

The Feast of the Presentation Candlemas

January 30th, 2022 + 4pm



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 ɫəᑭʷəŋən People, known today as
the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation.*

*Come as you are, people offering their lives in the beautiful
struggle of faith...*

We Gather

Announcement Loop + Land welcome video

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome

Bell x 3

Opening Words

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Chanted Candlemas Procession: Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace. Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum. Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum. Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; Because my eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: A light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Gregorian chant

Blessing of the Candles

Gracious God, source of darkness and light, you created all things out of nothing and by your command caused the labour of bees to be revealed in the perfection of wax. +Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of Jesus Christ, whose love enlightens everyone. As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the shadows of despair, so also may our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of peace through, Jesus our Companion on the way. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: In The Temple Now Behold Him

In the temple now behold Him;
See the long-expected Lord!
Ancient prophets had foretold Him;
God has sent the promised word.
Now to praise him, his redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.

Jesus, by Your Presentation,
When they blessed you, weak and poor.
Make us see Thy great salvation,
Seal us with Thy promise sure;
And present us in Thy glory
To the Source both whole and sure.

Prince and author of salvation,
Be Thy boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to Thee be given
By the world Thou didst redeem,
With the Source and with the Spirit,
Lord of majesty supreme!
HJ Pye, Public Domain, alt.

Poem

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

We Proclaim

A Reading from Leviticus (12:1-8)

The Holy One of Sinai spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the women and men of Israel, saying: When a woman conceives and gives birth to a male, she shall be taboo seven days; as during the days of her menstruation, she shall be taboo. On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. Then, thirty and three days shall she sit in blood purification; she shall not touch any holy thing, or come into the sanctuary, until the days of her restoration are fulfilled. Now, if she gives birth to a female, she shall be taboo two weeks, as in her menstruation; her time of blood purification shall be sixty-six days. On completing the days of her purification for a daughter or for a son she shall bring a yearling lamb for a burnt offering—and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering—to the priest at the

entrance of the tent of meeting. Then he shall offer it before the Fire of Sinai and make atonement on her behalf and she shall be restored from her flow of blood. This is the teaching for the woman who gives birth to a female or male. If she cannot afford a sheep, she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the second for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be restored.
...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalms 48:1-3,9-13 *(Wil Gafney trans.)*

Great is the Ageless God and greatly praised,
in the city of our God is God's holy mountain.

**Beautiful in elevation, the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
is the city of the great Sovereign.**

Within her citadels God

has made herself known as a bulwark.

**We contemplate your faithful love, God,
in the midst of your temple.**

Like your Name, God, your praise,

reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

**Let Mount Zion be glad,
let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments.**

Go about Zion, go all around her;
count her towers.

**Set your hearts upon her ramparts;
go through her citadels,
that you may recount to the next generation:**
For this God is our God, our God forever and ever.
She will be our guide until we die.

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 according to Luke

(2:22-38, *Wil Gafney trans.*)

Now when the days of their purification were fulfilled according to the teaching of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Holy One: As it is written in the teaching of the Sovereign God, “Every male who opens the womb [as firstborn] shall be called holy to the Sovereign One.” So, they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the teaching of the Holy One, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, waiting to welcome the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit, she rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Most High God. Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under that which was taught, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “You release now your slave in peace. Master, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s mother and father were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign provoking contention; also, your own soul a sword will pierce so that the true hearts of many will be revealed.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God, and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

With our words and with our lives!

We repeat the sung acclamation

Sermon

Bell / Silence / Bell

Rob Crosby-Shearer, EC

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,
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

Today's prayer is inspired by the poem Love by Alex Dimitrov
<https://aprweb.org/poems/love0>

You love

_____.

You love

_____.

You love

_____.

We love

_____.

We love

_____.

We love

_____.

I love

_____.

I love

_____.

I love

_____.

The Confession

Let us take a moment in silence to bring before God the places in our lives which need cleansing, healing, wholeness and renewal. Let us bring our sins before the God of mercy.

Silence.

Together we say:

We confess that we have not beheld your glory in each other and in your creation. We have too often broken our word and hurt each other. We have too often taken the easy way instead of the right way. Guide us into your paths of holiness and justice so that we may live in right relation with you, each other and your whole creation.

Absolution or Assurance of Grace

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in bleakness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace...
The peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

*We acknowledge the face of Christ in each other
with a nod or bow.*

Offertory: Create In Me A Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me.

1988 Maranatha Music / Anonymous / CCLI

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 O God, hungry for a taste of your Kindom. Receive all we offer you this day and fill us with your hope. **Amen.**

The Iona Community/ Enfleshed

Silence

(chanted) The Lord be with You. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up 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.

Glorify 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 Nations 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: Simeon's Song

Now You can dismiss Your servant in peace.

As you have promised, so you have done.

This child will make a child of me

Just before night my morning has come!

Some will say that the Lord need not come,
Holding their torches to light their own way.

But I am old, hopes have faded away
Save this one hope in my arms this day.

My eyes have seen your salvation
You are the LORD, Your lips do not lie
Promised to Adam, promised to me
My eyes have seen. Now I can die.

Ordinary Time / Ben Keyes / CCLI

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Anna and Simeon who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah: may we, who have received these your gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring eternal life; for he is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

We Are Sent

Blessing

Closing Song: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine -I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine -I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine - I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, NO! - I'm gonna let it shine...

Won't let no one blow it out - I'm gonna let it shine...

Let it shine 'till Jesus comes -I'm gonna let it shine...

Words and music by Harry Dixon Loes.Public Domain.

Sending

As Anna and Simeon recognised you in the temple

May we recognize you in those we meet.

As Jesus grew and became strong and wise

May we grow in wisdom and wonder and joy.

Go in the peace and luminescence of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen. Ruth Burgess, alt.

Bell x 3



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