



Advent 2

December 6, 2020 + 4pm

Welcome to the AbbeyChurch

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today, know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's creation – and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey - but we share a guiding sacred Story as found in scripture (The Bible) and summarized in ancient Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God, and with our questions and doubts.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressives, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together in unity as we gather each week at Jesus' table of welcome.

Welcome

Bell x3

Land Acknowledgement / Traditional Teaching

- Rev. John Snow, Jr. - Stoney Tribe
Indigenous Minister, Pacific Mountain Region
United Church of Canada

We invite you to take a moment to remember and name with gratitude the people who have stewarded the lands on which you live - at AbbeyChurch this is the land of the Lə kʷ ə ŋə n People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations).

Opening Song: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Comfort, comfort, O my people,
Speak of peace, now says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell of all the sins I cover, And that warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one who's crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all to full repentance
since the kingdom is now here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to greet him.

O make straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token
That his word is never broken.

Winkworth / Olearius / Public Domain

Call to worship

In the lonely places
The wilderness
Where we stand forlorn
Windswept and alone
Your voice calls out

Prepare the way of the Lord

In the shadows
Where we hide our fears
Embrace our tears
Your voice calls out

Prepare the way of the Lord

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon] us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”(Luke 1:78-79)

For the desert places in which we walk
Guide our feet. Take us to places where you would go
Give us words that you would speak
That in this Advent season of promise and preparation
We might point the way with John the Baptist
To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world
and with him proclaim:

Prepare the way of the Lord. Amen

Opening Chant

Creator of The Stars of Night

When this old world drew in toward night,
You came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Words: Latin, 9th century; Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong

Candle Lighting

The Horncastle-McMenamies

The poet, Wendell Berry, wrote: “When despair for the world grows in me...I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water” The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” When God comes in, there healing is to be found, and we are invited to help get ready - to prepare the way of the Lord. God calls us to breathe in the holy breath of peace.

We light this second candle as a sign of our peace!

The second Candle is lit

When we light the candle of Peace, we breathe in the One who restores us. We light these candles as a sign of our faith that the God we worship is not far off from us and promises to come right into the places we need God most. As we seek to prepare the way, we light these candles in faith that God is already on the way.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Be our God-With-Us!

Song: All of Your Ways Are Peace

All of Your ways are peace, All of Your ways are peace.
Though we are pressed on ev'ry side,
We trust that You are peace.

All of Your ways are just, All of Your ways are just.
Though we may say it through our tears,
We trust that you are just.

All of Your ways are peace (x3)

Jessica Fox, Paul Zach, Latifah Alattas, Isaac Wardell, Liz Vice, Orlando Palmer
Porters House / CCLI

The Readings

The Hebrew Scripture

Jesse Robertson

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.
...The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Spoken.

Paraphrase © Jeff Shrowder 1999.

Look fondly on your land, O God;
restore the fortunes of your people.

Forgive the guilt of the people,
blot out all their sin.

Hear the good news: the promise of shalom to God's people who turn again to God; the nearness of God's salvation to those who revere the LORD.

Truly God dwells in our land.

God's enduring love and faithfulness meet together;

justice and shalom embrace;

faithfulness will appear like spring growth

justice will be like late spring rain.

The LORD will give what is good

and our land will offer up its produce.

Justice will go ahead,

and prepare the way of the LORD.

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 prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.

Please stand in body or in spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Come to us, Emmanuel we wait for thee with bated breath
And hope-filled hearts and anxious minds

Longing to see your face and worship at your feet

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

The Gospel

Lynn Mills

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Mark (1:1-8). The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have

baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Isaiah's vision didst unfold
when you descended into this world
To bring good news and set the prisoners free
You set aside eternity so that we might live

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

Sermon

Rob Crosby-Shearer, EC

Bell / Silence / Bell

Affirming our Faith / Magnificat: Mary's Song

How can it be that I am blessed
to bear a gift so tender
My soul rejoices in the Lord
the one true God my Saviour

They will surely call me blessed
from now all generations
For he has remembered me
For he has been mindful

O, rejoice! You people Israel
Your light has come Hallelujah

He has brought down the mighty ones
and lifted up the humble
He has helped the weak to stand
and scattered all the prideful
And He has filled the hungry
and sent the rich away
To those who fear him he has shown
A never-ending mercy

Peter LeGrand/Ordinary Time

Prayers of the People

Vanessa Caruso

Confession

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in mercy and infinite in goodness, let us turn to the light and confess our sins...

**Holy and loving God,
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Forgive us, refine us and prepare us once again for life
in your kingdom. Amen.**

Bell. Silence is kept.

Absolution / Assurance of Grace

The Peace

The peace of the incarnate One be with you.
And also with you!

Offertory Song: Holy Darkness

Refrain: Holy darkness, blessed night,
heaven's answer hidden from our sight.

As we await you, O God of silence,
we embrace your holy night.

I have tried you in fires of affliction;
I have taught your soul to grieve.
In the barren soil of your loneliness,
there I will plant my seed. *Refrain*

In your deepest hour of darkness
I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit,
will my riches fill your soul. *Refrain*

Dan Schutte, SJ / OCP / OneLicense

Prayer Over The Gifts

Jesus our peace, we believe that you are present in this Sacrament we will share. We love You above all things and desire to receive You into our soul. Since we cannot now receive You in person, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You and unite ourselves wholly to You. Receive all we offer you this day - our lives, our hearts and this bread and wine. Never permit us to be separated from You. **Amen.** *Adapted from Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)*

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

Cantor: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts

Cantor: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Cantor: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands... place at Your table.

Cantor: Glory to you forever and ever.

...Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your creation we sing:

**Holy holy holy Lord - God of power God of might
Heaven and the earth are full - are full of your glory
Hosanna Hosanna - how blessed is the One!
who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Presider: While Jesus was eating with his disciples...:
"Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me."

Cantor: Glory to you forever and ever.

Presider: As supper was ending... do this in remembrance of me. **Cantor: Glory to you forever and ever.**

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

**Cantor: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ; dying you
destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord
Jesus come in glory to reign. O Come O Come O Come
Emmanuel. Lord Jesus come in glory to reign.**

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit ...and made one in your love. Amen. **Cantor and people: Amen**

As beloved children of a loving parent, let us pray... *(this may be said in a language or paraphrase of your choice, or as below):*

Abba, Amma, Beloved, 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 for ever. Amen.

Silence.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world. Feed on Christ in your hearts through faith with thanksgiving! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Communion Song: Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.

Text: Luke 3:4-6, Taizé community; Tune: Jacques Bethier

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, strengthen our faith, increase our peace and grant us a place at your heavenly table. Nourish us with your Word and send us with your Spirit, that we may create tables of welcome in our lives this week. Through Jesus Christ, we pray, **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 in peace to prepare the way of the Lord
Thanks be to God, Amen.



admin@emmauscommunity.ca
www.abbeychurch.ca
778 977 7562