

Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany

January 29, 2023 + 4pm



The Beatitudes Project Art by Cory Basil and Jimmy Abegg



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

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, single,
married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressives,
radicals, 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.

We Gather

Opening Loop / Tolling of the Bells

**Announcements & Land Acknowledgement & Land
Welcome in lək'wəŋən from elder Butch Dick**

Opening Words

O God, you are the gathering One who calls us into community to love and work, to support and heal.

You are the gathering One who calls us into community to bring justice and hope, freedom and truth.

You are the gathering One who calls us into community with the whole creation; to live in harmony, to cherish and renew.

Let us worship the God who makes us one. Amen.

Opening 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 sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm 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.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, 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; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson; tune: NETTLETON / Public Domain

Poem: Kindness - Naomi Shihab Nye

Read/selected by poet-in-residence

Rebecca Yeo

We Proclaim

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the Prophet Micah (6:6-8)

With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?
...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Song: Almighty God

Almighty God to you all hearts are open
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears
Wash us in the fountain of your mercy
Come with your light, we cannot hide from you

Almighty God to you all hearts are open
With gratitude we raise our song to you
Come and fill the praises of your people
In grace and truth, you make us new again Hallelujah x4

Almighty God to you all hearts are open
We long for more than what this world provides
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us
Your river deep floods over everything. Hallelujah x 4

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open
You take away our sickness and our sin
Oh Lamb of God we gather at Your table
In bread and wine you satisfied our needs. Hallelujah x 4

Sandra McCracken © 2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) / CCLI

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. In God's wisdom, he determined

that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. So no human being can brag in God's presence. It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us.

(1 Cor 1: 18, 21-30, CEB)

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation:

fiddle

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Lord, to whom shall we go?

[A] You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go?

[A] Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go?

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Let us trust in your word.

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 (5:13-20)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

Gospel Acclamation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

The Sermon

Matthew Humphrey, EC

Silence for meditation. Bell / Silence / Bell

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we proclaim the ancient story of our faith.

Credo

I believe in God, the Maker Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

**and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heav'n,
and is seated at the right hand of the Maker.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
+The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.** Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk, alt./ CCLI

Our Prayers

Confession

God of Justice, God of Compassion, God of Sacred and Scandalous ways, We have so much still to learn. Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us. You draw us into the heart of Wisdom, Saving us from the lies of destruction. Turning us towards hope that liberates. But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you.. And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary, we betray the very One who brought us thus far.

Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us. Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free. Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

pause in silent prayer

Absolution / Assurance of Grace

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy. God does not bind us to our regrets or forever hold us to what we once believed. God says, come and follow! +Know forgiveness and sin no more. Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!

Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection. Amen. (enfleshed [alt])

The Peace

Beloved in Christ, The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you!

We acknowledge the peace of Christ in each other.

During this next 'offertory' song, the table is set. We welcome you to place financial contributions to our common life in the record player in the back of the space. Cheques made out to 'The Emmaus Community'. Charitable receipts will be issued if you provide your address.

Offertory Song: What Does the Lord Require of You?

What does the Lord require of you? *(repeat/canon)*

To seek justice, and love kindness,

and walk humbly with your God *(repeat / canon)*

Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God *(repeat / canon)*

Jim Strathdee 1986 / Desert Flower Music / OneLicense

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

God we have been gathered by you, caught in your net, and summoned to your table. As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality let your Spirit move among us and be present in the food we share so this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

Come, O God, in the Bread of Life. Come, O God, in the Cup of Healing. Open our hands to hold you, our hearts to receive you, our souls to cherish you. Amen.

The Communion/Holy Eucharist

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks for Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Holy God, how wonderful are the works of your hand, all of creation echoes the music of your praise.

In joy you called creation into being and created one family united by your love. When we turned away, you called through the prophets, inviting us to return to your ways of justice and mercy.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus, you repaired the breach between us and opened the way of your peace.

Therefor with the company of heaven and your creation we 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. X2
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth of your glory are full
Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest. X2**

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI

As Jesus broke bread, he gave thanks and gave it to his disciples saying, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. *Bell*

As supper was ending, Jesus took wine, he gave thanks and gave it to them saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. *Bell*

Invited to the feast, we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world through which God continually blesses us. And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, we also celebrate God's goodness.

**Blessed are you, O God, for you bring forth
the fruits of the earth and the waters of life
to sustain us each day and each night.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ - The presence of God with us. *Bell*

Shine your light and your love on the offering of our lives. that we may be your people, the body of the risen Christ, light for the world. **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.

Communion Song: Blessed Are The Merciful

Blessed are the merciful Blessed are the merciful
Blessed are the merciful For they shall receive mercy, mercy

Forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us
Forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us

Lord have mercy on us
Show Your mercy through us x 3
Porter's Gate/ 2019 Integrity Music / CCLI

Communion Song: Blessed Are The Peacemakers

Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are the peacemakers
Blessed are the peacemakers. They are called children of God

Heureux ceux qui créent la paix
Heureux ceux qui créent la paix
Heureux ceux qui créent la paix

Ils sont les enfants de dieu felices los pacificadores,
los pacificadores, buscan la paz aquellos son hijos de Dios
Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, we have seen with our eyes, touched with our hands and tasted with our lips the bread of life:
Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other, Through Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Blessing (*sung together*)

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make Their shine upon you
And be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up Their countenance upon you
And give you peace.... *And the blessing of God...*

Closing Song: Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You Fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very Name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from their throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. *Refrain.*

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember Who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that out forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning
the world around. *Refrain.*

Rory Cooney / Star of the County Down Tune / 1990 GIA / Onelicense.

]Sending

Blessed, beloved community, go in the peace of Christ to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Thanks be to God! Amen. Alleluia!

Closing announcement loop

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

