

Epiphany + 3
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 23rd, 2022 + 4pm

together
**WE LIFT
THE SKY**



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THE
ABBEY
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 ɫəᑦ'əŋən People, known today as
the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation.*

*Come as you are, people hope...
Filled with the revolutionary unity and diversity of God*

We Gather

Announcement Loop

Land welcome video from Butch Dick

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome

Bell x 3

Invitation to prayer

Almighty God, breathe into us the wind of unity that recognizes our diversity.

Breathe into us a love that welcomes and makes us community.

Breathe into us fire that unites what is torn apart and heals what is ill.

Breathe into us grace that overcomes hatred and frees us from violence.

Breathe into us life that faces down death.

Blessed be the God of mercy, who makes all things new.

Amen! *Communauté de Grandchamp*

Gathering Song: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious measure
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson / Tune: NETTLETON, Anonymous / Public Domain

Poem

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

We Proclaim

A Reading from 2 Corinthians 6:2-10 *(Wil Gafney trans.)*

“At an acceptable time have I hearkened to you, and on the day of salvation have I helped you.” Look! Now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! In no way, none, are we giving cause for offense, so there will be no reproach against ministry. Rather, in every way have we commended ourselves as servants of God: through much endurance, in tribulations, in distress, in calamities, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleepless nights, in hunger; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in holiness of spirit, in love without pretense, in truthful speech, and in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; amid honor and dishonor, amid slander and renown; as deceitful and yet genuine; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and look! We are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalms 18: 2-11, 16-19 *(Wil Gafney trans.)*

The Rock Who Gave us Birth is my rock,
and my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Holy One, may she be praised,
and from my enemies I shall be saved.

**The snares of death encompassed me;
the rivers of wickedness assailed me.**

The snares of Sheol encircled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

**In my distress I called upon She Who Hears;
to my God I cried for help.**

From her temple she heard my voice,
and my cry came before her, to her ears.

**Then the earth shuddered and quaked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and were shaken because of her anger,**

Smoke went up from her nostrils,
and consuming fire from her mouth;
burning coals blazed forth from her.

**She spread out the heavens, and descended;
thick darkness was under her feet.**

She mounted up on a cherub, and flew;
she soared upon the wings of the wind.

**She made darkness her veil around her,
her canopy dark waters and thick clouds.**

She reached down from on high, she took me;
she drew me out of the multitude of water.

**She delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hate me;
for they were too mighty for me.**

They confronted me in the day of my calamity;
yet the Sheltering God was my support.

**She brought me out into a broad place;
she delivered me, because she delights in me.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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The Gospel

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (3:1-6, 11-17,
Wil Gafney trans.):

In those days John the Baptizer appeared preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the realm of the heavens is near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Most High, make God's paths straight.'" Now John had for his clothing camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the women and men of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and the whole region of the Jordan, and they were baptized in the river Jordan by him, confessing their sins. "Indeed, I baptize you with water for repentance, but after me is coming one more powerful than I; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John forbade him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it go now; for this way is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John let it go. Now when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God, she descended like a dove and came upon on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

With our words and with our lives!

We repeat the sung acclamation

Sermon

The Rev. Lyndon Sayers (ELCIC)

Bell / Silence / Bell

The Apostles 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 / Rob C-S verses © 2006 Cardiphonia Music / CCLI

Our Prayers

The Confession

Sung: Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison x2

In humility, as children of God and siblings in Christ, we receive
God's mercy and respond to God's call to make new all
relationships.

Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison

Merciful Christ, grace and joy of the multitude, listener and
teacher, you give birth to new visions of hope and heal the
wounds of mind and body.

We confess that we have failed to listen to voices different from our own, failed to say words that bring healing and hope, and we have perpetuated exclusive attitudes to those who cry out for solidarity and fellowship.

Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison

Loving God, you are the source of all creation, the Eternal and life-giving Word. We confess that we do not listen to your creation that groans and cries out for liberation and renewal. Help us to walk together and to hear your voice in all living things that suffer and yearn for healing and care.

Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison

O God, fountain of mercy and grace, pour over us your pardon, refresh us with your Spirit and fill us with your love as we seek to heal the divisions that separate us. Amen.

The Peace

...The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Offertory: Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of one Father, we are his children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Michael Saward © Michael Saward / Jubilate Hymns / OneLicense / Tune: BUNESSAN

We Feast

Prayer Over The Gifts / Invitation

The table of bread and wine is now made ready and all are welcome. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. For the sake of all that aches in this world, our church, and within every creature and creation, we come to your Table, hungry for a taste of your Kindom. **Amen.**

The Iona Community/ Enfleshed

(chanted) The Lord be with You

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to God

Let us give thanks to the God of Love

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God how wonderful is the work of your hands, all of creation echoes the music of your praise...

... and a justice that would never fail.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Through countless generations...

...therefore with all of creation we sing:

Holy Holy Holy Lord God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna is the highest.

As Jesus was eating with his disciples...

...Holy God we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your child.

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

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us...

...be gathered and made one in your love.

(Chanted) **Amen**

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.

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

All are welcomed to receive at Jesus' table.

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

Communion Song: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy

like the wideness of the sea;

there's a kindness in his justice

which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows

are more felt than up in heaven;

there is no place where earth's failings

have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader

than the measure of our mind,

and the heart of the Eternal

is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow

by false limits of our own;

and we magnify his strictness

with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick W. Faber / Public Domain / Tune: CORVEDALE, Maurice Bevan / One License

Prayer after Communion

God, we give you thanks! For this meal that nourishes us in body and spirit. For a taste of your dreams. For the earth that gifts us these resources. And for these bodies of ours through which you take on flesh. May our gratitude produce faithfulness and our faithfulness produce justice. May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. **Amen.** *-Enfleshed*

We Are Sent

Blessing

Closing Song: Lead Us To The End

O God we are crying out
Marked by the violence of Cain
Our hands are bloodstained, forgive us
O God, your children are suffering
You hear the groaning
You know the sorrows, have mercy
We are sowing in tears
May they be, Lord, seeds of your peace

Refrain: Take our hearts of stone
Give us hearts of flesh -
Lead us to the end of us versus them

Spread wide your table Lord
Gather us in - Tear down the barrier walls
Between us and them

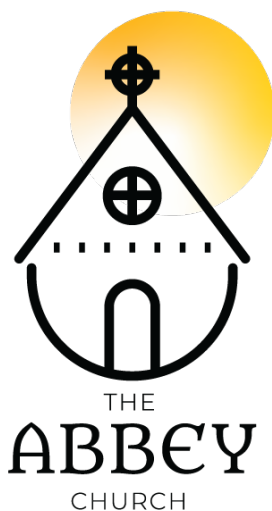
There is a light shining in our darkness
There is a spring whose waters never fail
There is a voice crying out in the wilderness
There is a way of peace through the valley
through the shadow of death *Refrain*

By the power of the Spirit - by the word made flesh
In the kingdom of heaven - with the wolf and the lamb
The earth is the Lord's - And all it contains
Lead us to the end of us versus them *Refrain*
Tom Wuest / Used with permissions

Sending

Go in the joy and unity of the Holy Spirit

Thanks be to God. Amen!



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