



Christmas Eve Carols and Communion

December 24th, 2025 - 4pm



Image: Scott the Painter



Blessed Christmas Eve and 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 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 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

Gathering Music and Tolling of the Christmas Bells

A Vision of the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

During this next song, folks of all ages are welcomed to help set our table with items from the back of the church.

Processional: 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 heaven above;
Glory to God 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

Welcome and lighting of the Christ Candle

Hope, peace, joy, and love, four promises always offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle.

In Jesus, we find the hope of salvation, the peace that flows from justice, the joy of community, and the love that encompasses us all.

The Christ Candle is lit

Christ is born!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on Earth!

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns; Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts / Public Domain

Please be seated for the readings.

Reader - *In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to the town in Galilee, Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The name of the young woman was Mary. And the angel came to Mary and said, "Rejoice, favoured one! The Most High God is with you." Now, she was troubled by the angels' words and pondered what sort of greeting this was. But the angel said "Fear not Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Sovereign God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his reign, there will be no end."*

Reader - *Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I have not known a man intimately?" The Angel said "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the one born will be holy. He will be called Son of God. And now, Elizabeth your kinswoman has even conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for she who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel left her. 'Mary set out with haste, to a Judean town in the hill country. There she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Now when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, "Look! As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting in my ear, the baby in my womb leapt for joy. Now blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of those things spoken to her by the Holy One."*

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven.
No ear may hear his coming but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still, the dear Christ enters in.
Harry Simeone / Phillip Brooks / Lewis H Redner Public Domain.

Reader - *Now, this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, was a just man and unwilling to shame her, he wanted to divorce her secretly. But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a child from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to fulfil what had been spoken by the Most High God through the prophet: "Look now! The virgin shall conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel," meaning, "God is with us." When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as the angel of the Most High God commanded him.*

Reader - *In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered for taxation. This was the first registration that occurred while Quir-in-ius was governor of Syria. So all went to be registered; each to their own towns. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth in Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, for he was from the house and heritage of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was betrothed and who was pregnant. So it was that while they were there, the time came for the child to be born. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and swaddled him, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Glo----oria, in excelsis Deo; Glo----oria, in excelsis De-o!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo----oria, in excelsis Deo; Glo----oria, in excelsis De-o!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo----oria! in excelsis Deo; Glo----oria, in excelsis De-o!
HF Hemy / Public Domain

Reader - *Shepherds were in that region there staying in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of God came upon them, and the glory of the Living God shone around them, and they were greatly terrified. But the angel said to them, "Fear not. Look! For I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all the people: For there is born to you this day a Saviour who is the Messiah, the Sovereign God, in the city of David. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby swaddled and lying in a manger." And immediately there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly array, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace among peoples whom God favours!"*

Reader - *It happened when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to be, which God has made known to us." So they came hurrying and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Now seeing this, they made known what had been spoken to them about this child. And all who heard marvelled at what was spoken by the shepherds to them. But Mary preserved all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was just as it had been told to them.*

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled, when high above the Earth
rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our saviour's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

African-American Spiritual / Public Domain

The Peace

On that holy night the angels sang,
"Glory to God in the highest and peace to all on earth.
The peace of the Christ child be with you always. **And also with you.**

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

*We sing this song together as the table is set.
Folk are welcome to give financially in various ways now or later.*

Offertory Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity.
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Charles Wesley 1739 / Public Domain

We Celebrate

The AbbeyChurch practices an open table.

All are welcome to receive communion as they feel called.

Prayer Over The Gifts

All of you, beloved of God, weary and anxious, joyful and longing, you are invited to the table of love and liberation. Come and feast on the bread of life, the Word made flesh! Oh God of all, you embrace fully our human life and in giving us yourself in this feast, you make us whole. Receive all we offer you this day and fill us with your life, your peace, your love enfleshed, through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharist)

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace to all!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love. We bless you for all your gifts. You bring creation to birth and send prophets to awaken us to your Advent among us. We praise you for that holy night of hope and the wonder of this time of joy.

We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem. We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness and compassion.

For Jesus Christ, in whom you gather the hopes and fears of all the years, we bless your Holy Name, joining with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels who proclaim the holy birth:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest.

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

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest.

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI

And so we do what Jesus did the night before he died. He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, "This is my body, given for you; whenever you do this, remember me." Then he took the cup, and said, "This cup is the promise of God poured out in my life; whenever you drink it, remember me."

Holy God, pour your Spirit on these gifts and on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that in word and deed, we may be channels of your hope, peace, joy and love in the world. As we come to your table, we bring our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears.

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. For those broken by violence, those who live with fear, and without hope, and we pray for your courage and peace with justice.

Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. For those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body, mind or spirit; for those who are confused or afraid, we pray for your joy and love. Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, and in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

**Our Father (Mother/ Source) in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God, given for the life of the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

*All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table!
The bread is gluten-free from nearby The Art of Slow Food.
Grape Juice is in the small cups.
Wine (Port) is in the common cup.
Please do not dip the bread into the cup.*

Communion Song: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever circling years shall come the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the earth, Its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song, which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

Communion Song: Come Darkness, Come Light

Come darkness, come light Come new star, shining bright
Come love to this world tonight - Alleluia!

Come broken, come whole - Come wounded in your soul
Come anyway that you know - Alleluia!

Chorus: There's a humble stable and a light within
There's an angel hovering and three wise men
Today a baby's born in Bethlehem - Alleluia!

Come doubting, come sure - Come fearful to this door
Come see what love is for - Alleluia!

Come running, come walking slow
Come weary on your broken road
Come see Him and shed your heavy load - Alleluia! (*Chorus*)
Mary Chapin Carpenter 2008 / CCLI

Communion Song: The Heart of God Has Been Revealed

The heart of God has been revealed
The heart of God has been revealed
To bring love not hate, pour out not dominate
The heart of God has been revealed

The heart of God has been revealed
The heart of God has been revealed
To forgive not blame, to make whole not shame
The heart of God has been revealed

Hallelujah x4 The heart of God has been revealed
Alana Levandoski / CCLI

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray: **Wondrous God, we thank you that you find us in your Word made flesh, Emmanuel. We praise you for your revelation in stable warmth and birthing cry, in humility and in power. Now and throughout the year, make our lives shine with the hope, peace, joy and love that is your gift through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

We Are Sent

The Blessing

Go into this night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard. And the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the love of Joseph and Mary, and the blessing of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and always... **Amen**

As we sing this closing song, all are invited to light their taper candles.

Closing Song: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace; Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the saviour is born; Christ the saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night, son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace; Sleep in heavenly peace. Gruber/Mohr/Public Domain

The Sending

Go in the joy of this holy night to proclaim that Christ is born! Love has come!
Thanks be to God! Amen! Alleluia!

We'll be vacating the space quickly today as our friends at The Place Community Church will be worshipping here at 5:30. You can head across the hall for some more cider if you'd like to mingle!



Image: Tent City Nativity - Kelly Latimore

A Blessed Christmas to All!

We are so grateful for your presence with us tonight
and wish you a blessed 12 days of Christmas and beginning of 2026!

*There will be no worship next Sunday (Dec. 28th).
We will re-gather at 4pm in this space for the Feast of the Epiphany on January 4th.*

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Weekday Prayer with the Emmaus Community

@ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch Upper Room
(off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up)

***There will be NO morning prayer December 24 until January 5.
We resume Monday Jan 5, 2026.***

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.

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

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Donations to our Common Life and Ministry

We are well on our way to raising our year-end goal of \$9500, but there is still time to give!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our ministry in 2025, making it possible for us to continue thriving! As we rapidly approach the end of the year (with our final time together being December 24th) we recommend you use one of the following giving methods to ensure your donation will be included in the 2026 tax receipts:

1. **E-transfers.** This method is our favourite as we receive the full amount. (no fees) Please use your online banking to interac e-transfer to totreasurer@emmauscommunity.ca. Make sure you have filled out [this form](#) so we have the details to provide a tax receipt or email treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca with the details of the amount, date and your full contact details.
2. **Online** Via [Canada Helps](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch) - follow the link below or click the QR code -> [here:https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch)
3. The **Square Point Of Sale** set up at the back of the church for debit or credit (debit preferred). Again, be sure to provide your name and contact details either when making the donation via Square or using one of the slips by the iPad.



We have one donor who has given a number of times via the Square, but we have no contact information. If you desire a tax receipt, please email Lynn at treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca with the dates and amounts donated and your full contact details.

**With deep gratitude for your generous support
of this beloved community of AbbeyChurch.**



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

BORROW A BOOK? the (very in-process - 15% catalogued) library catalog is here:
www.librarycat.org/lib/EmmausCommunity or email library@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>



Image: Scott the Painter

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