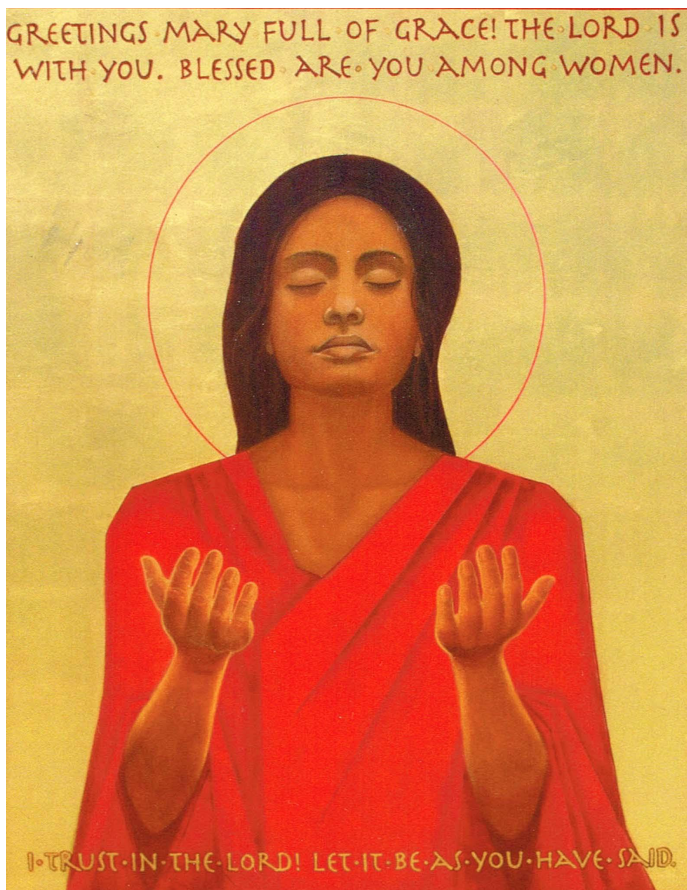
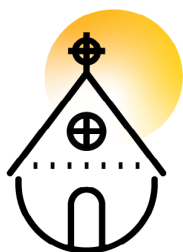


The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021



'Annunciation' Icon by Laura Fisher Smith



THE
ABBAY
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 revolutionary joy of God*

We Gather

Announcement Loop

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Invocation/processional: Gaudete

Text: Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus: Dominus enim prope est. Nihil solliciti sitis: sed in omni oratione et obsecratione cum gratiarum actione petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum. Benedixisti Domine terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

Translation: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob."

Philippians 4:4–6; Psalm 85

During the Invocation, AbbeyKids process with Advent candles

Rejoice in God our Savior!

Our souls magnify the Sacred.

For God has done great things for us. God looks with favour on all who serve Love.

God uplifts the overlooked and underrepresented and tears down the powerful from their thrones.

God satisfies the hungry and redistributes the resources of the rich.

The promises made to the ancestors of our faith are fulfilled.

Blessed are those who believe a new day is dawning.

Christ is being birthed among us.

Come let us worship Emmanuel - God with us!

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us

and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. Make us bold like Mary. Grow in us the fiercest spirit of love: love that protects, listens, takes risks, and confronts evil. **Amen.**

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Gathering Song: Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the depths
Of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might, put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn *Refrain*

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that out forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God
Who is turning the world around. *Refrain*
Rory Cooney / GIA Publications / Irish traditional / OneLicense

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

We Proclaim

A Reading from the book of Judges 13:2-7

Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, and his name was Manoah. His wife was barren; she had never given birth. And the messenger of the Holy One appeared to the woman and said to her, "look now, you are barren, having never given birth, you shall conceive and give birth to a son. Now please be on your guard not to drink wine or strong drink, and you shall not eat anything unclean. For look! You shall yet conceive and give birth to a son. No razor shall be upon his head, for a nazirite to God shall the boy be from the womb. And he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines." Then the woman came and spoke to her husband saying, "Someone from God came to me, and their appearance was like that of a messenger of God, incredibly awesome; I did not ask the messenger where they came from, and their name they did not tell me. Yet they just said to me, you shall conceive and give birth to a son.

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

Psalm 115: 9-15



Israel, trust in the Holy /One of Old!
Their help /and their /shield is She.

House of Aaron, trust in the Holy One of /Sinai!
Their help /and their /shield is She.

You who revere the Holy One, trust in the /Holy One!
Their help /and their /shield is She.

The Faithful One remembers us; /She will bless;
She will bless the house of Israel; She will bless the /house of
/Aaron.

She will bless those who revere God Who is /Holy,
/böth /small and great.

May the Generous One add to, in/crease, you all,
both you /and your /children.

May you all be blessed by the /Ageless One,
Maker of the /heavens /and the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Magnificat!

Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea Dominum.

Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea!

Taize, France. 1978. / One License.

Ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num.
Ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat, ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

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 (1:46-56)

“My soul magnifies the Holy One, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God’s own womb-slave. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God’s name. God’s loving-kindness is for those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown the strength of God’s own arm; God has scattered the arrogant in the intent of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped God’s own child, Israel, a memorial to God’s mercy, just as God said to our mothers and fathers, to [Hagar and] Sarah and Abraham, to their descendants forever.” And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then she returned to her home.

...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, let us return to the Source of all love and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God of compassion, we confess 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 the face of Christ in one another with a nod or bow

Offertory Song: Wayfarers All

Refrain:

O God, we wait on you

O God, we wait on you

Show us the way home,
wayfarers all, Lord
Hold us in mercy
through this dark night *Refrain*

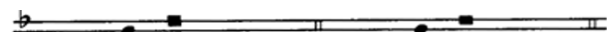
Gather us in,
 mender of everything
 Bright mourning dove,
 rise over all of us *Refrain*

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission

Prayer Over the Gifts

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; receive all we offer you today and kindle in us the fire of your Spirit. **Amen.**

We Feast



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.



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



Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

 A musical score for a unison hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo -'. The music is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and uses a variety of note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes.

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
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.*

Communion Song: Mary's Song, by Ordinary Time

How can it be that I am blessed
to bear a gift so tender

My soul rejoices in the Lord
the one true God my Saviour
They will surely call me blessed
from now all generations
For he has remembered me
For he has been mindful

O, rejoice! You people Israel
Your light has come Hallelujah

He has brought down the mighty ones
and lifted up the humble
He has helped the weak to stand
and scattered all the prideful
And He has filled the hungry
and sent the rich away
To those who fear him he has shown
A never-ending mercy

Peter LeGrand / Ordinary Time 2006 / Used with permission

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...

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray,
God of all grace, may we live in expectation and hope, and
may the gifts we have received at this table remind us not
only of the gift of your Christ, but of your steady presence
among us, that we may magnify your love and justice in
this world. **Amen.**

progressivechristianity.org, Alt.

We Are Sent

Blessing Song: 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 God's face shine down upon you
May you feel Their grace
May God never remove Their steadfast love from you.

Peter La Grand / © 2008 / CCLI

And the blessing...

Closing Song: Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

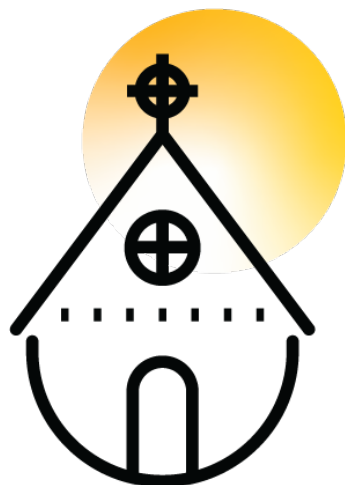
Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let us their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts / ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel / Public Domain

Go in joy to prepare the way of the Lord

Thanks be to God. Amen!



THE
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CHURCH

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