

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023 + 4pm



Fredrick H. Varley (*Group of Seven*) - [Liberation](#) (1936)

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



THE
ABBECY
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 our Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God - with our questions and doubts, our disillusionment with our institutions and our concern for our world.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressive, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together and renews our hope as we gather each week at Jesus' table of radical welcome.

We Gather

Opening Loop / Tolling the Bells

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Video Meditation: A Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37)

The Work of the People

Confession:

God of life, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though death has final claim upon us.

We give in to the despair and hopelessness, not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives.

Forgive us for doubting your power to raise up new life in the midst of all the deaths we experience.

Forgive us - and open our hearts to the wonder of new life sprouting into being in our very midst.

Sung Trisagion

Ho—ly God.

Ho—ly and mi—ghty.

Ho—ly I—mmortal One.

Have mer—cy. Have mer—cy on us. repeat 3x

4th century or earlier. This version Juan Fernando Ortega 2011 Stylos / CCLI

Bell. Silence for personal confession. Bell.

The Absolution / Assurance of Grace

“Come out,” Jesus calls, and this word unbinds us from the oppressive weight in our lives and pushes away the rocks that close us off from love. We are made free in the Spirit of God, and forgiven all our sins.

Almighty God...

During the next song, the children will set the front table with symbols of our faith and common life together.

Opening Song: Precious Lord

Precious Lord, take my hand - lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn
Through the storm, through the night - lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear - precious Lord, linger near
When my life is almost gone - hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When the darkness appears -and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand - Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938 (Renewed 1965) UNICHAPPELL MUSIC INC. / CCLI

Poem:

Read/selected by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

We Proclaim

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

Gospel Acclamation: Lord to Whom Shall We Go

Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life
We've come to believe and to know
That You are the Holy One of God *repeat*

Carolyn Arends 2021 / © Running Arends Music/ASCAP CCLI

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!
With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel according to John (11:1-45)
Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

‘Lord, he whom you love is ill.’ But when Jesus heard it, he said, ‘This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’ Jesus answered, ‘Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.’ After saying this, he told them, ‘Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.’ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.’ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with him.’

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Judeans who were

with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Judeans who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So, the Judeans said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Judeans therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

Gospel Acclamation: Lord to Whom Shall We Go

Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life

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Carolyn Arends 2021 / © Running Arends Music/ASCAP CCLI

The Sermon

Brendon Neilson

Silence for meditation. Bell / Silence / Bell

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as affirm our faith with the Shema - The Hear, O Israel (Israel = "God-wrestlers")

Hear, O Israel

[we say together] **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.

Prayer Stations

You are invited and welcome to come for anointing prayers for healing or participate in the other stations (see screen)

Veni Sancte Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Veni Sancte Spiritus'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a fermata over the first measure. The lyrics are: 'Ve - ni san - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.' The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and features a simple harmonic accompaniment.

Ateliers et Presses de Taize / OneLicense.

Let It Breathe on Me

Let it breathe on me; let it breathe on me.

Let the breath of the Lord now breathe on me. (repeat)

Magnolia Lewis-Butts, 1942 / Martin and Morris / CCLI

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. Contributions to our common life can be placed 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: He Comes to Us As One Unknown

He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone
or shrivelled seed in darkness sown
A pulse of being stirred, A pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
Half seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
Of night within the heart, Of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees
A voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving Name,
For ev'ry child of earth, For ev'ry child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored
The Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior and our Lord, Our Savior and our Lord.

Timothy Dudley-Smith / 1973 Hope Publishing / OneLicense

We Celebrate

Invitation To the Table / Prayer Over The Gifts

Jesus calls us all: all made in God's own image,
all who breathe the breath of God's Spirit: the Spirit of Life.
Jesus calls us to the table, to the meal that nourishes our
bodies and binds our dry bones into one Body, living in Christ.
Jesus calls us, here and now. Come to this table, you who are
beloved in Christ. Come, not because you must, but because
you may. Re:Worship / Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

The Communion / 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 thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Holy God, How wonderful is the work of your hands! All of creation echoes the silent 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 heaven and all of your 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 in the highest.

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.

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 and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Show us your joy in the wilderness and shape us into 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 church, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your love.

Amen. *St. Lydia's Table, alt.*

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

Our Father (Mother/Source/Parent) 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 contains 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.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Pre-recorded. Agnus Dei (feat. Jen Reardon) ·

Trinity Music · The Anima Christi © 2009 Marty Reardon / CCLI

Communion Song: How Long

Wisdom cries out in the street
In the square she raises her voice
At the centre of town you can hear her speak
Over all the other noise

How long o simple ones?
How long will you ignore?
Wake up you walking dead
Open your ears to the Lord!

My child do not forget
The path I show to you
All other ways only lead to death
Ways so easy to choose

Trust in the Lord only
With all your heart and mind
Then you shall not stumble
All that you seek you shall find
Ordinary Time / Peter LeGrand / CCLI

Communion Song: Breathe On Me

O breath of God, you stir our hearts
We're weary with longing for you
Come raise our dead, mend every breach
We're weary with longing for you

(Refrain) Blessed is the One
Who comes in the name of the Lord

Yeshua bring tidings of joy
We're waiting with longing for you
Stand with your poor, the trodden down
We're waiting with longing for you *Refrain*

Restore all things, remove the veil
We're watching with longing for you
We take this bread, we drink this cup
We're watching with longing for you *Refrain*
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We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion / Blessing

God of hope, in this eucharist we have tasted the promise of your heavenly banquet and the richness of life abundant and life eternal. May we who bear witness to the death of your Son, also proclaim the glory of his resurrection, for Christ is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Anglican Church of Canada, alt.

Let us sing our blessing to one another...

(Sung twice responsively)

Courage (**Courage**)

My Friends (**My friends**)

You do not walk alone

We will (**We will**)

Walk with you (**Walk with you**)

And sing your spirit home

...and the blessing of God...

Song of Descent: Gone Is the Light

Into the darkness we must go - gone, gone is the light

Into the darkness we must go - gone gone us the light

Jesus, remember me when you enter your *Kingdom

Jesus, remember me - when your Kingdom comes

Gord Johnson / Signpost Music 2008 / CCLI

**Or "Kin-dom"*

*We are invited to leave the space in silence
during this holy season...*

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



THE
ABBEY
CHURCH