marty Haugen / GIA / OneLicense

The Poem: Jesus at the Gay Bar

He's here in the midst of it –
right at the centre of the dance floor,
robes hitched up to His knees
to make it easy to spin.

At some point in the evening
a boy will touch the hem of His robe
and beg to be healed, beg to be
anything other than this;

and He will reach His arms out,
sweat-dampened, and weary from dance.
He'll cup the boy's face in His hand
and say,

*my beautiful child
there is nothing in this heart of yours
that ever needs to be healed.*

Jay Hulme - transgender poet, theologian, speaker, and educator.

We Proclaim

The Psalm: Psalm 95 - Come Worship The Lord (sung)

Refrain: Come worship the Lord
For we are Your people
The flock that You shepherd – Alleluia (*repeat all*)

And come, let us sing to the Lord
And shout with joy to the rock who saves us
Let us come with thanksgiving
And sing joyful songs to the Lord. *Refrain.*

The Lord is God, the mighty God
Sovereign o'er all other gods
You hold in your hands the depths of the earth
And the highest mountains as well
You made the sea, it belongs now to You
The dry land too, was formed by Your hand. *Refrain.*

Come, let us bow down and worship
Bending the knee for the Lord our maker
For we are Your people
We are the flock that You shepherd. Alleluia.
John Michael Talbot, BSC - Birdwing Music / CCLI

You are invited to rise in body or spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the gospel:

Gospel Acclamation: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson / © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music / One License / Voice United

The Gospel (Luke 2:16-20)

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

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them...

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

Gospel Acclamation: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, move among us all,
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love;
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!"

Michael Boughen / © 1982 One License / Voices United

Reflecting on our Worship -

"We Gather"

Rob Shearer and Lynn Mills

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

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

Credo

We say together: **We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen. *The United Church of Canada, 1968, rev.*

Our Prayers

The Confession

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:

To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world (silence)

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

Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:

To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world. (silence)

+May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. Amen.

The Peace

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

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

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 donate to AbbeyChurch / Emmaus via CanadaHelps by using the QR Code on the last page of this leaflet. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Offertory Song: Gather Us In

We wait for you to testify - To hold the kingdoms to account
Your righteous justice shall not fall - All those who trust in your name

Refrain: You will gather us in - You will bring, bring us home
King of all kings, Lord of all lords (x2)

Sing out, sing out ye daughters of Wisdom - And shout aloud as you wrestle with God
Be glad, rejoice with all your heart - God has removed your punishment. *Refrain.*

Peter LeGrand / Ordinary Time, alt. / CCLI

We Celebrate

As we prepare for this holy feast, we are reminded that all are welcome at Jesus's wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. If you wish to come forward to receive a blessing rather than bread and wine, place your hands across your chest.

Invitation to the Table

Beloveds.

We come to this Table because we are claimed in covenant and called to Gather

We come to this Table because we are still learning what togetherness means
how it looks and moves and feels

We come because we long for liberation

We come because we thirst for justice

We come because we know the need—fierce and urgent—

for grace and freedom and nourishment in our flesh and our bones

We come proclaiming that this is not the table of The Abbey Church

This is the table of Christ who invites you to come

Of Christ who invites you to bring your whole lives

For you are made welcome here. **Amen.**

Enfleshed - rev. anna bladel, Alt.

The Great Thanksgiving / Communion

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**

Beloved children of God, as we gather here this morning, we respond to the words of Jesus, who tells us: "...where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." And it is in the name of Christ that we proclaim that this table is open to all people — no matter who you are or what you believe or what you've been told.

Here we remember the simple gathering of a community that came together for a meal that proclaimed a new way of being in this world. Here we remember God's radically inclusive love made real in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Here we remember the One who befriended the forgotten, embraced the outcast, and saw the Image of God in all people.

Here we remember the One who confronted every power that disconnected, marginalized, oppressed, and “other-ed.” Therefore we join our voices across space and time, with every tongue, tribe and nation, with every creature of every gender, with sinners and saints of every century past and future, and with the whole company of earth and heaven to proclaim:

**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.**

It is here at this table that we find hope and imagination to see God’s dream and promise of a world of wholeness, and it is here that we receive the nourishment and strength to continue on the paths of justice. We recall that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “Take and eat. This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup, saying, “This is my blood, my very life, poured out for you. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Send your life-giving Spirit upon this gathering of queer and straight, wondering and wonderful. Let the fire of your love reveal once again your rainbow of love in our lives. Bless this bread and wine that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. May this bread and wine remind us that we are loved and nourished by God—fiercely and forever. And however the world may try to hold us down or tell us who to be, remind us that nothing can separate us from your divine presence. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours Triune God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Pride Prayers for Queer Folks, by Rev. Sam Lundquist, 2024, Alt.

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.**

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!

*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 crackers). The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup.
Please refrain from dipping the bread.*

Song (pre-recorded): **Agnus Dei / Lamb of God** - Gregorian Chant

This next communion song was penned by Rev. Marsha Stevens-Pino, often considered the mother of Christian Rock. After her coming out lesbian, this song was torn from hymnals in the 1970s onward.

Marsha, an MCC minister has called it her 'coming out song' and it has become a an anthem in LGBTQ2SIA+ Christian Communities.

Communion Song: For Those Tears I Died

You said you'd come and share all my sorrows
You said you'd be there for all my tomorrows
I came so close to sending you away
And just like you promised, you came here to stay... I just had to pray.

Refrain: And Jesus said, Come to the water, stand by my side,
I know you are thirsty, you won't be denied.
I felt every teardrop when in darkness you cried,
And I strove to remind you that for those tears I died

Your goodness so great I can't understand,
And, dear Lord, I know that all this was planned.
Saviour, you're here now, and always will be.
Your love is so great and always so free, Jesus why me? Refrain.

Jesus, I give you my heart and my soul.
I know that without you I'd never be whole,
Saviour, you opened up all the right doors,
And I thank you and praise you from Earth's humble shores - Take me, I'm yours. Refrain.
Words and music: Marsha Stevens 1969 Birdwing Music / Born Again Lesbian Ministries / CCLI

Communion Song: Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river? Where bright angel feet have trod
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river washing up its silver spray
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.*Refrain:*

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.*Refrain:*

Soon we'll reach the shining river soon our pilgrimage will cease
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.*Refrain:*
Robert Lowry 1864 / Public domain

We Are Sent

The Prayer After Communion

Nourishing God, **through this sacrament of bread and wine, you renew us in body, spirit, and mind. Through this taste of love, may the Spirit send us with a faith that is brave. Let no institution or narrow thinking hold us back; make us people who boldly pursue collective justice and tend gently to the world's pain. Amen.**

Enfleshed, Alt.

The Blessing

Closing Song: O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; *Refrain.*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain.*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither - bend our joyful footsteps! *Refrain.*

John Francis Wade / Public Domain

The Sending

Go in the joy of Christ, to love God and live the Gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

See you in 2 Weeks!
Next worship July 20 at 4pm.
"We Proclaim"

COMING UP

Worship in July and August will happen every other week:

We'll gather on Sundays, **July 6 & 20 and August 3 & 17**

- all at 4pm here in the AbbeyChurch Sanctuary.

WANNA CHAT? Reach out to us at admin@emmauscommunity.ca

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - Have you subscribed to our weekly e-newsletter? We have recently learned that some shaw.ca emails are not receiving the newsletters - if you are missing them, please re-subscribe with a new email here:

<https://www.abbeychurch.ca/subscribers>

Weekday Prayer

Mondays at 9 am - Morning Prayer with Centering Prayer

@ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch *Upper Room* (off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up)
- approx 45 mins - in-person only.

Tuesdays at 9 am - Morning Prayer @ The Upper Room

- in-person and online on Zoom - approx 25-30 mins.

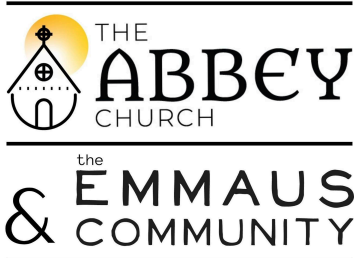
Thursdays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - The Upper Room and online on zoom.

Fridays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - *on-line zoom only*

Contact us for information on the accessible entrance or zoom/liturgies link

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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