

Season of Epiphany

January 16, 2022



"Wedding Feast" by John August Swanson, 1996.



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 ɫəᑭʷəŋən 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

Opening Words

Holy are the moments that catch our breath,
catch our attention,
catch us off guard with the wonders of being alive.

The surprises of God hearten and revive!

God points us back to the riches of life before us.
The world is pouring out blessings of beauty.

The faithful gifts of God are simple and abundant.

We gather to remember and to treasure every one.

Come let us worship the Trinity of Love

One God in perfect community

Gathering Song: We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Refrain:

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord, our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up *Refrain*

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh, how long?
Oh, God of Jacob, be my strength *Refrain*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom *Refrain*

Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore / ©2015 Drink Your Tea Music (ASCAP) / CCLI

Poem

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

We Proclaim

A Reading from the Song of Songs (4:9-15, *Wil Gafney translation*)

You have taken my heart, my sister, my bride,
you have taken my heart with a glance of your eyes,
with a single jewel of your necklace.
How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride.
How much better is your love than wine,
and the fragrance of your oils than every spice.
Nectar drops from your lips, my bride;
honey and milk are under your tongue; the fragrance
of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.
A garden locked is my sister, my bride,
a garden locked, a fountain sealed.
Your limbs are an orchard of pomegranates
with luscious fruits, henna with nard.
Nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon,
with all kinds of frankincense trees,
myrrh and aloes, with all superior spices;
a garden fountain, a well of living water,
and flowing streams from Lebanon.
...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 45:6-10, 12-15 (*Wil Gafney trans.*)

Your God-given throne is everlasting;
a scepter of integrity is your royal scepter.
You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness more than your companions.
Myrrh and aloes and cassia scent all your garments;
from ivory palaces stringed instruments bring you joy.
Royal daughters are your treasures;

the consort stands at your right hand in gold of Ophir.
Hear daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and the house of your mother and
father.

Daughter of Tyre, with gifts shall they seek your favor,
the wealthiest of the people.

With all kinds of wealth is the princess ensconced;
her garments are woven with gold.

In embroidery is she led to the king;
behind her the maidens, her companions, follow.
They are brought with joy and gladness
into the palace of the king.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jerry Sinclair / © 1972, Renewed 2000 by Manna Music, Inc., (ASCAP) / OneLicense

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel of John (2:1-12, *Wil Gafney trans.*)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now

draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

With our words and with our lives!

We repeat the acclamation

Sermon

Bell / Silence / Bell

Apostle's Creed

We believe in God Almighty,
Maker of all heav'n and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, our Saviour:
God's own Son of matchless worth;
By the Spirit was conceived
of the virgin Mary born,
God in whom we have believed:
God Almighty Three-in-One.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
on the cross, he bled and died;
Placed within the grave so silent,
where for three days he did lie;
Then the stone-sealed tomb was empty;
we believe he did arise;
Triumphed o'er the grave forever,
over death he is the Christ.

Into heaven he ascended -
seated at God's own right hand
'Til he comes again in glory,
gracious judge o'er every land;
We confess the Holy Spirit
who was sent through Christ the Son
Who is Lord and giver of life -
God, the Spirit, Three-in-One.

We believe the Church of Jesus, catholic it 'ere remains;
We are one through all the ages, the communion of the saints.
We believe sins are forgiven, that our bodies shall be raised
Everlasting life the promise - may God's holy name be praised.
Mindy Deckard; arr. Bruce Benedict / © 2006 Cardiphonia Music / CCLI

Reflection: Oh Great Lover who Pursues Us

O Great Lover who pursues us, come delight to stir our hearts.
Call us back with full devotion, kindle now your fire in us.
Let us scent you, taste your sweetness.
Carry us away to thrive
Let us love you ever deeper. Let us hasten to your side.

Bounding o'er the hills you beckon,
"Rise, my love and come away".
Winter's past and spring is blooming,
now has come the time to sing.
Wake the winds upon this garden,
waft the fragrance all around.
We with joy to you belonging dance within your perfect love.

Who is like our great Beloved,
now appearing as the dawn?
All of heav'n in grand procession
praise Love's beauty bright as sun
Set us as a seal upon you; troubled hearts will find their rest.
Yours is love to stand harsh waters, love that lives as strong as
death.

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Our Prayers

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

**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!**

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

We Are Sent

Blessing

Closing Song: He Turned the Water into Wine

Refrain:

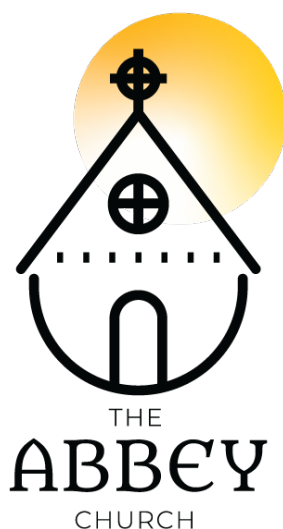
He turned the water into wine
He turned the water into wine
In the little Canaan town
the word went all around that
He turned the water into wine

Well he walked upon the Sea of Galilee
He walked upon the Sea of Galilee
Shouted far and wide
He calmed the raging tide and
Walked upon the Sea of Galilee *Refrain*

He fed the hungry multitude
He fed the hungry multitude
With a little bit of fish and bread
They said every one was fed
He fed the hungry multitude *Refrain*
Johnny R. Cash © BMG Rights Management

Sending

Go in the abundant joy of the Spirit
Thanks be to God. Amen!



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