



## The Presentation of Jesus + Candlemas

February 1, 2026 + 4pm



*Presentation of Jesus at the Temple Icon from Saint Paraskevi Church in Langada. Public Domain. Wikicommons*



## 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, Announcements and Land Acknowledgement**

**Reflection Song: For What It's Worth** (Buffalo Springfield 1966)

#### **Opening Words and Collect:**

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we come into the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

#### **Opening Chant: Nunc Dimittis**

Lord, you now have set your servant / free \*  
to go in peace as / you have promised.

A Light to enlighten the / nations \*  
and the glory of your chosen people

For these eyes of mine have seen the / Saviour, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the / world to see.

A Light to enlighten all the / nations \*  
and the glory of your chosen Hebrew people

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.

Let us pray.

O God, Source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

**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: In The Temple Now Behold Him**

In the temple now behold Him;  
See the long-expected Lord!  
Ancient prophets had foretold Him;  
God has sent the promised word.  
Now to praise him, his redeemed  
Shall break forth with one accord.

Jesus, by Your Presentation,  
When they blessed you, weak and poor.  
Make us see Thy great salvation,  
Seal us with Thy promise sure;  
And present us in Thy glory  
To the Source both whole and sure.

Prince and author of salvation,  
Be Thy boundless love our theme!  
Jesus, praise to Thee be given  
By the world Thou didst redeem,  
With the Source and with the Spirit,  
Lord of majesty supreme!

HJ Pye, Public Domain, alt. / Tune Regent Square ELW 417

## The Poem

Chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence

## We Proclaim

### The Hebrew Scripture Reading:

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

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

### The Psalm: Psalm 84

How lovely is Your dwelling place, Oh Lord Almighty  
My soul longs and even faints for You.  
For here my heart is satisfied, within Your presence  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

*Refrain:* Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts. Than thousands elsewhere  
Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts. Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask, and I would seek, to see Your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. *Refrain.*

My heart and flesh cry out - For You the living God  
Your Spirit's water for my soul  
I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me.  
I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You. *Refrain.*

Matthew James Redman / Bryan Felix / Joel Luis Setien / Jocelyn Felix / Will Blount Thankyou Music Ltd./ CCLI

## The Epistle / Christian Scripture:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews (2:14-18)

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

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

## The Gospel Acclamation

*fiddle*

**A** Lord, to whom shall we go? **C** Lord, to whom shall we go? **A**

**D** **G** **D** **A**

**A** You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. **C** Lord, to whom shall we go? **A**

**D** **G** **D** **A**

**A** Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. **C** Lord, to whom shall we go? **A**

**D** **G** **D** **A**

**A** Lord, to whom shall we go? **C** Let us trust in your word. **A**

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

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

Dr. Kent Gustavson - used with permission - from Light Into the World: Hope for a New Day (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 Luke (2:22-40)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

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

## Gospel Acclamation *Repeated*



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

## The Sermon

**Ernest Morrow**

*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**

#### **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**

+May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by God's Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **The Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in bleakness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of 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: Amazing Grace (Rising Sun Version)**

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear - the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toil and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far - and grace will lead me home.

When we've been here ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise – then when we've first begun.  
John Newton Public Domain, alt / House of the Rising Sun - Appalachian or English folk tune, evolved.

## **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,  
simply place your hands across your chest.*

### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

The table of bread and wine is now made ready and all are welcome. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

For the sake of all that aches in this world, our church, and within every creature and creation, we come to your Table O God, hungry for a taste of your Kindom. Receive all we offer you this day and fill us with your hope. **Amen.**the Iona Community/Enfleshed

*A brief silence is kept.*

### **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**

Tom Wuest Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with Permission.

**Communion Song: Within Our Darkest Night**

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

J. Berthier 1991. Ateliers et Presses de Taizé (Taizé Community, France) / OneLicense

## Communion Song: Every Mother, Every Father

1. Ev'ry mother, e - v'ry father, called to raise up sons \_\_\_\_\_ or daugh - ters: May your heart be pa - tient, may your mind be clear, may our God be with you and calm your fear.

2017 Hymns from The Porther's Gate/Fair Trade Music Publishing. Andy Bast, Bruce Benedict

## The Prayer After Communion

[we pray together] **Let us pray. Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Anna and Simeon who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah: may we, who have received these your gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring eternal life; for he is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen.**

## We Are Sent

### The Blessing of the Candles and the Blessing

Let us Pray:

Gracious God, source of all light, you created all things out of nothing and by your mysterious command have caused this liquid to become perfect wax by the holy labour of bees: +Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of Jesus Christ, our sibling the light who enlightens all Creation.

**As these candles kindle a visible flame, so may our hearts burn within us by the fires of your Holy Spirit, that we might walk in the way of Christ.**

God of promise, who on this day was presented in the Temple and received into the humble and aged arms of the prophet Simeon: +Bless and sanctify all those who wait on your promises, give faith where we struggle, and hope where we despair.

**May we, like Simeon, find our souls at rest as we wait on God's promises. And may we let our light shine bright in our community and in our world.**

...and the blessing of God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit...

### **Closing Song: This Little Light of Mine**

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

Hide it under a bushel, NO! - I'm gonna let it shine...

Won't let no one blow it out - I'm gonna let it shine...

Let it shine 'till Jesus comes -I'm gonna let it shine...

Words and music by Harry Dixon Loes. Public Domain.

### **The Sending**

As Anna and Simeon recognised you in the temple

**May we recognize you in those we meet.**

As Jesus grew and became strong and wise

**May we grow in wisdom and wonder and joy.**

Go in the peace and luminescence of Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.** Ruth Burgess, alt.

### **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*

*We will be back here to worship next Sunday at 4pm*

## **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.

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



### **QOMQEM every Sunday- UNTIL FEB 8!!**

Join AbbeyChurch partnering on weekly Indigenous-Led Street Outreach until Feb 8 - when our current batch of funding is ending (thanks to the United Church of Canada / PMRC's ProVision Grant!)

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/](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/) and select QomQem Coastal Connections on the drop down menu.

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## Weekday Prayer with the Emmaus Community

② **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*

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**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>



### **Lectio Devina on Brokenness with Kintsugi**

On Friday February 20 from 4 to 6 pm, you are invited to join a small group of aspiring Abbey artists (in the Abbey office), to contemplate a passage on brokenness, hear about the Japanese practice of Kintsugi and have a chance to repair a ceramic vessel using a modified procedure. There is room for 10 people. To reserve a space, please email Margot at [mspence@shaw.ca](mailto:mspence@shaw.ca). You will need to bring a small broken piece of pottery / ceramic to work on (eg mug or bowl sized, though it should be a piece that you will no longer use for food or liquid). Alternately you can visit a thrift store and buy a piece you don't mind breaking, to practice repairs on.

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

**778.557.4166 we would love to connect.**

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