



Baptism of Jesus

January 10, 2021 + 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.

Tolling of the Bells / Welcome

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.

From the Christ who was, who is and who is to come:
grace, light and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Eternal God, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; Send down your Holy Spirit, tear open the veil of heaven and speak to us as beloved children so that we may hear and believe the good news of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem

River II by Scarlett Giacomo

selected by our poet-in-residence Celine Chuang

taken from the Black Trans Prayer book

Song: Night Has Passed / Morning Has Broken (medley)

Morning comes with the light of Your presence

Morning comes with the light of Your presence upon us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice, as we rejoice

in the gift of this day, in the gift of this day.

Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word. (Farjeon)

Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit
Marked with the sign of Christ our king;
Born of one Father, we are God's children,
Joyfully now God's praises we sing. (Saward)

Lord it is dark now: night is for stillness.
Grant us sweet rest in your presence we pray.
Grant us deep peace Lord, keep us from harm's way.
Hold us in your palm till the new day. (Crosby-Shearer)

"Night has Passed": John Arndt, David Grungor & Eric Marshall; "Morning has Broken"
tune: Scottish traditional; text: Eleanor Farjeon; additional text Rob Crosby-Shearer;
"Baptised in Water" text: Michael Saward CCLI and OneLicense.

The Readings

The Hebrew Scripture

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day...The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino*

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due the divine name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon,

and makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"
The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign for evermore.
The Lord shall give strength to this people;
the Lord shall give this people the blessing of peace.
... Glory to You Source of All Being...

Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation: Gloria #3

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!
J. Berthier / Ateliers et Presses de Taize - OneLicense

The Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK

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." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
...The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We repeat the gospel acclamation.

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Blessing of the Waters

We give you thanks, God of all, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things. Make us mindful of our dependence upon these, your gifts.

Let us take a moment to name the waters of the place we call home.

In rain from above, underground springs from below, and in all times and places you have given the gift of water to refresh and renew your Creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks that your Spirit hovered over the waters of Creation, and by your word all things came to be.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land. **Blessed be God for ever.**

We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Now, in this time and place, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who comes to be with us, our Comfort and Peace, to teach us and lead us to all truth, to bear witness to the good news of the Gospel in our lives and in the life of the world.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks, for you have called us to new life through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Blessed be God for ever.

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove dwelt upon the waters.

Today the Sun that never sets has dawned and the world is made radiant with the light of God.

Today all creation is watered by mystical streams.

Today we have been redeemed from the shadows and are filled with radiance by the light of the knowledge of God.

Today earth and sea share the joy of the world, and the world has been filled with gladness.

(Water blessing adapted from Mark MacDonald, Indigenous Ministries, ACC and the Book of Alternative Services)

Veni Sance Spiritus *a virtual choir compiled by the Taize Community atelier et presses de Taize / OneLicence. For complete clip see [here](#).*

The Baptismal Covenant

Let us renew our baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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 heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray, Blessed are you, God of all creation, to you be glory and praise for ever. You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life. Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit may daily be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith and justice, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Incarnate One be with you all.

And also with you!

Offertory Song: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure,
sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure
Of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation:
Thus far by thy help I've come,
And I hope, by the compassion,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor -
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Take my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson; tune: NETTLETON / Public Domain

Prayer Over The Gifts

God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation new. Since we cannot now receive You in person, come spiritually into our hearts. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of hope, in your Holy Spirit you hovered over the face of the waters in creation, and through the waters you brought your people into the life and land of promise. Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ yet raise us to new life with him forever. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord - God of power and might

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, for in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus into the world. Living among us, he broke bread with outcasts and sinners, and in imitation of your perfect love, taught us to love neighbor, stranger, outsider, and enemy.

On the night before he died, Jesus at supper with his disciples, took bread, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Holy God, who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved, send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace. By the power of that same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

God of glory, Be close to those who ache for your liberating power. Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking and restoring touch of your Spirit. Bless all who long to be called beloved until all stand in your presence and are enfolded in your embrace. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, now and forever,
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: The Heart of God

The Heart of God has been revealed
The Heart of God has been revealed
To bring love not hate, pour out not dominate
The Heart of God has been revealed.

The Heart of God has been revealed
The Heart of God has been revealed
To forgive not blame, to make whole not shame
The Heart of God has been revealed.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
The Heart of God has been revealed

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Prayer After Communion

Gracious God, lover of all, by this sacrament
you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the water of baptism one in the communion of his Spirit.
Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ.
We ask this in Jesus's name. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Song: Here by the Water

Soft field of clover - Moon shining over the valley
Joining the song of the river -
To the great Giver of the great good

As it enfolds me - somehow it holds me together
I realize I've been singing
Still it comes ringing - clearer than clear

And here by the water - I'll build an altar to praise Him
Out of the stones that I've found here
I'll set them down here - Rough as they are
Knowing You can make them holy (3x)

I think how a yearning - has kept on returning to move me
Down roads I'd never have chosen
Half the time frozen - Too numb to feel

I know it was stormy
I hope it was for me learning
Blood on the road wasn't mine though
Someone that I know - has walked here before
Music and Lyric by Jim Croegaert / © 1986 Rough Stones Music / CCLI

Sending

Go into the world as bearers of God's light.

Thanks be to God, Amen.



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