



John the Baptist - Modern Saints By Gracie
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/GracieMorbitzer>

Advent 3
December 13, 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.

Intr. 1. 

G Audé- te * in Dómino sem-per : í-terum díco,

Welcome
Bell x3

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather to worship, we acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish, Nuuchahnulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, worship, and play. Recognizing and lamenting the harm of colonialization, we seek ways to enter into new relationships based on gratitude, respect, truth-telling and justice.

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 Lək̓ʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

Call to Worship:

We come to worship Christ
**Who proclaims good news to the poor,
 binds up the broken-hearted,
 frees the prisoner and comforts those who mourn.**

We come to worship Christ
**Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
 the oil of joy instead of mourning,
 and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.**

We come to worship Christ
**Who rebuilds ancient ruins
 and restores broken places.**
 Rejoice in the lord always!
Again I say rejoice!

Opening Song: 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

Call to Worship: Candlelighting The Krystalowiches
On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into
our lives. Even as the night continues to lengthen, we
sense the coming of the Light that will brighten our days.
A light that calls us to justice, peace and joy in the Holy
Spirit

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert
shall rejoice and blossom; and rejoice with joy and singing.
God has replaced our mourning with the oil of gladness
and so we light this third candle and name it Joy.

Candle is lit

We light these candles as a sign of joy - we choose to be
joyful, though we have considered all the facts. And not
just in the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper
things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of
love for each other and for the earth - poured out in

service, hospitality and community. We light this candle of joy because God is coming and our hearts are made glad! O Come, O Come Emmanuel, be our God-With-Us!

Opening Chant

Gaudete in Domino

Gaudete in Domino semper: Iterum dico, gaudete:
Modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus:
Dominus prope est. Nihil solliciti sitis: sed in omni
oratione petitiones nestrae innotescant apud Deum.
Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam: Avertisti captivitatem
Jacob. Gloria Patri.

Translation: Rejoice in the Lord always!

*I say it again, rejoice! May your modesty be known to all.
The LORD is near. Be not anxious of anything, but in all
your speech bet your petitions become known before God.
You have blessed, O Lord, your land: you have returned
Jacob from captivity. Glory to the Father.*

Gregorian Chant

The Readings

The Hebrew Scripture

Matthew Cook

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (61: 1-4, 8-11)
The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord
has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to
the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim
liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to
proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of
vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to
provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a
garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of
mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of
the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the
ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of
many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate
robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their
recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with

them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations....The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 126

Chanted

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come
again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

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

Catherine Pate

+The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. John (1:6-8; 19-28). There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing... The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

So come to us, Emmanuel, we live in hope of your return
To bring new life to this old world
To end all wars and to heal all hearts
And to reign forever more. Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

Sermon

Meagan Crosby-Shearer, EC

Bell / Silence / Bell

Affirming our Faith / Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
And my spirit exalts in God my Savior
For You have looked with mercy on my lowliness
And my name will be forever exalted.

For the mighty God has done great things for me
And Your mercy will reach from age to age!
And holy, holy, holy is Your name...

You have mercy in every generation
You have revealed Your power and Your glory
You have cast down the mighty in their arrogance
And You've lifted up the meek and the lonely
You have come to help Your servant Israel
You have remembered Your promise to our forebears
And holy, holy, holy is Your name! (x2)

John Michael Talbot / 1980 Troubadour For The Lord Music / CCLI, alt.

Prayers of the People

Chivonne Graff

God of heaven and earth, you sent your angels as messengers to your servants, bringing news of comfort and joy, of your plan to heal a world gone astray...

...Bringing news of Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

To Mary, you sent a message of your favor. You chose her to carry and give birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High.

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. From now on all generations will call me blessed.

To Joseph the angel gave assurance that Mary's son was from God, and should be named Jesus...

...Because he would save us from our sins.

To shepherds among their flocks, angels brought good news of great joy that will be for all people.

A Savior has been born to us; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

To Kings from the east, a star rose signifying the birth of Jesus. When they saw the star they were overjoyed, and they bowed down and worshiped the Christ Child, offering costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and lay all our treasures at His feet.

You have brought us joy through Your Son, the Messiah.

A Savior who is Christ the King.

<http://www.franpratt.com/litanies/2015/12/25/litany-for-advent-week-3-joy>

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: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

We hail you as our Savior, Lord
our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.

O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

Coffin / Chandler / Public Domain

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: Come Light our Hearts

*Refrain:*For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait (x 2)
Truly our hope is in You (x 2)

O Lord of life, our only hope Your radiance shines
On all who look to You in the dark
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts. *(Refrain)*

Oh Joy above, all other loves
In You we find, more than enough
We come as we are, O heal and restore,
Come light our hearts. *(Refrain)*

Sandra McCracken/Drink Your Tea Music / CCLI

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 joyful welcome in our lives this week. Through Jesus Christ, we pray, **Amen**

The Blessing

Closing Song: I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless life filed with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light

Refrain: I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow's the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light (*Refrain*)

CCLI. Hank Williams. 1948. Renewed 1975 Sony/ATV Acuff Rose Music
(Admin. by Sony/ATV Acuff Rose Music)

Sending

Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord
Thanks be to God, Amen.



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