



Annunciation, 2011 (acrylic on canvas), Patricia Brintle / Private Collection

Advent 4
December 20, 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

As we gather to worship, we acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish, Nuu-chah-nulth, 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 Ləkʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

Opening words

There were safer places
more comfortable places
palaces and wealthy places
Yet you chose a daughter of the soil
Who would have otherwise
lived a good and honest life
grown and harvested crops
cooked and washed and cared for others
to be your temporary home
to be exalted for all time

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed

When does an ordinary life become extraordinary?
A mundane day become revolutionary?
A moment in time change history?

When God enters in
Forgives sin
Allows us to
Begin again
When we repeat
Those words of Mary:
'May it be to me, according to your word'

Opening Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. *Refrain*

O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Text: Latin antiphons for Advent; Music: 15th century plainsong

Candle lighting

Danny, Elias, Aidan

Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.' On this day, we remember Mary, vulnerable and powerful, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb - And we light this fourth candle of love.

Candle is lit

Loving God, Rejoicing in Mary's "Yes!" - Magnify your love within us. Make us aware of your steadfast loving presence in our lives. Come to us, and be born in us: in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your love be kindled in us. Oh come O come Emmanuel and be our God with us!

Opening Chant

Creator Of the Stars of Night

Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

Words: Latin, 9th century; Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4.

The Readings

The Hebrew Scripture

Margot Spence

A reading from the book of Samuel (7:1-11,16)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Canticle: The Magnificat : Luke 1:47-55

spoken

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

For you, Lord,

have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

You have done great things for me

and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you,

from generation to generation.

**You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

**You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.**

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and Sarah and their children for ever.**

*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

Melanie Ihmels

+The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Luke (1:26-38). In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative

Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her...

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

Roxy Humphrey, EC

Bell / Silence / Bell

Prayers of the People

Jesse Robertson

Confession

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

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,
Forgive us, O God.

When we ignore the mighty things you have done,
When we doubt your mercy,

Forgive us, O God.

When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,
When our power rests on the oppression of others,
When our wealth causes others to go hungry,
forgive us, O God.

Bell. Silent Prayer

Absolution / Assurance of Grace

The Peace

The peace of the incarnate One be with you.

And also with you!

Offertory Song: The Angel Gabriel

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail" said he "O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother you shall be,
All generations praise continually,
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God!" she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!

Text: Basque Carol; Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol,

Prayer Over The Gifts

Jesus, 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. In Jesus name we pray. **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: Of God's very Heart Begotten

Of God's very heart begotten ere the world began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega,
Christ the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are and have been,
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

At his word the world were framed.
He commanded, it was done:
Heaven and earth depths of ocean
in their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath
the shining of the moon and burning sun,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed!
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

Words: Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: plainsong

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, strengthen our faith, increase our love 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: Tell Out My Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Tune: WOODLANDS

Sending

Go out to proclaim the revolutionary love of God,
Thanks be to God, Amen.



admin@emmauscommunity.ca

www.abbeychurch.ca

778 977 7562