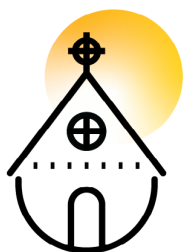


# The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021



'Hagar' Icon by Charlotte Gibson



THE  
**ABBHEY**  
CHURCH



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,  
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 lands of the ɫkʷəŋən People, known today as  
the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation.*

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

## **We Gather**

### **Tolling of the Bells**

### **Welcome & Land Acknowledgment**

*Bell x 3*

### **Invocation/processional: Ecce Virgo concipiet**

Ecce Virgo concipiet, et pariet Filium,

Et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

*Translation: (Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.)*

*During the Invocation, AbbeyKids process with Advent candles*

### **Opening Prayer**

God you are the one who sees and we long for you.

In the midst of troubled times, we yearn for a glimpse of your redemption at work. In this season of waiting, do not let us grow so weary that we turn from you, from each other, or from the desires of our heart. Steady us. Help us remain present to the hope, joy and ache around us, ever open to the possibilities of your presence among us.

**Amen.** © 2018 *enfleshed*

### **Gathering 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, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*



O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
who to thy 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,  
From every foe deliver them  
That trust thy mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Latin, c. 12th century; tune: VENI EMMANUEL / Public Domain

**Poem** selected or written by Benjamin Hertwig  
AbbeyChurch Poet-in-Residence

### **We Proclaim**

#### **A Reading from the Book of Genesis (16: 7-13)**

Now the messenger of the All-Seeing God found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And the messenger said, "Hagar, slavegirl of Sarai, from where have you come and where are you going?" And she said, "From my mistress Sarai am I fleeing."

The messenger of the Inscrutable God said to her, "Return to your mistress, and subject yourself to her."

The messenger of the Wellspring of Life said to Hagar, "Greatly will I multiply your seed, so they cannot be counted for multitude." Then the messenger of the Fount of Life said to her, "Look! You are pregnant and shall give birth to a son, and you shall call him Ishmael (meaning God hears), for the Faithful One has heard of your abuse. He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live in the sight of all his kin."

So Hagar named the Living God who spoke to her: "You are El-ro'i"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing God?"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## A Meditation on Philippians 2:5-11:

### Song: Let this mind be in you

Let this mind be in you (x2)

Let this mind be in you which was also in the Lord.

Let this mind be in you

Let this mind be in you (x2)

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

Let this mind be in you

© 2015 Alana Levandoski / CCLI

## Psalm 71 *In te, Domine, speravi*

### Psalm 71 *In te, Domine, speravi*

*Tone VII.3*



My God, rescue me from the /hand of the /wicked,  
from the clutch of the /crüel and /rúthless.

For you are my hope, /Sovereign, WOR/THY ONE,  
my /trust from /my youth.

Upon you have I learned from birth;  
from my mother's /belly, you /cut me.

You will /I praise /for all time.

As a portent have I /served to /many,  
yet you are /my strong /refuge.

My mouth is /filled with /your praise,  
all the day, /with your /glory.

Do not cast me off in the /time of /old age;  
when my strength is spent, do /not for/sake me.

For my enemies /speak /about me,  
and those who watch my life take /counsel to/gether.

They say, "pursue and seize them,  
God /has for/saken them,

for there is none /to de/liver."

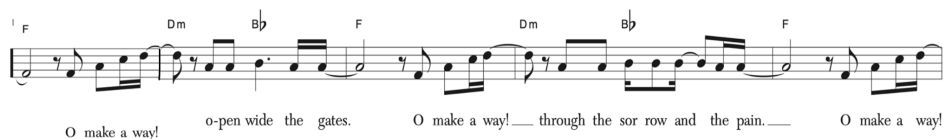
...Glory to you, source of all being,  
eternal word, and /Holy /Spirit.

As it was in the beginning

is now and ever shall be, world with/out end. /Amen.

## Gospel Acclamation: Make a Way (Porter's Gate)

O make a way! Open wide the gates  
O make a way! - through the sorrow and the pain  
O make a way! - though the road us dark and winding,  
O come, Come.



Kate Bluett, Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach / © 2021 Integrity Worship Music/PG Songs and Hymns/ASCAP / CCLI

## The Gospel

*please rise in body or in spirit.*

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

**With our words and with our lives!**

## A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (1:26-38)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee, Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the name of the virgin was Mary. And the angel came to Mary and said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Most High God is with you." Now, she was troubled by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Fear not Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Sovereign God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his sovereignty there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have not known a man intimately?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit, She will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will

overshadow you; therefore the one born will be holy. He will be called Son of God. And now, Elizabeth your kinswoman has even conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for she who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the woman-slave of God; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel left her.

...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

**With our words and with our lives!**

*We repeat the acclamation*

## **Sermon**

*Bell / Silence / Bell*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Hear, O Israel,

**the Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God**

**with all your heart,**

**with all your soul,**

**with all your mind,**

**and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it:**

**Love your neighbour as yourself.**

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

## **Our Prayers**

### **Confession**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in mercy and infinite in goodness, as we continue to celebrate the mystery of God's love, let us turn to God's light and confess our sins

*Silence is kept.*

**Holy God, in the advent of Jesus the Christ, your light has shined; We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others or the earth, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. Come, Lord Jesus; forgive and restore us. Come, Lord Jesus; guide and deliver us. Come, Lord Jesus; teach and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus. Come**

### **Absolution**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **The Peace**

Beloved in Christ, the peace of Christ be with you  
**and also with you!**

*We invite you to acknowledge each other with a sign of peace*

### **Offertory Song: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "I 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!

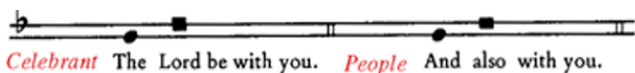
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleases God!" she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady! Gloria!

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!

## Prayer Over the Gifts

God of abundance (*saying together*) **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## We Feast



Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love...

...Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and singing:

*Unison*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes, who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

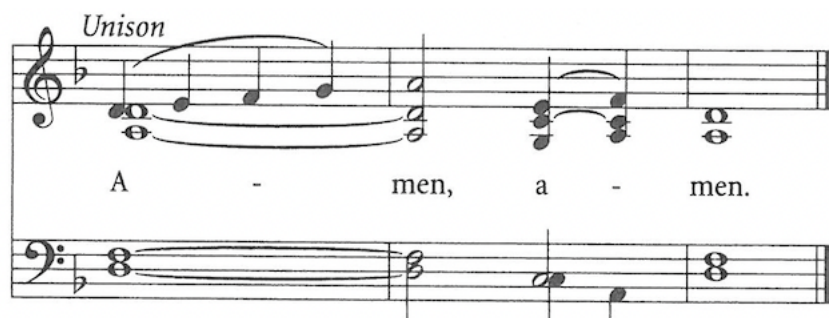
Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope...  
...as we proclaim our hope:

*Unison*

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, ris - ing you re -

stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and upon these gifts...  
 ...O Source of all life, now and forever:



Music: PICARDY; French carol (17th cent.); adapt. George Black (1931- ) ©.

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Prayer of Jesus** First Nation's Version

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:  
*(as below or in a translation or language of your choosing)*

**O Great Spirit, our \*Father from above, (\*or Parent)  
 we honour your name as sacred and holy.**

**Bring your good road to us,  
 where the beauty of your ways  
 in the spirit-world above  
 is reflected in the earth below.**

**Provide for us day by day—  
 the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.**

**The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.**

**All the things we need for each day.**

**Release us from the things we have done wrong,  
 in the same way we release others  
 for the things done wrong to us.**

**Guide us away from the things that tempt us  
 to stray from your good road,**

**and set us free from the evil one and his worthless  
 ways... May it be so!**



These are the gifts of God, for the people of God, given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God!**

*All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table.*

*For those in-house, the bread is gluten-free.*

## **Visual Reflection**

### **Communion Song: Wait on the Lord**

Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord  
We will walk the way of peace  
Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord  
We will find our way

Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord  
We will walk the way of peace  
Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord  
We will find our way. We will find our way  
We will find our way

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing, 2017 / Used with permission

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray,

**God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May the eating and the drinking fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.**

## **We Are Sent**

### **Blessing**

### **Closing Song: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all your faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
let us all your life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore they temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, your new creation;  
pure and spotless, let us be;.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
On this earth thou makest thy place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley / Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard / Public Domain

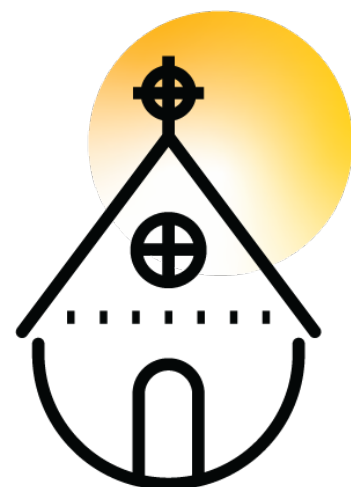
Go in hope to prepare the way of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

## **May God Keep You**

May God keep you on your road  
Send blessings upon your head  
May Jesus share your heavy load  
And bring you peace and rest  
May His face shine down upon you  
May you feel His grace  
May He never remove His steadfast love from you.

Peter La Grand / © 2008 / CCLI

*Bell x 3*



THE  
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