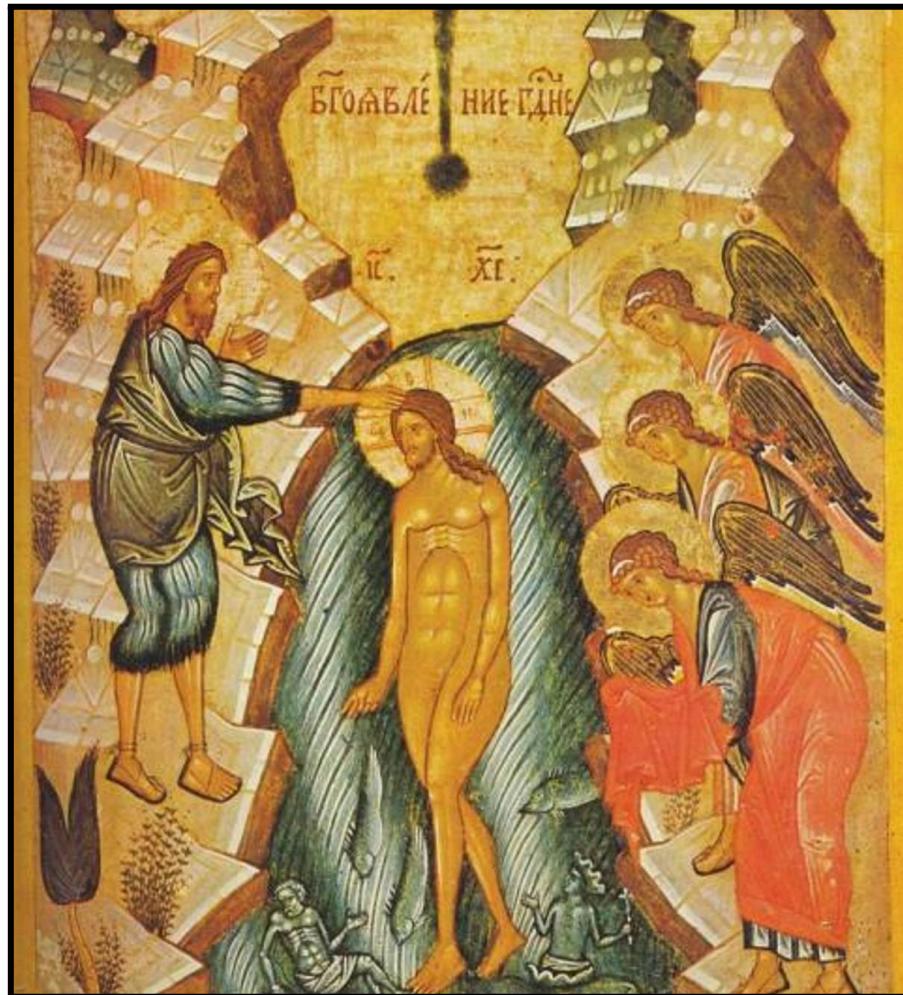




## Baptism of Jesus

January 11th, 2026 + 4pm



*Image: Bogojavlenie - Orthodox Icon - Wikimedia Commons - Public Domain*



## 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'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 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 Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

### Opening Words and Collect:

Light and peace in Jesus Christ

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### Let us pray:

God who loving Parent of us all,  
And who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** Church of England, alt.

*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: Wade in the Water

*Refrain:* Wade in the water. Wade in the water children  
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

See that host all dressed in white  
God's gonna trouble the water  
The leader looks like the Israelite  
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water. *Refrain*

See that band all dressed in red  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Looks like the band that Moses led  
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water. *Refrain*

Look over yonder, what do I see?  
God's gonna trouble the water  
The Holy Ghost a comin' on me  
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water. *Refrain*

You don't believe I've been redeemed  
God's gonna trouble the water  
Just follow me down to Jordan stream  
Oh, God's gonna trouble the water. *Refrain*

*African-American Spiritual – 1901 Fisk Jubilee Singers / Fredrick Work and John Wesley Work, Public Domain.*

### The Poem

**Chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence**

## We Proclaim

### The Hebrew Scripture Reading:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (42:1-10)

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

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

*We say or chant this Psalm together, all joining is as they wish.*

### The Psalm: Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino*

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due the divine name; \*

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon,  
and makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord \*  
splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord \*  
all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to this people; \*  
the Lord shall give this people the blessing of peace.

Glory to You, Source of all Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.\*  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

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

**The Gospel Acclamation:**

Support the artist - grateful  
for the use of this beautiful  
song and we want to honour  
copyright too.

Dr. Kent Gustavson - used with permission - from Light Into the World: Hope for a New Day, 2004 (Bluegrass Mass) - see [drkent.ca](http://drkent.ca)

**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 (3:13-17)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

**With our words and with our lives!**

**Gospel Acclamation Alleluia (Repeated)**

C Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

**The Sermon / Meditation**

**Rev. Cathy Victor**

*Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.*

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith in these words:*

**Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed**

*[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**

**Margot Spence**

**The Confession**

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

[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.**

*Silence is kept.*

**The Absolution / Assurance of Grace**

**The Peace**

...The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God's 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](mailto: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.*

### **The Offertory Song: The River - Brian Doerksen**

To the river I am going - Bringing sins I cannot bear  
Come and cleanse me, come forgive me - Lord I need to meet you there

In these waters, healing mercy - flows with freedom from despair  
I am going, to that river - Lord I need to meet you there

Precious Jesus, I am ready - To surrender every care  
Take my hand now, lead me closer - Lord I need to meet you there

Come and join us, in the river - Come find life beyond compare  
He is calling, He is waiting - Jesus longs to meet you there

Brian Doerksen (Abbotsford BC), Michael Hansen, Brian Thiessen, 2004 Integrity's Hosanna 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**

God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation new. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, now and forever. **Amen**

*Anglican Church of Canada, alt.*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

God of hope, You speak and creation comes to life. You come with healing in your wings and we are filled with your Spirit. You loosen the bonds of sickness to let the oppressed go free. You shelter the poor and feed the hungry the bread of life. When the night is longest, you break upon us like the dawn. And so now we give you thanks that you have shown the greatness of your love by sending your Son Jesus Christ to share our fragile flesh and to bear our every burden. Jesus suffers with the sick, cares for the injured and rescues the dying. By his passion and death he rescues us from evil and binds up every wound. Therefore with angels and archangels and all of Creation, we raise our voices and sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord - God of power and might  
Heaven and earth of your glory are full  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosana in the highest  
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord  
Blest is the One 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, hosana in the highest  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosana in the highest**

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI, alt.

It is right to lift our voices in praise for on the night before he died, Jesus at supper with his disciples, took bread, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Holy God, who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved, send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace. By the power of that same Spirit, may these gifts of bread and wine be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Be close to those who ache for your liberating power. Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking and restoring touch of your Spirit. Bless all your beloved children until that day when all Creation is restored and all are enfolded in your embrace. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, now and forever. **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.**

*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: Nothing to Fear**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you  
And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm  
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned  
I am the Lord, I am the Lord

Refrain: And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear  
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear  
For I am with you always

In the depths of your sorrow, I wept beside you  
When you walked through the shadow, I drew you near  
And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same  
I am the Lord, I am the Lord... Refrain.

What can separate you from my perfect love? (3x)

Do not fear (3x)

2019 Integrity Worship Music Paul Zach Publishing Designee/ASCAP, Fortunate Fall Music / CCLI

**Communion Song: Everlasting God**

Everlasting God, You alone are the LORD

Over all the Kingdoms of the earth.

You bring out your starry host one by one - and call them all by name.

Everlasting God, you weigh clouds with heavy dew,  
Pour spring rains over barren land.

You warm soil with golden light, rolling hills you drape in silken moss.

(Chorus) Your grace holds us near. Your mercies rise.  
Long will our hearts behold you. Everlasting God

Everlasting God, You grant us daily breath,  
Guide our feet along the path of peace.  
You preserve the poor outcast, hear prisoner's cries and soothe our broken hearts.

Everlasting God, You alone are the Lord  
Over all the creatures of the earth.  
You feed us in bread and wine, body and blood. Your mercies ever new. (Chorus)

Everlasting God, by the star you led forth  
Showed the way for shepherds and magi  
You bid us: "come and see" - The God in flesh, our world is redeemed.

Everlasting God, we heard the voice,  
Saw the dove And into Christ we are baptized  
You speak over us the words: "You are my Child, with you I am well pleased." (Chorus)  
Tom Wuest, 2010. Brass Trumpet Publishing final verse Matthew W. Humphrey

### **The Prayer After Communion**

[we pray together] **Gracious God, lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ, members of one another. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Anglican Church of Canada, alt.*

## **We Are Sent**

### **Commissioning of Matt for a time of Sacred Rest and Renewal**

#### **The Blessing**

##### **Closing Song: Be Still My Soul**

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend  
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! your God does undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past;  
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul! when dearest friends depart  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,  
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.  
Be still, my soul! your Jesus can repay  
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Schlegel, Catharina Amalia Dorothea von, 1752, Public Domain. Tran: Jane Borthwick 1854

#### **Sending**

Go as beloved in Christ to follow Jesus and seek the peace and wellbeing of the places you go this week. **Thanks be to God! Amen. 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 Video Loop**

★ ★ ★

## **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! We continue to welcome your offerings of all kinds; financial and otherwise - and are grateful for all the ways you give.

Here are a few ways to donate financially to the common life of our Beloved Community:

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 [treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:treasurer@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](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca) with the details of the amount, date and your full contact details.
2. **Online** Via [Canada Helps](#) - follow the link below or click the QR code -> here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/>
3. The **Square POS** reader at the back of the church. 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 still have one donor who has given a number of times via the Square reader, but we have no contact information. If you desire a tax receipts, please email Lynn at [treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca). with the dates and amounts donated and your full contact details.*

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

★ ★ ★

## **QOMQEM every Sunday!!**



Join AbbeyChurch partnering on 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/](http://canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/) and select QomQem Coastal Connections on the drop down menu.

★ ★ ★

## **Weekday Prayer with the Emmaus Community**

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

**Mondays 9 am** - Morning Prayer w/ Centering Prayer - approx 45 mins. In-person only.

**Tuesdays 9 am** - approx 25-30 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*

★ ★ ★

**WANNA CHAT?** Reach out to us at [admin@abbeychurch.ca](mailto:admin@abbeychurch.ca)

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

**[admin@abbeychurch.ca](mailto:admin@abbeychurch.ca) + [www.abbeychurch.ca](http://www.abbeychurch.ca)**

**778.557.4166 we would love to connect.**

This leaflet is printed on tree-free paper. Please recycle or take home!