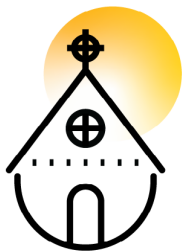


# **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

## **December 19, 2021**



Image: Hannah: Icons of the Bible by James C. Lewis



THE  
**ABBECY**  
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 łkʷəŋən 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: 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 Immanuel, God with us.*

*During the Invocation, AbbeyKids process with Advent candles*

Opening Prayer

Let us be strong and let our hearts take courage,

**all of us who wait for the Lord.**

Holy One, whose coming we await, we lift our hearts to you: Remind us of your faithfulness, that we may trust ever more deeply in your grace. **Amen.**

**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 Key of David, come

and open wide our heavenly home.

Make safe the way that leads on high,

and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high

and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all humankind.  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

Latin, c. 12th century; tune: VENI EMMANUEL, French c. 15th century

**Poem**

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

**We Proclaim**

**A Reading from first Samuel (1:19-28)**

Hannah and Elkanah rose early in the morning and bowed down and worshiped before the Holy One of Old; then they turned back and went to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Holy One remembered her. And it was with the turning of the days that Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She called his name Samuel (God hears), for she said, "From the God Who Hears have I asked him." Now the man Elkanah went up along with his whole household to offer to the Holy One the yearly sacrifice, on account of a vow. Yet Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "[Not] until the child is weaned, then will I bring him, that he may be seen in the presence of the Most High and remain there perpetually. I will present him as a nazirite in perpetuity, for all the days of his life." Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what is best in your eyes, stay until you have weaned him. May the Faithful God establish the words of your mouth." So, the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And she took him up with her after she had weaned him along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a jug of wine. Hannah brought him to the house of the Ever-Living God at Shiloh and the boy was just a little boy. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the boy to Eli. And Hannah said, "My lord!

As you live, my lord, I am the woman, the one who was standing beside you in this place to pray to the God Who Hears. For this boy I prayed; and the Faithful God gave me my asking, what I asked from God. Therefore, have I bequeathed him to the Gracious God; all his days will he be a bequest to the God Whose Name is Holy.” So, she left him there and she bowed down and worshipped the Faithful God.

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

**Canticle of Hannah** (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

1 Hannah prayed and she said,  
“My heart exults in the Holy One of Old;  
my horn is lifted up in my God.  
My mouth opens wide against my enemies,  
for I will rejoice in my victory.

**2 “There is none holy like the Most High,  
none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.**

3 Speak proudly no more, multiplying pride,  
nor let arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Ageless God is a God of knowledge,  
and by God deeds are accounted.

**4 The bows of the mighty are broken,  
yet the feeble gird on warrior-strength.**

5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, yet those who were hungry are satisfied.  
She who was barren has birthed seven children,  
yet she who has many children languishes.

**6 The Creator of All kills and gives life;  
brings down to Sheol and raises up.**

7 The Gracious One makes poor and makes rich;  
brings low and also lifts up.

**8 God raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from heaps of human waste,  
to seat them with nobles, to inherit a seat of honor.  
For to the Creator belong the pillars of the earth,  
and on them God has set the world.**

9 God will guard the feet of the faithful who belong to God, while the wicked perish into the shadows; for it is not by might that one prevails.

### **10 The Holy One of Sinai!**

**Those who strive against God shall be shattered;  
God thunders against them from heaven.  
The Fount of Justice will judge the ends of the earth;  
God will give strength to God's ruler,  
and exalt the power of the anointed of God."**

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

O make a way! o-pen wide the gates. O make a way! through the sor row and the pain. O make a way!

though the road is dark and wind - ing. O - come, come!

Kate Bluett, Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach / Copyright © 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 of Matthew (1:18-25)**

Now this is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah happened: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to have a child in her womb from the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a just man and unwilling to shame her, he wanted to divorce her secretly. But when he deliberated this, suddenly an angel of the Most High God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for in her is conceived a

child from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this happened to fulfill what had been spoken by the Most High God through the prophet: “Look now! The virgin shall conceive a child in her womb and give birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel,” which translated means, “God is with us.” When Joseph got up from sleep, he did as the angel of the Most High God commanded him. He took her as his wife, yet did not know her sexually until her birthing of a son and named him Jesus.

...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: Holy Darkness**

*Refrain:* Holy darkness, blessed night  
Heaven's answer hidden from our sight  
As we await you, O God of silence  
We embrace your holy night

In the deepest hour of your bleakness  
I will give you wealth untold  
When the silence stills your spirit  
Will my riches fill your soul. *Refrain*

As the watcher waits for the morning,  
And betrothed awaits their betrothed,  
so we wait to hear your footsteps  
longing for you within our souls. *Refrain*

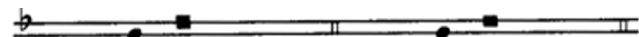
Dan Schutte 1988, 1989, 1992 / OCP , alt onelicense.

## Prayer Over the Gifts

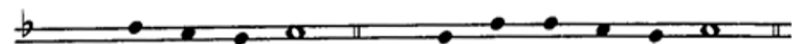
Blessed be God,  
who feeds the hungry,  
who raises the poor,  
who fills our praise.

**Blessed be God for ever. Amen.**

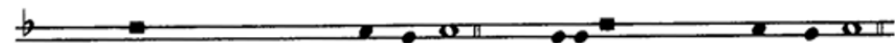
## We Feast



*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*

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:

*Unison*

A - men, a - men.

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.*

## **Video Reflection:**

### **Communion Song: Emmanuel (Advent Prayer)**

O wisdom Lord and Ruler,  
Root of Jesse, Key of David,  
Rising sun, King of the Nations,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
Lord Jesus, come; Lord Jesus, come;  
Lord Jesus, come; Lord Jesus, come.

Paul Zach / Copyright © 2021 Integrity Worship Music/PG Songs And Hymns/ASCAP /  
CCLI

### **Prayer after Communion**

God for whom we wait,  
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life:  
keep us ever watchful.  
that we may be ready to stand before the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **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: People Look East**

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look East and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look East and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Eleanor Farjeon / BESANÇON, French traditional / OneLicense

Go in love to prepare the Way.

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

## Christmas at the AbbeyChurch

**Monday Dec 20 – 8:30 pm**  
**Longest Night of the Year:**  
**A service of Holy Darkness**

Monday night we gather in a service of lament and hope to mark the grief we carry for ourselves, our communities and the earth.

There will be quiet songs, prayers and a time to light candles or leave our sorrows in the creche. Come and be embraced in the holy darkness by Emmanuel, God-with-us. **Feel free to bring a symbol of your grief.**

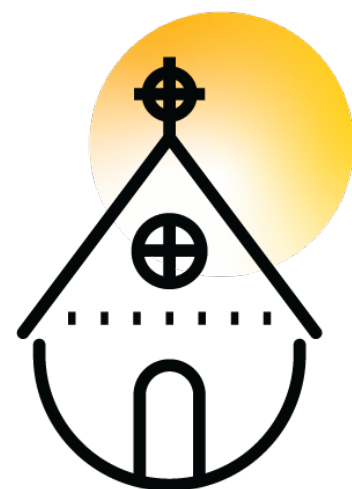
**Wednesday Dec 22 – 8:30 pm**  
**Mountain Vespers @ Christmas**

On Wednesday evening we gather for Vespers. Join us for a festive and fun evening prayer, sung by candlelight and led by our in house band!

**Friday Dec 24: 4:00 PM**  
**Feast of the Nativity**  
**Pageant and Communion**

All are welcome to join the messy, beautiful chaos of the Word made flesh! The kids will lead us in telling the Nativity story and there will be carols and Christmas Communion.

All are welcome to come in costume (adults too!) and enter into the celebration of Christ who has come, is coming and is present right here with us in the midst of this uncertain and painful time.



THE  
**ABBAY**  
CHURCH

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