



Banksy - Israel and Palestine

## **Christmas Eve**

December 24, 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.

## We Gather

Welcome

Bell x3

### **Opening Responses**

On this holy night we gather with gratitude on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations... *(We invite you to take a moment to remember and name with gratitude the people who have stewarded the lands on which you live )*

From many places and many peoples

**We come to this house in prayer.**

In the deep shadows of the night,

**The Light of the World shines forth.**

Through the pain of birth,

**Hope arrives.**

Amid the poverty of a stable and the struggle of life,

**A Peace Maker enters in.**

On this night, as we prepare ourselves once more for the miracle of Jesus' birth, O God, be with us. Let us hear this night: Good tidings of great joy for all people!

**Glory to God in the highest. Amen!**

### **Opening Song: Once In Royal David's City**

Once in royal David's city

Stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her Baby

In a manger for His bed:

Mary was that mother mild,

Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,

Who is God and Lord of all,

And His shelter was a stable,

And His cradle was a stall;

With the poor, and mean, and lowly,

Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander; Tune: Henry J Gauntlett

### **Candle lighting**

The Tarnowsky's

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

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

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

*The Christ Candle is lit*

O come O come, Emmanuel, let your Spirit shine in our  
hearts; let your Love shine in our world, and let the  
wonder of this night touch all of our hearts. Lead us to the  
shining-star truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us.  
Amen

### **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

### **The Word**

**The Hebrew Scripture**      Kirsten Horncastle-McMenamie

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

he 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,

    as people exult when dividing plunder.

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 all the boots of the tramping warriors

    and all the garments rolled in blood

    shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,

    a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

    and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, 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.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.  
...The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 97**

*Chanted.*

*Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.  
Please stand in body or in spirit.*

## **Gospel Acclamation: Angels We Have Heard on High**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
Traditional French carol

## **The Gospel**

Chivonne Graff

+The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke... In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this

day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”... The Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Sermon**

Matt Humphrey, EC

*Bell / Silence / Bell*

**We Respond**

**The Creed**

I believe in God the Maker almighty  
Creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended to the dead on the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heav’n  
and is seated at the right hand of the Maker.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, +the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Ryan Flanigan, alt., © 2017, Common Hymnal, CCLI

**Prayers of the People**

Melanie Ihmels

## **The Confession**

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: Let us let go of our fear and confess all that keeps us from God.

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.  
Forgive our disobedience to hear your call.

**forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.  
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

**forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.  
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

**forgive and heal us.**

The magi followed the star to find Jesus the King.  
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

**forgive and heal us.**

*Bell. Silent Prayer*

## **Absolution / Assurance of Grace**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Incarnate One be with you.

**And also with you!**

### **Offertory Song: What Child Is This**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*Chorus:* This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. *Chorus*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. *Chorus*  
Text: Willian C. Dix; Tune: GREENSLEEVES, trad. English

### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we should for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **We Feast**

#### **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...  
...**Cantor: Gloria In Excelsis Deo!**

...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: Gloria In Excelsis Deo!**

Presider: As supper was ending... do this in remembrance of me. **Cantor: Gloria In Excelsis Deo!**

Presider: Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your Child: **Cantor: Christ has come, died and risen! Christ will come again.**

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: Cradle Hymn**

Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber,  
Holy angels guard thy bed!  
Heavenly blessings without number  
Gently falling on thy head.

Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,  
House and home, thy friends provide;  
All without thy care or payment:  
All thy wants are well supplied.

Soft and easy is thy cradle  
Coarse and hard thy Saviour lay,  
When His birthplace was a stable  
And His softest bed was hay.

Soft, my child: I did not chide thee,  
Though my song might sound too hard;  
'Tis thy mother sits beside thee,  
And her arms shall be thy guard.

May you live to know and fear Him,  
Trust and love Him all thy days;  
Then go dwell for ever near Him,  
See His face, and sing His praise!  
Text: Isaac Watts; Tune: traditional USAmerican

### **Prayer After Communion**

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation,  
and we look forward to when we together may feast. May  
your Word take flesh in us, so that we may be your holy  
people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus  
Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

### **We Are Sent**

#### **The Blessing**

#### **Closing Song: Silent Night / 6 O'Clock News**

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.  
Text: Joseph Morh; Music: Franz X. Gruber

**Sending**

Go out to proclaim the incarnate love of God.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

**Postlude: 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 Savior's birth *Refrain*

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn *Refrain*  
Traditional African-American spiritual



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