



Pentecost +3
June 13, 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.

The AbbeyChurch worships, prays, plays and gathers on the traditional and unceded lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

*Come as you are, people of the Spirit...
Filled with the breath of God!*

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Bell x 3

Opening Words

One: Living God, you are present in our midst.

All: and we praise you.

One: You are tearing down walls of alienation and exclusion.

All: For this, we praise you.

One: Because, in Jesus, you have shown us a way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking, and resistance.

All: We praise you.

One: Because your Spirit makes a new path for us

All: We praise you.

One: As pilgrims, you fill us with hope. Lover of our souls, you give us joy.

All: and we praise you. Amen.

Opening Song: Behold I Make All Things New

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

God unseen is taking form.

God unseen is taking form.

God unseen is taking form.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

The First and Last is surging forth.

The First and Last is surging forth.

The First and Last is surging forth.

Becoming Light. Becoming Light.

Alana Levandoski / CCLI

The Poem On the Parables of the Mustard Seed by Denise Levertov
selected and read by our poet-in-residence Benjamin Hertwig

Who ever saw the mustard-plant,
wayside weed or tended crop,
grow tall as a shrub, let alone a tree, a treeful
of shade and nests and songs?
Acres of yellow,
not a bird of the air in sight.

No, He who knew
the west wind brings
the rain, the south wind
thunder, who walked the field-paths
running His hand along wheatstems to glean
those intimate milky kernels, good
to break on the tongue,

was talking of miracle, the seed
within us, so small
we take it for worthless, a mustard-seed, dust,
nothing.

Glib generations mistake
the metaphor, not looking at fields and trees,
not noticing paradox. Mountains
remain unmoved.

Faith is rare, He must have been saying,
prodigious, unique —
one infinitesimal grain divided
like loaves and fishes,

as if from a mustard-seed
a great shade-tree grew. That rare,
that strange: the kingdom

a tree. The soul
a bird. A great concourse of birds
at home there, wings among yellow flowers.
The waiting
kingdom of faith, the seed
waiting to be sown.

The Readings

The Epistle

Colima Seguin

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (5: 6-10, 14-17). We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!...

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

Gospel Acclamation: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God - fall afresh on me

Spirit of the Living God - fall afresh on me

Melt me mold me fill me use me

Spirit of the Living God - fall fresh on me

Daniel Iverson - 1935 / 1963 Birdwing Music / CCLI

The Gospel

Melanie Ihmels

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MARK (4:26-34). Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we

compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples

...

Gospel Acclamation:

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love.
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing –
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

Daniel Iverson - 1935 / 1963 Birdwing Music / CCLI

Sermon

Matt Humphrey, EC

Bell / Silence / Bell

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 cath'lic,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. A-----men.
Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk/ CCLI

Our Prayers

Chivonne Graff

Confession

St Paul says: 'Be imitators of God;
love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit;
put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.'
So let us confess our sins to God, who forgives us in Christ:

Bell.

*A time of silent confession for our personal and collective sin;
things done and left undone...*

Bell.

Absolution or Assurance of Grace

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all! **And also with you!**

Offertory Song: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.

Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.

Taste and see the grace eternal.

Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan / GIA Publications / OneLicense. Tune: HOLY MANNA,
American folk melody, attrib. William Moore

The Eucharistic Prayer

One: Let us set tables of welcome where all are free to come and eat. Let us remember these words of Jesus: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

All: We come to You hungry and thirsty. Satisfy us, O God.

One: We remember these words of Jesus: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

All: We come to this table weary and burdened. Give us rest, O God.

One: We remember that Jesus comes to us in the stranger, in the hungry, in the thirsty, and in the one needing warmth.

All: We come to you as strangers, scattered at our tables.

Welcome us into your family, O God.

One: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, stay with us for day is ending.

All: With friend, with stranger, with young and with old, be among us tonight. Come close to us that we may come close to you. Forgive us that we may forgive one another. Renew us so that, where we have failed, we may begin again. Jesus be our guest and our host at this table that we may know you in the breaking of the bread.

And so, with the Beloved Community through time and age - and with all of Creation we cry:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Deutsche Messe - F. Schubert / Public Domain / OneLicense.

(thanks to Jesse Robertson, Mark McDonald, Caroline Allen and Sue Patterson - Emmaus Community discerners, novices, companions and covenanted members for singing!)

Presider: As we gather we remember that on the night before Jesus died, he feasted with his companions. Taking bread, he gave thanks, 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.

As supper was ending Jesus took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to his companions saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for the world for forgiveness and healing. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that with burning hearts, we may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

All: We come longing for You. Fill us with Your presence.

We come lifting our lives and prayers to you, in the words that Jesus taught us.. *(this may be said in a language or paraphrase of your choice, or as below):*

Our Father, *(or Mother/Parent/ Source, if you prefer)*

who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come; thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory.

Forever and ever. Amen.

Silence.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world. Feed on the risen Christ in your hearts through faith with thanksgiving! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Communion Song: Ploughshare Prayer

Dear blessed creator, dear mother, dear savior
Dear father, dear brother, dear holy other
Dear sibling, dear baby, dear patiently waiting
Dear sad and confused, dear stuck and abused

Dear end-of-your-rope, dear worn out and broke,
Dear go-it-alone, dear running from home
Dear righteously angry, forsaken by family
Dear jaded and quiet, dear tough and defiant

I pray that I'm heard - And I pray that this works

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
against you and your heart, against you and your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts
that it might break you open, it might help you grow

I pray that your body gets all that it needs
and if you don't want healing, I just pray for peace
I pray that your burden gets lighter each day
I pray the mean voice in your head goes away

I pray that you honor the grief as it comes
I pray you can feel all the life in your lungs
I pray that if you go all day being brave
that you can go home, go to bed feeling safe

I pray you're forgiven, I pray you forgive
I pray you set boundaries and openly live
I pray that you feel you are worth never leaving
I pray that you know I will always believe you

I pray that you're heard - and I pray that this works

Amen on behalf of the last and the least
On behalf of the anxious, depressed, and unseen
Amen for the workers, the hungry, the houseless
Amen for the lonely and recently spouseless

Amen for the queers and their closeted peers
Amen for the bullied who hold in their tears
Amen for the mothers of little Black sons
Amen for the kids who grow up scared of guns

Amen for the addicts, the ashamed and hungover
Amen for the calloused, the wisened, the sober
Amen for the ones who want life to be over
Amen for the leaders who lose their composure

Amen for the parents who just lost their baby
Amen for the chronically ill and disabled
Amen for the children down at the border
Amen for the victims of our law and order

I pray that you're heard - and I pray that this works

I pray if a prayer has been used as a sword
against you and your heart, against you and your word
I pray that this prayer is a plowshare, of sorts
Spencer LaJoye used with permission with donation made to anti-racist group.

Prayer after Communion

extempore.

Blessing Meagan Crosby-Shearer and Zion

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious unto you
...and the blessing of God
+Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit
Be with you...

Closing Song: How Long?

How long? Will You turn Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way - How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises - How long?

(Refrain) 'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain? Jesus, give us hope again!

How long 'til Your word will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns - How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud of witnesses! How long?
Isaac Wardell / BiFrost Arts / CCLI

Bell x 3



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