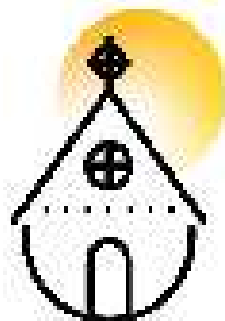


Christmas Eve

Child-led Christmas Communion



December 24, 2021 + 4pm



THE
ABBAY
CHURCH

Welcome to the AbbeyChurch!

On Christmas eve, we have a slightly different community that we do most weeks - including more visitors. So a special welcome this holy night if you are with us as a visitor.

Whoever you are, please know you are welcome here and free to participate in ways that you are comfortable. When communion comes, you are welcome to come forward to receive the bread - but certainly not compelled to do so.

At AbbeyChurch, we practice an open table - meaning that all are welcomed to Jesus' table.

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 and lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Come as you are, people of the Spirit, people of hope...Come, prepare the way

We Gather

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment Tolling of the Bells

Processional/Kids Anthem: Once in Royal David City *(1st Verse kids only)*

Kids process with candles

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander / IRBY; Henry J. Gauntlett / Public Domain

The lighting of the Christ Candle

Hope, peace, joy, and love, four promises always offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Jesus Christ, we find the hope of salvation, the peace that flows from justice, the joy of community, and the love that encompasses us all.

Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on Earth!

The Christ Candle is lit

O come, O come, Emmanuel, let your Spirit shine in our hearts; let your Love shine in our world, and let the wonder of this night touch all of our hearts. Lead us to the shining-star truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. **Amen**

Song: O Come all ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb,
very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest; *Refrain*

See, how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

John Francis Wade / Public Domain

The Christmas Story is told....

Kid's Song: Magnificat (Sung by Abi, Zion, Amaya)

Magnificat by George Dyson; Oxford University, 1924.

The Story continues...

Song: What Child is This

What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

William Chatterton Dix / Public Domain.

The Story continues...

Kids song: Friendly Beasts (12th. Century French Carol)

Kids Solos: Mary, Abi, Zion, dancing by Cillian, Tasker, Oleanna, Amaya.

The Story continues...

Song: Angels we have heard on high
Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
Echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

See him in a manger laid,
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain*

French traditional

Sermon:

Rob Crosby-Shearer, EC

Peace

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace to all on earth.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Song - Come Darkness, Come Light

Come darkness, come light
Come new star, shining bright
Come love to this world tonight
Alleluia, Alleluia

Come broken, come whole
Come wounded in your soul
Come anyway that you know
Alleluia, Alleluia

Refrain:

There's a humble stable and a light within
There's an angel hovering and three wise men

Today a baby's born in Bethlehem
Alleluia, Alleluia

Come doubting, come sure
Come fearful to this door
Come see what love is for
Alleluia, Alleluia

Come running, come walking slow
Come weary on your broken road
Come see Him and shed your heavy load
Alleluia, Alleluia

Refrain

Come darkness come light
Come new star burning bright
Come love to this world tonight
Alleluia, Alleluia

Mary Chapin Carpenter / © 2008 Rounder Records, a division of Concord Music Group, Inc.

Prayer over gifts

Friends: weary and wounded, beloved of God, you are invited to the table of love and liberation. You are invited to feast on the bread of life, where God is in the manger.

Let us pray: Oh God of all, word made flesh, you embrace our poverty and yet in giving us yourself in this feast, you make us whole. Receive all we offer you this night and fill us with your hospitable presence, through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

We Feast

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 Promise, we praise you that though there is no room...

...Therefore with shepherds and angels, and the whole host of heaven, we listen for our own annunciation and kneel before this vulnerable baby as we sing:

**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.**

While Jesus was eating with his disciples...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Come, Breath of God – fill us and your whole weary world...

...honour and glory are yours, Incarnate One, now and forever.

Amen

The Prayer of Jesus

First Nation's Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament, 2021. Alt.

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.

Please wait to consume until you have returned to your seat.

Communion1: Video: Hope beyond all hope

Alana Levandoski / The Work of the People.

Communion 2: AbbeyKids Choir: Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

(Elizabeth Poston, 1905 - 1987)

Prayer after Communion

Infinite, intimate God, in this meal we have tasted the feast which you prepare for us in the Christ child. Be born in each of us. Fill us with your life-giving breath that we might make room for you in this weary world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

Song: Go tell it on the mountain

(Have your candle ready to be re-lit!)

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

African American Spiritual

Blessing

Closing Song: Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr / Public Domain

Go into joy of this holy night to proclaim the radical love of the
Incarnation

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The Emmaus community and AbbeyChurch send all the
best to you and yours this Christmas!

May you know the Peace of Christ
who draws near to us all, now and always!

Special Christmas thanks to: Abbey Church musicians, our
Advent preachers who have engaged this new lectionary,
Chivonne our Advent prayer, Caroline and the Abbeykids
Choir, Iona and Anna for your beautiful work with our
kids, and to you all for co-creating this beautiful beloved
community.

NOTE:

AbbeyChurch will be closed Dec 25 – Jan 1.

Join us in person or online for worship on Sunday January
2 at 4pm as we remember the Holy Innocents.

Morning Prayer for Epiphany begins Monday January 3.



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Office hours: Wednesday and Friday 9am-noon