

The AbbeyChurch / September 24, 2023

The Season of Creation IV



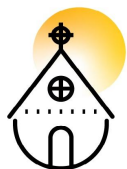
Manna 3 by Terri Davis

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/manna-3-terri-davis.html>



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5:24



THE
ABBEY
CHURCH

“Let justice roll on like a river, & righteousness like a ever-falling stream!”
- Amos 5:24

We Gather

Opening Loop

Tolling of the Bells & Announcements

Land Acknowledgment

As we gather,

we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the ɫək^wəŋən peoples on whose traditional land we worship and the Songhees, Esquimalt peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. As a community, we commit to an ongoing journey of decolonization, deep listening and humility as we seek to walk in right-relationship.

Bell x 3

We gather in the name of God: The Source of All Being, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the earth and of all creatures!
Amen!

Opening Words with Refrain (*sing x2*)

Unison
♩ = 104

The musical score is written for a unison voice part in 3/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a tempo of 104 beats per minute. The first line of music is a melodic line with lyrics: "I praise you, O God, with all of my heart. With all the earth I will". Above the staff are chord markings: Dm, G/D, Dm7, G/D, and Bb. The second line of music is a bass line with block chords. The third line of music is a melodic line with lyrics: "sing your prais-es. I prais-es.". Above the staff are chord markings: C, Bb, C, Bb, C, and Dm. The section is divided into a "Repeats" section and a "Last time" section. The score ends with a fermata over the final chord.

I praise you, O God, with all of my heart. With all the earth I will

Repeats Last time

sing your prais-es. I prais-es.

More Voices / David Robertson / High River United Church

The earth was made for flourishing
Life longs to bloom and blossom. *Sung refrain.*

Created in God's image, born of Love itself -
We each have a role, we each play a part. *Sung refrain.*

In service to each other and all our creaturely kin -
We trust there's enough. We trust that we're enough.
We take hope in God's amazing provision. *Sung refrain.*

May God our Creator feed us in the wilderness.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Adapted from Enfleshed.

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing
& the AbbeyKids set the altar with a mighty river*

Opening Song: Cantad Al Senor / O Sing to our God

Can - tad al Se - ñor un cân - ti - co nue - vo, Can - tad al Se -
Oh, sing to our God, O sing God a new song, Oh, sing to our

ñor un cân - ti - co nue - vo, Can - tad al Se - ñor un cân - ti - co
God, Oh, sing God a new song, Oh, sing to our God, Oh, sing God a

nue - vo, Can - tad al Se - ñor, Can - tad al Se - ñor!
new song, Oh, sing to our God, Oh, sing to our God.

Oh, sing to our God, oh sing God a new song, 3X
Oh, sing to our God, oh sing to our God.

Oh, sing to our God, and join all Creation, 3X
Oh, sing to our God, oh sing to our God.

From great skies above, our God gives us Manna, 3X
O sing to the Lord, O sing to the Lord!

Oh, sing to our God, who gave us the Spirit 3x
Oh, sing to our God, oh sing to our God
Brazilian Folksong / Author unknown / adapted.

Poem: selected by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

We Proclaim

A Reading from the Exodus (16:2-15, NRSVUE)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

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

Lament “Psalm”: In Labour All Creation Groans

In labour all creation groans till fear and hatred cease,
Till human hearts come to believe: In Christ alone is peace.

In labour all creation groans till war and violence cease,
Till swords are beaten into plows and Christ will be our peace.

Chorus: Be our Peace (X3) Christ our Peace.

In labour all creation groans till prejudice shall cease,
Till every race and tribe and tongue in Christ will live in peace.

In labour all creation groans till rape and murder cease,
Till children walk by night unharmed and Christ is this world’s
peace. *Chorus*

In labour all creation groans till false divisions cease,
Till enemies are reconciled in Christ who is our peace. *Chorus*
from Lamentations by Bifrost Arts Music, 2016. CCLI.

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

Gospel Acclamation: All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam.

And silver moon with softer gleam.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Based on words by St. Francis of Assisi / Public Domain

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (20:1-16)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to

him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last workers only worked one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

...Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

[sung] O mother earth who day by day,
unfolds rich blessings on our way: Alleluia! Alleluia!
The fruits and flowers that verdant grow:
Let them God's praise abundant show,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Based on words by St. Francis of Assisi / Public Domain

The Sermon

Rev. Michelle Slater

Bell / Silence for meditation / Bell

Affirmation of Faith

[We say together] We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all good things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world & everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.
Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, South India,
adapted by Keld B. Hansen, 2009.

Our Prayers

Confession

[...We say together:] **O God of justice and plenty, whose generous earth was created for its own particular beauty, for the nourishment of its people, and to sing of your glory: We confess that through our sinfulness we have harvested injustice and pollution, and not your abundance; the land has become strange to us, and our songs of celebration have turned harsh. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil. We seek your forgiveness. We choose to be made whole. Amen.**

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Silence is kept for prayers of confession.

Absolution or Assurance of Grace

The Peace

Beloved Community, the peace of Christ be with you all.
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 Song: As We Gather At Your Table

As we gather at your table as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love & serve you
bringing peace where there is strife.

Give us Christ your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

Carl Daw / Hope Publishing / OneLicense TUNE: Beach Spring

We Celebrate

Prayer Over the Gifts

God of power and grace, the glory of your works fills us
with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day, and
help us to live in peace and harmony with all your
creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Anglican Church of Canada, alt.

The Great Thanksgiving

Adapted from the United Methodist Church, USA.

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 all of Creation.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you,
O God of wonders.

You created the darkness and the light. You created the sun,
moon, and stars. You created the oceans, the icebergs, the glaciers,
and the streams. You created the continents and the islands and
the volcanoes. You created the algae, the plants, and the trees. You
created the two-legged and four-legged, the winged and the
hooved, those who fly and those who slither. You created your
people in all our glorious diversity. You blessed your creation, and
said it is good.

And so, we join our voices with all of your creation, and with the
great choir of saints who have come before us, and we praise you
with their unending hymn:

*Singing: 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

You are holy, Creating God, who has given us every good gift through the abundance of your earth. You provided for your people and for all your creatures through the aeons, but we grew tired of your ways. We turned from you and in our greed, we ceased to know your abundance. We learned to see only scarcity and thus brought about destruction for the good gifts that you had given, and the lives that depended on them.

You spoke through the voice of creation time and again to remind us of your ways. Your voice came from the burning bush, through the rushing wind, in the manna in the wilderness and in the quiet stillness. And, yet, we needed more reminders.

To show us again the good ways you intended for us, you sent your son, Jesus. He walked with his followers and showed them a better way. He reminded them that you have provided abundantly for all of time.

In the final hours before his death, sitting at the table with his friends, he began by taking the bread, giving thanks to you, breaking it and sharing it with them, plenty for everyone. He said: "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me...

When the supper was over, Jesus poured a cup of wine. He gave thanks to you and shared it with his disciples - again, there was plenty for everyone. He said, Drink from my cup, each of you; this is the cup of God's eternal covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me..

As we prepare to share together today in these gifts of the earth again, we declare the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

+Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Reveal in them the abundance of Christ - that we might become your abundance, for the world. Make them be for us the presence of Christ - that we might be your presence in your world. **Amen.**

As beloved children of a loving parent we pray as Jesus taught:
(said in a language, translation or paraphrase of your choice)

Our *Father (*or Parent, or 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Silence.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world. **Thanks be to God!**

*All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but contains almond flour and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy/almond option. Juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup.
Please do not dip bread.*

Communion Song: Lamb of God - Tom Wuest (recorded)

Brass Trumpet Publishing

Communion Song: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wand'ring.

Here in truth we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.

Come from restlessness and roaming.

Here in joy we keep the feast.

We that once were lost and scattered

in communion's love have stood.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good

All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
Sylvia G. Dunstan / GIA Publications / OneLicense. Tune: HOLY MANNA

Communion Song: Song: Everything I Need

Everything I need is right in front of me,
everything I need right in front of me X2
Can we be manna, manna, can we be
manna for each other? X2 The Wilderness Way (Portland)

We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

God our Creator, you feed your people with the bread from
heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly
pilgrimage that we may come to that place where your people
hunger and thirst no more and your creation is restored to its
full glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The Blessing

Closing Song: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty. Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven - bread of heaven
Feed me now and evermore. Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing streams doth flow
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer - strong deliverer -
Be Thou still my Strength & Shield.
Be Thou still my Strength & Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death & hell's destruction land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee. I will ever give to Thee.
William Williams / Welsh Melody / Public Domain.

The Sending

Go in the wild animating fire of the Spirit to follow Christ and serve God's creation. **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

*We'll be back here **next Sunday at 4pm!***

COMING UP

Today: Wine and Cheese after worship

whether you're a newcomer, or an 'old-timer' - if you have questions (bring 'em on!) - or just want to meet others a bit more - come and hang out after worship... We'll bring the wine and cheese (and non-alcohol options too).

Next Sunday: Orange Shirt / Reconciliation Sunday.

We're excited to have Rev. Canon Lily Bell preaching (via recording). She is a Raven, and a matriarch of the Kyaan usilii clan from Haida Gwaii. You are welcomed to wear an orange shirt if you have one.

Sunday October 8th: Gratitude Feast

A potluck on Thanksgiving weekend (October) after AbbeyChurch Sunday worship. More details to come.

note: no potluck September 29th

Weekday Prayer Monday Eve Centering Prayer - 8pm

chapel + **Tuesday morning prayer at 8:15am @ Marilyns** +

Thursday morning prayer @ 8:15am chapel.

email for exact locations or zoom link.

admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778 557 4166 Community Cell.

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

