

THE
ABBÉY
CHURCH

I Saw The Light!



**A Bluegrass Mass
for the Feast of the Epiphany**

January 3, 2021 + 4pm

BLUEGRASS MASS?

Take one part Bluegrass music: a form of American roots music. Blend it together with the ancient liturgy of the Church – sometimes known as the Mass.... What do you get? A ***Bluegrass Mass***, so to speak.

Though Bluegrass and Mass may culturally seem to be worlds apart, it's important to note that from its very roots, Bluegrass had a sacred, gospel side to it. Bluegrass itself was pioneered in a former Methodist Church (Union Gospel Tabernacle - later the original Grand Ol' Opry) – and Bluegrass pioneer Bill Monroe characterized the genre as: "Scottish bagpipes and ole-time fiddlin.' It's Methodist and Holiness and Baptist: It's blues and jazz, and it has a high lonesome sound."

Above all, Bluegrass music is music of deep longing and authenticity - it comes from the heart. Whether or not you think of yourself as a 'prayin' kinda person' – the songs, the themes and the overall spirit of Bluegrass calls us all into something deeper and primal and true. Heck, we Christians believe the same thing about the simple common act of sharing bread and wine.

The word 'Eucharist' literally means "Thanksgiving" and thus we gather in a spirit of gratitude for Jesus' giving of Himself. The word "Mass" comes from the Late-Latin word "Missa" (taken from the Latin mass) which means "Go; It is the dismissal" and thus we are sent out to continue our meal-sharing together.

And we allow this music and the ancient liturgy to draw us, like those wise folk of years ago, towards the light. We lift our hearts and our mind and our very selves towards the Star that illumines our path - even as we are mindful of the shadows and despair all around us. And so, in this strange season of Covid-19, while we are still unable to gather in the same ways, we bid you to bring your hearts longing and to sing it all out to God in song and prayer.

Welcome! We journey towards Christ together. May you find nourishment for your soul in this online offering.

In Christ, The Abbey Team – info@abbeychurch.ca

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

Tolling the Bells

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

Bell x 3

Gathering Songs: Higher Ground

I'm pressing on the upward way
New heights I'm gaining everyday
Still praying as I onward bound
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Chorus: Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith on heaven's table land
A higher plane than I have found
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay
Tho' some may dwell where these abound
My prayer, my aim is higher ground. *Chorus*

I want to live above the world
Tho' satan's darts at me are hurled
For faith has caught the joyful sound
The song of saints on higher ground. *Chorus*

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found
Lord, lead me on to higher ground. *Chorus*

Words: Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1898. Tune: Charles H. Gabriel, 1902. Public Domain.

Wait For the Light to Shine

When the road is rocky
And you're carrying a load
Wait for the light to shine
If you find your friendless
On that weary lonesome road
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
Pull yourself together
And keep looking for the sign
Wait for the light to shine

Don't forget your brother
As you travel through the land
Wait for the light to shine
He may be in trouble
And may need a helping hand
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
Never give up hope
Or cast your pearls before the swine
Wait for the light to shine

If your life is empty
And you're on your last go round
Wait for the light to shine
If you hear the chime bells
On the highway you have found
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
When your friends forsake you
And you haven't got a dime
Wait for the light to shine

Don't let trouble fool you
And your sins will all be gone
Wait for the light to shine
Don't forget it's darkest
Just before the break of dawn
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
Keep these words before you
As you walk that narrow line
Wait for the light to shine

Words: Fred Rose. Tune: Hank Williams.

Responsive Gathering Words

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

The radiance of God's light burns away the shadows, illuminates the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn,

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts!

The Gloria

Refrain:



Verse One:



Opening Poem: For Those Who Have Far to Travel - A Blessing for Epiphany

If you could see the journey whole,
you might never undertake it, might never
dare the first step that propels you
from the place you have known toward
the place you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:
that we see it only by stages as it opens
before us, as it comes into our keeping,
step by single step. There is nothing
for it but to go, and by our going
take the vows the pilgrim takes: to be
faithful to the next step; to rely on more
than the map; to heed the signposts
of intuition and dream; to follow the star
that only you will recognize; to keep
an open eye for the wonders that attend
the path; to press on beyond distractions,
beyond fatigue, beyond what would

tempt you from the way.

There are vows that only you will know:
the secret promises for your particular path
and the new ones you will need to make
when the road is revealed by turns
you could not have foreseen.

Keep them, break them, make them again;
each promise becomes part of the path,
each choice creates the road that will take you
to the place where at last you will kneel
to offer the gift most needed—
the gift that only you can give—
before turning to go home by another way.

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The Phos Hillaron (Evening Hymn)

Joyous light of glorious God
Heavenly Holy Jesus Christ
We have come to the setting of the sun
And we look to the evening light
Sing to the Source, the Word and Holy Spirit
Our voices pure together
O precious God
Giver of life we sing your praises forever.

Kent Gustvson / See end credits / CCLI

WE PROCLAIM

First Reading

Isaiah 61: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
 they all gather together, they come to you;
 your sons shall come from far away,
 and your daughters shall be carried
 on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
 your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
 because the abundance of the sea
 shall be brought to you,
 the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
 the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
 all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
 and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

[at the end of the reading] ...The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Acclamation and Gospel Reading

fiddle

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —

D G D A

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

D G D A

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

D G D A

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

[C] Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

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

+The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew (2:1-12)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ. (We repeat the alleluia.)

Reflection
Silence

Rob Crosby-Shearer, EC

The Creed

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across measures. A common time signature 'C' is placed at the beginning of the first staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'We be-lieve in one God, Cre - a - tor, Mak-er of all that is seen and un-seen. You are with us al-ways, to the end of the age, God who was and is and is yet to be. We be-lieve in one Re-deem-er, Je-sus Christ, God from God and light from light. You car-ry us a-long as dis - ci-ples, we are al-ways in your - sight. You suf-fered and died for all of sin, to bring us close to our lov-ing God. Through death in bod-y, made a - live in the Spir-it, in glo-ry your king-dom will not end. I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spir-it, gi-ver of life, God who was and is and is to come, wa - ter of life and wind that blows, Cre - a - tor, Re-deem-er, Ho - ly One. A - - - men, A - men, A - men, A - - - men.'

C We be-lieve in one God, Cre - a - tor, Mak-er of all that is seen and un-seen.

You are with us al-ways, to the end of the age, God who was and is and is yet to be.

We be-lieve in one Re-deem-er, Je-sus Christ, God from God and light from light.

You car-ry us a-long as dis - ci-ples, we are al-ways in your - sight.

You suf-fered and died for all of sin, to bring us close to our lov-ing God.

Through death in bod-y, made a - live in the Spir-it, in glo-ry your king-dom will not end.

I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spir-it, gi-ver of life, God who was and is and is to come,

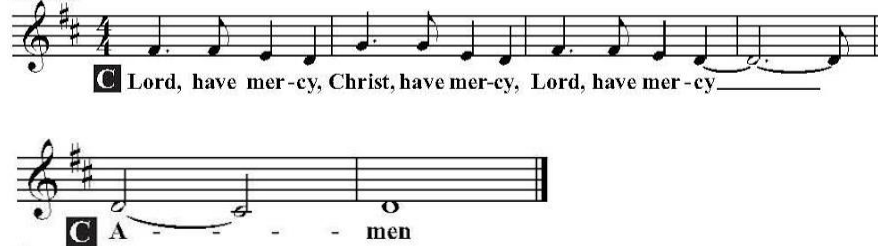
wa - ter of life and wind that blows, Cre - a - tor, Re-deem-er, Ho - ly One.

A - - - men, A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

Prayers of the People

Please sing the refrain as below:

Refrain



Confession and Absolution

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

Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.

Siblings in Christ - know that God forgives you, Christ renews you, and the Spirit enables you to grow in love!
Amen.

The Peace

One: The peace of the Lord be with you!

All: and also with you!

The Offertory

The Darkest Hour Is Just Before the Dawn

The sun is slowly sinkin' -The day's almost gone
Still darkness falls around us
And we must journey on

Chorus: The darkest hour is just before dawn
The narrow way leads home
Lay down your soul at Jesus' feet

The darkest hour is just before dawn

Like a shepherd out on the mountain

A-watchin' the sheep down below

He's coming back to claim us

Will you be ready to go. *Chorus*

Ralph Stanley, Lyrics © Fort Knox Music, Inc.

WE CELEBRATE

Prayer Over the Gifts

We have come asking for the child... wondering where that love might be born, seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst. We have come to this place where wise folk and shepherds meet. We have come to this place called Bethlehem – house of bread – this place where our hearts rise like yeast, where we meet our newborn hope, where we taste our deepest joy. So all you who hunger come to this table – for it is the Christ who offers bread to feed every hungry soul.

Let us pray,

O God, you promise to meet us and feed us in this sacrament of your body and blood. Since we cannot receive you in person, come spiritually into our hearts and transform us into a house of bread that might feed this hungry world. Shine your light upon us as we remember your coming among us and anticipate your coming again. Receive all we offer you this day. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here! **God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Source of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the world of shadows Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched the untouchable with love
and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to the table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is His story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Do this in remembrance of me.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and the whole world.
Almighty God, loving Source of all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly, Ho - san-na in the high - est heav - en *Fine*

Verse:
Bles - sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
who was and is and is to come, the earth is full of your glo - ry.

Send your Spirit on us now
 that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
 with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
 May we and all who share this food
 offer ourselves to live for you
 and be welcomed at your great banquet feast
 where all creation worships you,
 Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:
**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 forever. Amen.**

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.

Communion Songs

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem
Shining far through shadows dimmed
Giving the light for those who long have gone
Guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

Chorus Oh beautiful star (beautiful, beautiful star)
Of Bethlehem (star of Bethlehem)
Shine upon us until the glory dawns
Give us a lamp to light the way
Unto the land of perfect day
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful star the hope of light
Guiding the pilgrims through the night
Over the mountains 'till the break of dawn
Into the land of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on. *Chorus*

(A.L. Phipps) The Stanley Brothers - 1964.

King of Kings

What would you do if you heard a voice,
That called you away that left no choice?
Would you sell all you had to you follow a star?
Would you trust it and leave your life behind?

We followed a star it led us to the west,
We couldn't explain to our neighbors and friends
We waited so long watching the sun,
Now that we're here it all seems so clear

Chorus: King of kings and Lord of lords
Emmanuel, God with us
Prince of peace, Almighty One
Emmanuel, God with us

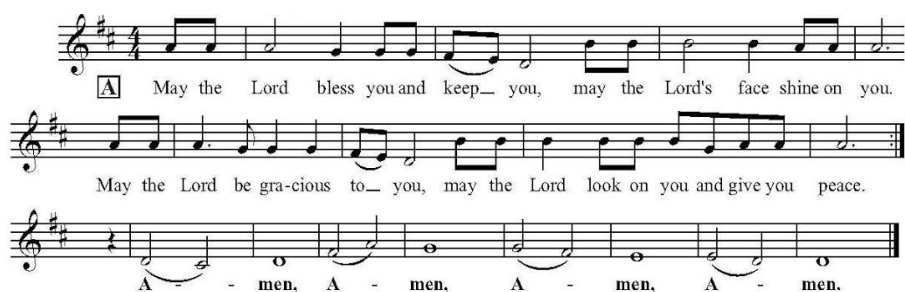
Author: Peter La Grand © 2006./ CCLI

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, strengthen our faith, increase our love and guide us with your light. 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.**

WE SEND

Benediction (sung twice)



A May the Lord bless you and keep_ you, may the Lord's face shine on you.

May the Lord be gra-cious to_ you, may the Lord look on you and give you peace.

A - - men, A - men, A - men, A - men.

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

Chorus

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

Hank Williams, Sr.

Sending:

Go now as light into the world!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude:

Where the Soul of a Man

To Canaan's land, I'm on my way
Where the soul of man never dies
My darkest night will turn to day
Where the soul of man never dies

Chorus: Dear friends there'll be no sad farewells
There'll be no tear dimmed eyes.
Where all is peace and joy and love
And the soul of man never dies

The rose is blooming there for me
Where the soul of man never dies
And I will spend eternity
Where the soul of man never dies

The love light beams across the foam
Where the soul of man never dies
It shines and lights the way to home
Where the soul of man never dies

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