

August 21, 2022 + 4pm
Pentecost + 11



Love is In the Air - Banksy



*Come as you are,
Beloved companions in the Spirit -
offering our lives
in the beautiful struggle of faith...*

Welcome to the AbbeyChurch - the Sunday worship of the Emmaus Community where all are welcomed to participate fully.

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 of how to follow Jesus into this world.

We invite and celebrate 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 radical love binds us together in unity as we gather each week at Jesus' table of welcome... When communion comes, you are always welcomed - but never pressured - to come and receive.

So, welcome!

The AbbeyChurch worships, prays, plays and gathers on the traditional lands of the ɫkʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

We Gather

Opening Loop

Tolling of the (real!) Bells

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Let us enter the silence where the God of love waits for us.

Bell x 3

Opening Words

In love, Christ offered himself once and for all— so that we can be free from violence, oppression, suffering and death.

Let us freely enter and worship the Triune God of Love!

Opening Song: The Heart of God

The heart of God has been revealed

The heart of God has been revealed

To bring love, not hate - pour out, not dominate

The heart of God has been revealed

The heart of God has been revealed

The heart of God has been revealed

To forgive, not blame - to make whole, not shame

The heart of God has been revealed

Chorus: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The heart of God has been revealed

The heart of God has been revealed

The heart of God has been revealed

To forgive, not blame - to make whole, not shame

The heart of God has been revealed *Chorus*

Alana Levandoski / © Copyright 2015 / CCLI

Poem: *In Love* by Bell Hooks

in love

there are no closed doors

each threshold

an invitation

to cross

take hold

take heart

and enter here
at this point
where truth
was once denied

We Proclaim

Epistle (Letter):

A reading from the letter to the early community in Rome (Romans 13: 8-10, Wil Gafney trans.): Owe no one nothing, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, *you shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet*, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

...The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Bell. Silence. Bell

The Psalm Psalm 36:5-10 5 (Wil Gafney trans.)



HOLY ONE, throughout the very heavens is your faithful love*
your faithful/ness beyond the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the eternal mountains, your
judgments are like the mighty deep*
you save humankind and animalkind a/like, Faithful One.

How precious is your faithful love, O God!*
All the woman-born take shelter in the /shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house*
and you give them drink from the river of /your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life*
in your /light we see light.

Extend your faithful love to those who know you*
and your justice to /the upright of heart!

*Please rise in body or spirit
as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel*

Gospel Acclamation: Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson / © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (ASCAP) / One License

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops

With our words and with our lives

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

(Translation by the Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney)

Now, one of the biblical scholars came near and heard them (the other biblical scholars, the chief priests and the elders) discussing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well the scholar asked Jesus: "Which commandment is the first of all?": Jesus answered: the first is: "The first is: *Hear O Israel: the Holy One our God, the Holy is one; You shall love the Holy One your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the biblical scholars said to him: "you are right, teacher; you have truly said that 'God is one, and besides God there is no other'; and to love God with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself. This is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that the scholar answered wisely, he said "you are not far from the reign of God." After that no one dared to ask Jesus any question.

...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops

With our words and with our lives

We repeat the Gospel Acclamation

Sermon

Rob Crosby-Shearer, EC

Affirmation of Faith: Hear, O Israel

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

The Confession

[we say together] **O God, you have been faithful, yet we have not loved you with our whole hearts. You showed us how to love our fellow beings, yet we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Turn us back to you, O God, that we may follow your commandments; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Bell. Silence for Personal Confession. Bell.

Assurance/Absolution

Beloved, God is loving, merciful, and just. Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another, that we might journey in the Way of love. Almighty God...

The Peace

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you!

We acknowledge the face of Christ in each other.

We now set our table and celebrate the diversity of financial and spiritual gifts offered by the community this week! If you wish to give financially, there is a record player at the back that you can leave your offerings (charitable receipts available)

The Offertory: The Love of Jesus Calls Us

The love of Jesus calls us our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings, unasked yet still received,
and for the generations who faithfully believed.

The love of Jesus calls us, that we may always be companions on a journey, where all the world may see that serving Christ is freedom which time does not destroy; where Christ's command is duty, and every duty joy.

The love of Jesus calls us to go where he would go, to challenge all that limits, to change, to learn, to grow, to know that Christ has freed us, that prisons are no more; for those who seek his kingdom, Christ opens every door.

The love of Jesus calls us in swiftly changing days, to be God's co-creators in new and wondrous ways; that God with all their children may so transform the earth, that love and peace and justice may give God's kingdom birth.

Text: Herbert O'Driscoll / OneLicense / Tune: AURELIA; Samuel Sebastian Wesley / Public Domain

We Feast

Prayer Over The Gifts / Invitation to the Table

The table of bread and wine is now made ready - and all are welcome. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. 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.

Made one in Christ and with God's creation, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

Silence

The Holy Eucharist

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give God our thanks and praise

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

We offer you praise, O God, with hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love, Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.

Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, siblings east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

(sung) **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. *(repeat)*

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took wine and, having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this, share it, do this in remembrance of me.

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole. As the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world. **Amen.**

Iona Community, 2020.

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

Our Father (Mother/Source) in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Silence is kept.

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!

The bread is gluten-free. It may contain dairy and/or almond flour. (If you'd like a dairy or nut free option, please let the presider know - we have Gluten-free sealed hosts as well) Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup.

Communion Song: Little Things With Great Love

In the garden of our Savior, no flower grows unseen;
His kindness rains like water on every humble seed.
No simple act of mercy escapes His watchful eye —
for there is One who loves me: His hand is over mine.

In the kingdom of the heavens, no suffering is unknown;
each tear that falls is holy, each breaking heart a throne.
There is a song of beauty on ev'ry weeping eye —
for there is One who loves me: His heart, it breaks with mine.

Oh, the deeds forgotten; oh, the works unseen,
every drink of water flowing graciously,
every tender mercy, You're making glorious.
This You have asked us: do little things with great love,
little things with great love.

At the table of our Savior, no mouth will go unfed;
His children in the shadows stream in and raise their heads.
Oh give us ears to hear them and give us eyes that see —
for there is One who loves them: I am His hands and feet.

Audrey Assad, Isaac Wardell, Madison Cunningham / © 2017 Porter's Gate Publishing (BMI) and Hymns From the Porter's Gate (ASCAP) / CCLI

Communion Song: There Can Be No Greater Love



Text: Psalm 145; Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1998, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Prayer after Communion

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us with your Presence until every life can be lived abundantly. Be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter and be our love. **Amen.** *enfleshed.*

Please rise in body or Spirit

A Blessing

We Are Sent

Closing Song: Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til on earth You make Your place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley / Public Domain, alt. (tune: Hyfrydol)

Sending

Go in the wild, animating power of the Spirit to love God
and serve the people! **Thanks be God. Alleluia!**

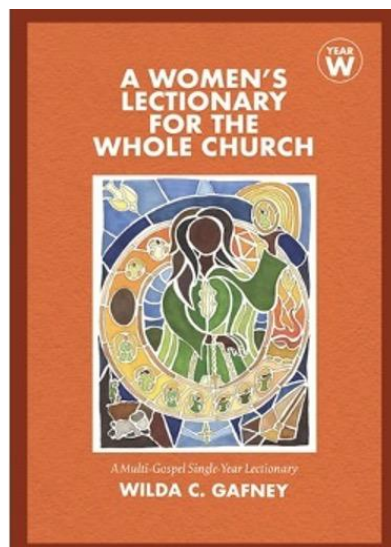
The Women's Lectionary

As a liturgical church, we join the wider church in a common
set of readings each week in worship, called a Lectionary.

However, the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) has
many limitations in terms of what stories are centered and told
- and more importantly, those that are not.

Since last Advent, we at AbbeyChurch have taken our weekly
readings from the Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church
Year (Year W) - and will do so for the rest of this year!

The Rev. Wilda Gafney (ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and The Episcopal Church USA - part of the Anglican Communion) has put together this alternate set of



readings which includes a new Womanist translation of the Biblical texts. Her translations contrast our traditional readings in important ways – such as rendering the personal pronouns and titles for God in the feminine (which you will find weekly as we say/sing her Psalm translations) and centering the unnamed women in the genealogies and accounts of historic figures in the Hebrew Bible. This centers the long overlooked or neglected figures in our Bible reading.

Our aim in adopting this lectionary is to recover a deeper and more liberating reading of the Biblical text, even as we confess and confront the ways our reading of these stories has done much historic violence and harm to so many.

AbbeyChurch 2022 Fall rhythm:
Aug 28-Sept 4 - Wild Church Pilgrimage
Sept 4 – Willows Beach outdoor worship
Sept 11 – Blessing of bikes and backpacks
Sept 18 - Community celebration and potluck



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778 557 4166 (pastoral cell monitored regularly)
We would love to connect!
Call, text or email to set up a coffee or walk.