

[Everett Patterson - "José y Maria"](#)

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022 + 1pm

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 lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

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

We Gather

Help yourself to hot apple cider and goodies at the back!

Opening Loop with Refugee King by Liz Vice

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Tolling of the Bells

Processional: Silent Night

Kids light community candles as they process

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

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

We Proclaim

Song: O Little Town Of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven.
No ear may hear his coming
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Harry Simeone / Phillip Brooks / Lewis H Redner Public Domain.

The Story is told...

Song: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon a midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled.
And still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when, with the ever circling years
shall come the age of gold:
when peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song,
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

The Story continues...

Song: Go Tell It On the Mountain

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 high above the Earth
rang out the angel chorus,
that hailed our saviour's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*
Traditional African-American spiritual

Sermon

Matt Humphrey, EC

Bell. Silence. Bell.

Prayers

Chivonne Graff

Peace

On this holy night the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all on earth. The peace of the Christ child 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*

Mary Chapin Carpenter / © 2008 Rounder Records

Prayer Over The Gifts

Friends, weary and wounded, joyfilled and anxious, beloved of God, you are invited to the table of love and liberation. Come and feast on the bread of life, the word made flesh!

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 day and fill us with your life, your peace, your love enfleshed, through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

We Feast

(chanted) 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.

Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands!

All of creation echoes the music of your praise.

When sin had scarred the world you made a covenant to renew the whole of creation, you embraced a people as your own and filled them with longing, for a peace that would last and a justice that would never fail.

Glory to you forever and ever

Through countless generations your people hungered for the bread of freedom from them you raised up Jesus the living bread in whom all our hungers are filled.

You have sent your Holy Spirit as a mighty stream to refresh and renew the face of the earth, therefore with the company of earth and heaven we kneel before this vulnerable baby and 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.

Steve Bell / © 1991 Signpost Music / CCLI

While Jesus was eating with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me." **Glory to you forever and ever.**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine and after blessing it, poured it, gave it to them and said, take, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me.

Glory to you forever and ever.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that with burning hearts, we may be a people of hope, justice and love. As grain was scattered across this land then gathered and made one in this bread, so may your people, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your love. **Amen.**

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 welcome 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. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup, please do not dip the bread into the cup

Communion1: The Friendly Beasts

*A few of our AbbeyKids pre-recorded this song earlier this week.
Musical track by Rob Crosby-Shearer.*

Communion 2: Joy Has Dawned

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
As the mighty God of peace shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts are giv'n from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold, our sovereign born today, incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, his death will make a way & by sheer love he'll win us.

Word made flesh and child of heaven, given as a victor,
Reconciling God and us, Christ our great redeemer!
What a saviour, what a friend, what a sacred mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.
2005 Thankyou Music (PRS) . Getty and Townend / CCLI

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, Immanuel, God with us.
Amen.

We Are Sent

Poem selected and read by Rebecca Yeo
AbbeyChurch poet-in-residence

“Godburst,” Ann Weems

When the Holy Child is born into our hearts,
There is a rain of stars
A rushing of angels
A blaze of candles
This God burst into our lives.
Love is running through the streets.

Blessing

Go into the day, glorifying and praising God for all you have
seen and heard. And may the joy of the angels, the
eagerness of the shepherds, the love of Joseph and Mary,

and the blessing of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and always. **Amen**

Closing 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

Go into joy of this holy day to proclaim the radical love of
the Incarnation. **Thanks be to God! Amen! Alleluia!**

Closing Loop *feat. Joy To the World - Rend Collective*

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Thanks to AbbeyKids & Youth, AbbeyKids leaders, Amaya, Zion, Abi, Rylan, Odhran, Cillian, Iona, Odhran, Roxy, Anna, Iona, Tasker, Oleana, the Local General store (for the cider), musicians, readers, prayer leaders, poets, prophets, preachers, bakers, candlestick-makers - and to all who have co-created worship during this year of transition.

Christmas feast and carols tomorrow at 5pm at 1702 Belmont - all welcome. Drop us a line to admin@emmauscommunity.ca to let us know that you're coming.

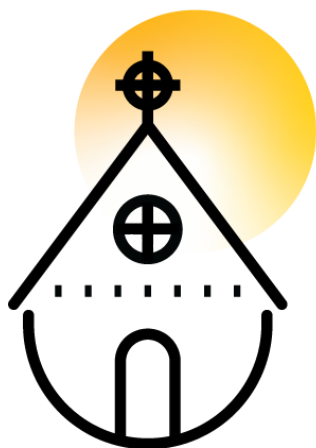
New year blessings! We aren't worshipping on December 25 or on January 1st. We're back at 4pm on January 8th 2022

No **Emmaus Community morning or evening prayer** for the first week of January. We're moving morning and evening prayer back to the priory for January.

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[Dorothy Day and the Holy Family of the Streets Kelly Latimore Icons.](#)



THE
ABBAY
CHURCH

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We would love to connect! Call, Text, Email.