

**The AbbeyChurch / October 1, 2023**  
**Season of Creation V**  
**Orange Shirt Day (Reconciliation)**  
**Feast of St Francis of Assisi**



Images: From St. John Church, Old Masset Haida Gwaii, St Francis - Jen Norton Art



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



# We Gather

## Opening Loop

### Tolling of the Bells & Announcements

#### Message from the Moderator (video)

*Lord, have mercy (x4)*

*Holy Spirit rest upon us teach us how to tend to creation*

*Holy Spirit rest upon us guide us from our path of*

*destruction* Paul Zach, Latifah Alattas, Kate Bluett/Porters Gate / CCLI

### Today we acknowledge

the shadow side of the history of Canada in which settler peoples have reaped the benefits of the land by pushing aside indigenous peoples.

### Today we lament

the attempted erasure of indigenous peoples through the Indian Act which criminalized the practice of traditions and cultures, and mandated the seizure and indoctrination of children in residential schools.

### Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words, so we stand respectfully in silent lament

*Silence*

...for the children who died while in the custody of residential schools, died of active abuse, died of lonely hearts and separation from family.

### Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words, so we offer silent respect

*Silence*

for the families and communities who mourn their children who did not come home from residential schools, mourn the disruption of family and way of life, mourn the exploitation and desecration of their traditional lands.

*Silence*

*Lord, have mercy (x4)*

*Holy Spirit rest upon us teach us how to tend to creation*

*Holy Spirit rest upon us*

*guide us from our path of destruction*

In gratitude to God who demonstrated the way of humility and reconciliation with us,

**we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional land we worship and the Songhees and 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.**

*Ron Flaming Truth and Reconciliation Action Group Waterloo North Mennonite Church*

### **Assurance of Grace / Absolution**

In God, there is healing, forgiveness and mercy. May the One who unbinds us and sets us free, draw you in and cleanse you from your sins that you may walk in the way of the Word Made Flesh. Jesus Christ our Companion. **Amen.**

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

### **Opening Song: For the Beauty of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies  
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies:

*Refrain:* Christ our God to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill & vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
*Refrain*

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:  
*Refrain*

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child  
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and  
mild: *Refrain*

For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n  
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*  
*Words & music: Public domain*

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

# We Proclaim

A reading from the letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross....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.

*Refrain:* 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 all will walk by night unharmed and Christ is this world's  
peace. *Refrain*

In labour all creation groans till false divisions cease,  
Till enemies are reconciled in Christ who is our peace.

*Refrain.*

*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 according to Matthew

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the sex workers are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the sex workers believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

**With our words and with our lives!**

[sung] O rushing wind and breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
O lights of evening, find a voice!  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

## **The Sermon**

**The Rev. Canon Lilly Bell**

*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 & renew this world & everything in it.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God & who moves among & 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**

**Lynn Mills, EC**

## **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  
with a gesture of peace.*

*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: Lord Make Me an Instrument of Peace**

*Refrain:* Lord make me an instrument of peace,  
an instrument of peace.

Lord, make me an instrument of peace,  
an instrument of peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.  
For in giving, we shall receive,  
and in the dying, we're given life. *Refrain*

Where there is sorrow, let me sow hope.  
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.  
Where there is injury, your pardon give.  
Your consolation to those in pain. *Refrain*

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## **We Celebrate**

### **Prayer Over the Gifts**

As we approach your table, O God of grace - we seek your reconciliation found in these gifts, that we might be one, as you are One. Receive these gifts of the earth, which we offer back to you. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

God 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.**

We praise and bless you, Source of life abundant. In the beginning, Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; creatures of the earth, air, and water; You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered from your ways of justice and peace; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so we join with the company of heaven and all your creation as 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**

We give thanks to you O God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus.

He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, travelled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth and he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine, the fruit of the land and gave thanks and gave it to his companions saying: This is my blood, given for you. do this to remember me.

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

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

Awaiting the time when our joy will be complete, we offer you this bread and this cup. Send your Spirit on these gifts, that they may become the body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit of reconciliation over the whole earth and make us your new creation that together we may proclaim our hope. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honour, glory, and praise, forever and ever.

**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. The 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: Many and Great O God Are Your Works**

Many and great, O God, are your works,  
maker of earth and sky.  
Your hands have set the heavens with stars;  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;  
deep seas obey your voice.

Grant unto us communion with you,  
O star-abiding one.  
Come unto us and dwell with us;  
with you are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end,  
eternal life with you.

Words: Dakota Hymn - Renville, Fraizer / This hymn was sung by the elders of the Dakota Nation at the hanging of 38 wrongly convicted Dakota warriors in Mankato, Minnesota in 1862.

**Communion Song: Lay Down Your Weary Tune Lay Down**

*Refrain:* Lay down your weary tune, lay down  
Lay down the song you strum  
And rest yourself beneath the strength of strings  
No voice can hope to hum

Struck by the sounds before the sun  
I knew the night had gone  
The morning breeze like a bugle blew  
Against the drum of dawn *Refrain*

The ocean wild like an organ played  
The seaweed wove its strands  
The crashing waves like cymbals clashed  
Against the rocks and the sand *Refrain*

I stood unwound beneath the skies  
And clouds unbound by laws  
The crying rain like a trumpet sang  
And asked for no applause *Refrain*

The last of leaves fell from the trees  
And clung to a new love's breast  
The branches bare like a banjo moan  
To the winds that listen the best *Refrain*

I gazed down in the river's mirror  
And watched its winding strum  
The water smooth ran like a hymn  
And like a harp did hum *Refrain*  
Bob Dylan / Sony Music 1963

## **We Are Sent**

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of wonders - we give you thanks for the food from this table  
which we have received. May these gifts feed us to live in your  
good way, the Way of Jesus, *Creator-sets-free!* **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

**May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.**  
**May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.**  
**May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.**

And may the blessing of God rest upon us and on all of  
creation, this night and for the future to come. **Amen.**

## **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 his 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 our 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 / GIA Publications / OneLicense

## The Sending

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,  
and bring forth the fruits of justice and love.  
Go in the peace of Christ!

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

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

## COMING UP

### **NEXT Sunday, October 8: Gratitude Feast**

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

### **UPDATED Weekday Prayer:**

**Monday Eve Centering Prayer - 8pm chapel + Tuesday  
morning prayer at 8:15am @ Marilyns + Thursday morning  
prayer @ 8:15am chapel.**

**NEW: Friday morning prayer @ 8:15am** zoom only  
*email for exact locations or zoom link.*

### **Conversation / Book Group:**

Starting October 11: Discussion group on *Serving God, Serving  
Money* - Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the chapel  
(followed by short evening prayer)

**admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca**

778 557 4166 Community Cell.

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

