



Gaudete ::: Advent III

December 14th, 2025 - 4pm



Image: Icon of the Mother of God Joy and Comfort also known as "Mother of God Paramithia"



Welcome to The AbbeyChurch

***No matter who you are or what you are carrying today,
know you are beloved and so very welcome here in Jesus' name.***

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, uncertain, 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.

Land Acknowledgement

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the Lək'wəḡən 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 pause in silence to remember and to recall the land under our feet, the hidden rivers, the trees and flowers and shifting seasons. 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

A Vision of the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart:

*“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God who will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. God will come and save you.”*

Then the eyes of the ones who are blind shall be opened, and the ears of the ones who are deaf shall be opened; then the ones unable to walk shall leap like a deer, and the tongues of those who are speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Welcome Song / Lighting the Candle(s):



Wel-come to this sa - cred place. We all join to share this space.

All are pre - cious in His sight. Here we come to share His light. We
light the can - dle here, we light the can - dle here!

Here we are now ga - thered as one. Here we will wait for Your son.

In this ad - vent sea - son this year we will wait, we fe - el You near. We
light the can - dle here, we light the can - dle here!



Ruby Cloud Iris 2024

Opening Words:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, **be the love that dwells between us.**
 God of hope, who brought peace into this world, **be the peace that dwells between us.**
 God of hope, who brought joy into this world, **be the joy that dwells between us.**
 God of hope, the rock we stand upon, **be the center, the focus of our lives always,**
and particularly this Advent time. Amen.

Folks of all ages are welcomed to set the table as we sing this opening song. You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we sing joyfully.

Opening Song: Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
 God of glory, Lord of love;
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
 Op'ning to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
 Drive the dark of doubt away;
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing, ever blest,
 Well-spring of the joy of living,
 Ocean-depth of happy rest!
 Source of grace and fount of blessing
 All who live in love are thing
 Teach us how to love each other,
 Lift us to the joy divine.

All thy works with joy surround You,
 Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around You,
 Center of unbroken praise;
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
 Singing bird and flowing fountain
 Call us to rejoice in thee

Mortals, join this mighty chorus,
 Which the morning stars began;
 God's own love is reigning o'er us,
 Joining people hand in hand.
 Ever singing, march we onward,
 Victors in the midst of strife;
 Joyful music leads us sunward
 In the triumph song of life.

Public Domain

The Poem

chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

The Psalm: Psalm 25



To You O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God in You I trust.

Do not let me be shamed Do not let o - thers shame

me for I am a child of

God. *(piano)*

112 Dmaj7 Amin7

1.Make me know Your ways O the Lord,
2.Good and up - right is the Lord,

114 Gmaj7 Emin7 A7

Lead me in Your truth and tea - ch me right.
He leads the hum - ble in what is right.

116 Dmaj7 Amin7

For You are the God of my sal - va - tion one,
My God fa - vours the hum - ble one,

118 Gmaj7 Emin7 A7

For You I wa - it all day long.
His stead - fast lo - ve is for them.

Be mind-ful of Your mer - cy O Lord.
They will a - bide in pro - sper - i - ty.

122 Gmaj7 Emin7 A7
Your stead - fast love is from old - -
My God shel - ters his chil - dren.

124 Dmaj7 Amin7
Do not re - mem - ber the sins of my youth.
Re-lieve the trou - bles of my heart, O Lord.

126 Gmaj7 Emin A7 3. Dmaj7
Re-mem - ber me in Your love. God.
And bring me out of my dis - tress.

Ruby Cloud Iris

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

The Gospel Acclamation: Make a Way

Come, Son of God, and make us new - Light of the world, our hearts renew
Hope in our inner darkness lies - Oh, healing sun of justice rise
Oh, make a way, open wide the gates
Oh, make a way through the sorrow and the pain
Oh, make a way, though the road is dark and winding Oh, come, come.

Paul Zach / Isaac Wardell / Kate Bluett - Porter's Gate . 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 Matthew (11:2-11)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: those who are blind receive their sight, those who cannot walk will walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, those who are deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Gospel Acclamation (Repeated)

Come, Son of Man, to show the way Oh, through the tears, may we see the day!
So long did we in darkness dwell, Come down to break the chains of hell!
Oh, make a way, open wide the gates
Oh, make a way through the sorrow and the pain
Oh, make a way, though the road is dark and winding
Oh, come, come. Paul Zach / Isaac Wardell / Kate Bluett - Porter's Gate . CCLI.

Sermon

Bailey Bjolin

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

Affirmation of Faith: The Annunciation and Magnificat

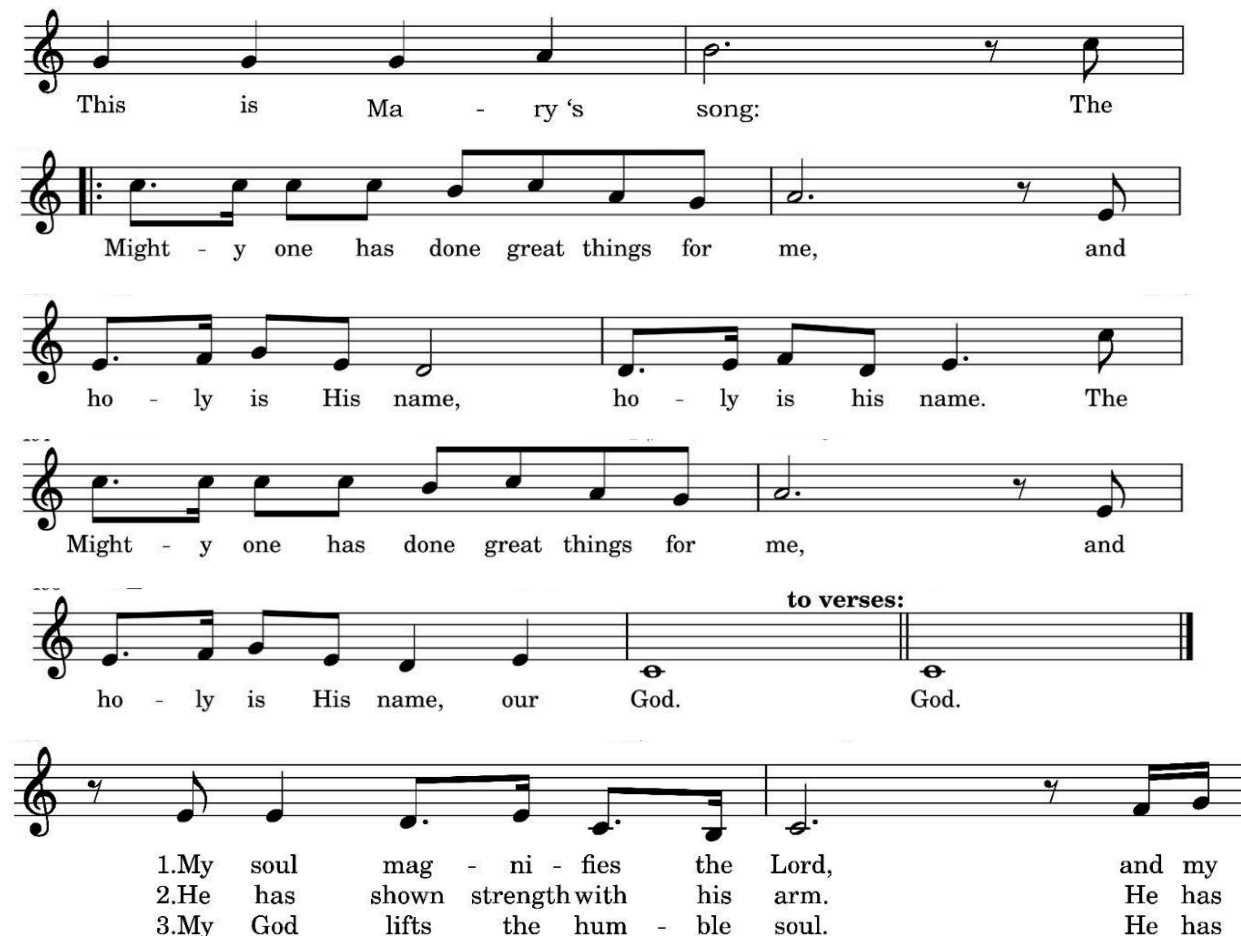
Please rise in body or in spirit as we join with Mary in proclaiming a vision of God's promise:

Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) (solo)

Narrator: In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. The angel Gabriel appeared to a virgin, a young girl engaged to a carpenter. Her name was Mary. The angel Gabriel came to this young, confused girl and this is what he said:

Angel: "Do not be afraid, for you have found favour with God. You will now conceive in your womb and you will bear a son, and His name will be Jesus. He will be great, and He will be the Son of the most high. He will reign... and His Kingdom will have no end. For nothing is impossible... with our God."

Narrator: Mary showed her faith, and lifted her voice in praise. This is what she said:



This is Ma - ry's song: The

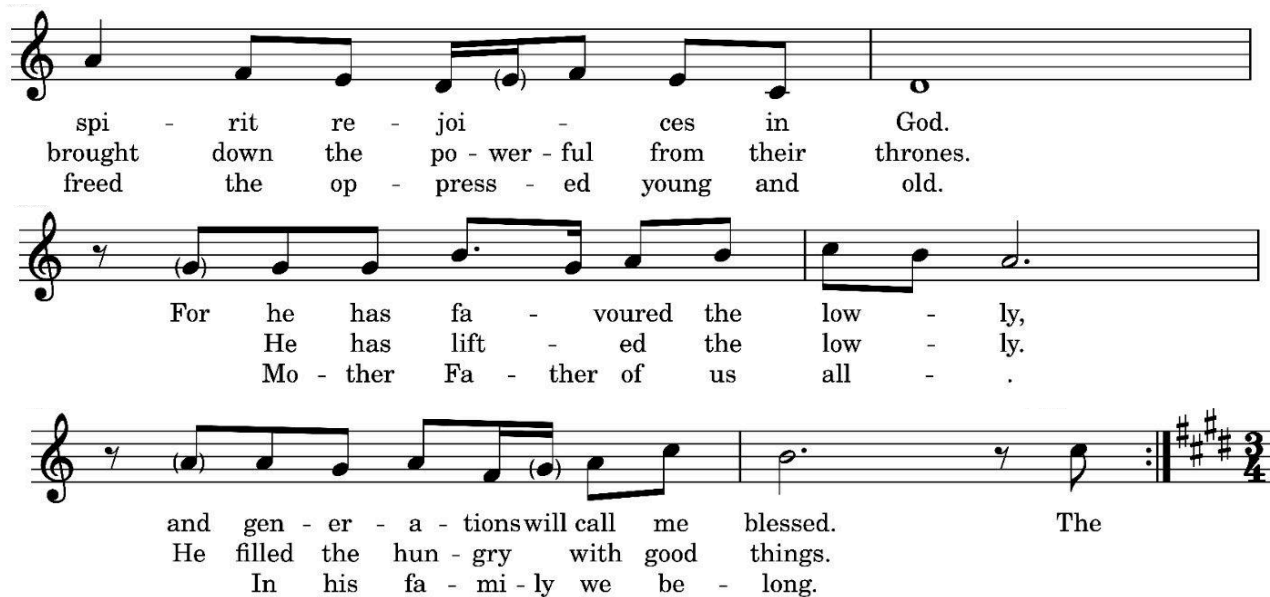
Might - y one has done great things for me, and

ho - ly is His name, ho - ly is his name. The

Might - y one has done great things for me, and

to verses:
ho - ly is His name, our God. God.

1.My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my
2.He has shown strength with his arm. He has
3.My God lifts the hum - ble soul. He has



spi - rit re - joi - ces in God.
brought down the po - wer - ful from their thrones.
freed the op - press - ed young and old.

For he has fa - voured the low - ly,
He has lift - ed the low - ly.
Mo - ther Fa - ther of us all - .

and gen - er - a - tions will call me blessed. The
He filled the hun - gry with good things.
In his fa - mi - ly we be - long.

Ruby Cloud Iris 2024

Our Prayers

Josh Ruberg

The Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to God in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

God of all: **We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, of thought, word and deed, and our failures of indifference and inaction. Forgive us, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution / Assurance of Grace

God of all consolation, forgive us and deliver us, heal us and strengthen us by your Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Church of England, Alt.*

The Peace

In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)

The peace of Emmanuel, God With Us, be with you all.
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: Joy Will Come

The shadow has no power over us, for we will trust in the Lord.
And through the night we have song to sing, a hope that we can cling to.

Refrain: Joy will come in the morning. Joy will come in the morning.
God is our rock and our salvation. Joy will come.

Sister, fix your eyes upon the hills, for surely help will come.
Brother, we will take our refuge in the God who know our suffering. *Refrain*

We will rise up. We will rise up in the morning.
We will rise up. We will rise up in the morning.
We will rise up. We will rise up in the morning.
Joy will come in the morning. Joy will come in the morning.
God is our rock and our salvation. Joy will come.

Paul Zach, Liz Vice, Charles Jones © 2021 Paul Zach, Integrity Music / 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.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Come with gratitude and joy to the table of the Lord. Come with all your longing and all your hope for peace. Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise. **Amen** Feasting on the Word, (alt).

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God

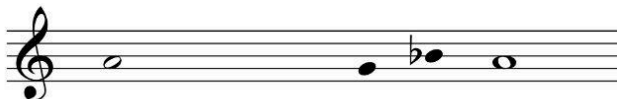
Let us give thanks to the *Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, how wonderful is the *work of your hands!

From the beginning your light has shone forth / bringing *order out of chaos /
and life in the *midst of death.

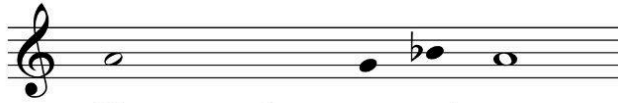
When we fled from you / you sought us out and gathered us like a *mother sheep /
covered us in your mercy / and set us a place at your table.



Glory to you fore - ver and ever.

Your holy prophets longed that you might tear the *heavens and come down / and so in
tenderness, you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to be Emmanuel - God with us.

As one of us/Jesus healed the sick and ate with *outcasts and sinners/ he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed liberation for all.

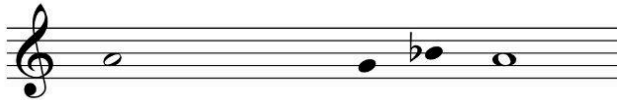


Glory to you fore - ver and ever.

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:

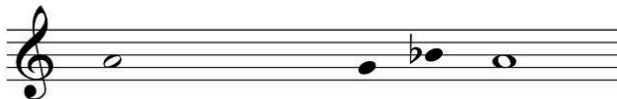
1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,
 hea - ven and the earth are full, are full of your glo - ry, O Lord. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na! How bles - sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

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 remem*brance of me.”




Glory to you fore - ver 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 reme*mbrance of me.



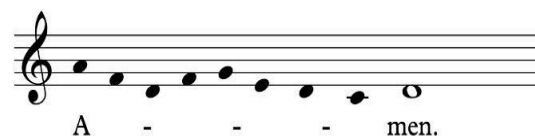
Glory to you fore - ver and ever.

Holy God we give you thanks /for the mystery of faith given to us / in Jesus your Child:



2. Praise to you, Lord Je - sus__ Christ: dy - ing, you de - stroyed our__ death;
ri - sing, you re - stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry to reign. O come,
O come,__ Em - man - u - el! Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry to reign.

Se-e-nd 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 / As we stay alert for signs of your coming O God / stir up our hearts and infuse us with Your hope (peace, joy, 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.



A - - - men.

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, there are also rice crackers available.
Grape juice is in the small cups. It is wine (port) in the larger chalice.*

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

Communion Song: God's Highway

My feet are strong, my eyes are clear I cannot see the way from here
But on we go, You know the way. And in Your arms, You keep me safe.

Refrain: Fear not, keep on, watch and pray - walk in the light of God's highway

The shadows flee, The valley is deep but evil cannot conquer me
Your rod and staff, They protect me - You give me rest, You give me peace (*Refrain*)

I see the shore, from troubled seas - this tiny ship that carries me
It is not yet, But it will be - So heaven come, It's you we need (*Refrain*)

I'm holding onto you, Lord You're holding onto me... (*Refrain*)
Sandra McCracken / Drink Your Tea Music / CCLI

Communion Song: Wait on the Lord

Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord
We will walk the way of peace.
Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord
We will find our way.

Tom Wuest. Brass Trumpet Publishing. Used With Permission.

We Are Sent

The Prayer After Communion

[we pray together] **God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, may your joy so shine through us that all may know your liberation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Song: The Day Soon Will Come

The day soon will come when I'll stand by your side,
and I'll show you my face and my favour;
your cries I will answer, your tears I'll wipe away;
I will guard and protect you forever'

Refrain: Let music fill heaven and gladness fill earth
Let the tall mountains sing with deep fervour
For God will respond to the cry of the poor
and will banish oppression forever

To you and to yours and to those far away
this promise I'll make for my people:
the fields which were barren shall flourish once again,
and the land once abandoned will settle. *Refrain*

Those hidden in darkness I'll call into light,
and prisoners I'll lead into freedom;
and none shall fear hunger and none shall suffer thirst;
for their God, who is loving, will lead them.' *Refrain*

A highway across tall mountains I'll make,
a road I'll prepare for my people;
from east and from west, from all corners of the earth
I will gather the lost and the broken. *Refrain*

John L Bell and Graham Maule; Tune: The Bonnie Banks o' Lock Lomond, Scottish trad.

Sending

Go from this place to watch, wait and prepare the Way.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Closing / Sendoff Song:

As our eve - ning comes to end, Back in - to our lives we are sent.

Give us light so we can shine, in this ad - vent wait - ing time, We'll

share our light for all, we'll share our light for all! We'll

share our light for all, we'll share our light for You, our

Share our light for-

God. (piano)

Ruby Cloud Iris 2024

See you next Sunday at 4pm for Advent IV.

***Our Christmas Eve service will happen at 4pm on December 24
Cider at 3:30pm + Carols, communion at 4pm***

Weekday Prayer with the Emmaus Community

- @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch Upper Room** (off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up)
Mondays 9 am - Morning Prayer w/ Centering Prayer - approx 45 mins. In-person only.
Tuesdays 9 am - approx 25 mins - in-person and online.
Thursdays 8:15 am - morning prayer - The Upper Room and online on zoom.
Fridays 8:15 am - morning prayer - on-line zoom only

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

There will be NO morning prayer December 25 until January 5. We resume Jan 5, 2026.

Donations to our Common Life and Ministry

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our ministry in 2025, making it possible for us to continue thriving in the place God has called us to.

As we look forward to 2026, we are inviting folks to consider making a one-time year end gift, or to sign up for regular monthly giving in the new year. You can now send offerings by **e-transfer to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca** or talk to Lynn, our treasurer to pickup a form for monthly giving (PAR)! There is also a point-of-sale machine at the back table for debit or credit card donations (taken through Square). Or finally, give through Canadahelps by clicking the QR code.



All donations are eligible for a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.

If you have given through e-transfer or square, please reach out to Lynn to confirm your contact details in order to receive a charitable receipt!

If you would like to donate your time or offer other gifts to our common life, be in touch! We are grateful for all of the various ways our community is cared for!



QOMQEM is Back!!

Join AbbeyChurch in Supporting weekly Indigenous-Led Street Outreach

QomQem Coastal Connections has operated a weekly night outreach initiative for the past two years, bringing basic needs, hot and cold foods, harm reduction, and other supplies to the street family. This Indigenous-and-lived-experience-led outreach model follows Coast Salish teachings that everyone should have a home, food to eat, and a role in the community.

Items Needed: Drop them off into the treasure chest at the back!

- Non perishable foods used in the weekly menu: Gatorade/Powerade, juice boxes, fruit cups, pudding cups, peanut butter and jam (large jars), noodle bowls, large bags of candy/baked treats
- Supplies: Gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, high-quality umbrellas, raincoats, winter coats, tarps, winter weight sleeping bags, emergency blankets, batteries, flashlights, tents
- Inexpensive phones and pay as you go phone credits

Volunteer: QomQem will be in the kitchen each Sunday after worship (about 5:15pm) - and AbbeyChurch folk are welcome to come and volunteer.

Donate Money: You can designate funds to this important work through AbbeyChurch - go to canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/ and select QomQem Coastal Connections on the drop down menu.

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>

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