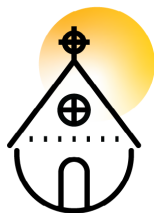


Pentecost + 25

November 19, 2023 + 4PM



image: [Hope](#) by Sliman Mansour, Palestinian Artist.



THE
ABBAY
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 of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Bell x 3

Land Acknowledgement

[together, we say]

We gather with gratitude for the first peoples' of this land. For the Ləkʷəŋən people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations - for their language and culture, for their care and ways of being in creation.

Silence is kept.

Opening Words (enfleshed, alt.)

Calls to worship ring out over the wreckage—

Amidst senseless suffering, who are we to praise?

Warmongers want us pointing fingers

but we are marching, holding hands.

Evil-doers want us hopeless

but we buoy each other into a tide of way-making.

Oppressors want us fractured

but we have made ourselves into a quilt, into stained glass.

We praise God for the ways we have found one another—

oceans and plains away, our hearts reach out.

It is a lie that we do not belong to each other—

the Holy Spirit accompanies beloveds who love the truth.

We will not stop loving God and each other.

We will not become hard-hearted.

We will not stop weeping for each other.

We will not stop lighting candles, telling stories, praying prayers, writing poems, singing songs.

We will not stop resisting empires of violence.

We will not stop telling the stories of the dead.

We will not stop fighting for the living.

We will not stop loving each other.

No matter the sinister untruths to sway us otherwise, we will find our way back to one another.

We will not stop loving God and loving each other. Amen.t

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing
& AbbeyKids and Teens and Leaders set the table...*

Opening Song / Collect for Purity: 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

Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

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 *Refrain*

2015 drink your tea music / ccli / sandra mccracken

Poem: Now, as you awaken... by Mahmoud Darwish
Selected by poet-in-residence **Rebecca Yeo**

We Proclaim

A reading from the first letter to the Thessalonians. (5:1-11)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, siblings, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

...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

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! X2

May the works of my hands bring you joy. X2

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! X2

2017 Porter's Gate, alt. BMI, SESAC, ASCAC. CCLI.

The Gospel Reading

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew: (25:1-13)
“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’”

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

With our words and with our lives!

Gospel Acclamation

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! X2

May the words from my mouth speak your peace! X2

Hallelu, Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! X4

2017 Porter's Gate, alt. - BMI, SESAC, ASCAC. CCLI.

The Sermon

Matt Humphrey, EC

Bell / Silence for meditation / Bell

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith:

The Creed (Sung)

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, alt., © 2017, Common Hymnal, CCLI * = "universal*

Our Prayers

Confession

Let us take a moment to recall deeds of brokenness, violence,
sin - those things that we have done and left undone.

Silence is kept for confession of personal or collective sin.

*[together we say] **Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our heart's eyes to your presence and reign in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, our sibling and friend...***

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 the '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: Wake Up Jesus

Refrain Jesus, when you gonna wake up
when you gonna wake up and calm this raging sea?
Jesus, when you gonna wake up
when you gonna wake up?
How can you sleep when we're in need?

Just one word from the maker
and all the waves be still
Just one touch from the healer
and all will be made well. *Refrain*

Just one word from the maker
and all the waves will be made still
Just one touch from the healer
and all will be made well

Just one word from the maker
and all the waves will be made still
Just one touch from the healer
and all will be made well. *Refrain*

So won't you rise up - Won't you rise up (*repeat*)

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We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

God of the oppressed, bless our offerings for the work of compassion, that the Ways of Life might unfurl even amidst systems dealing in death. In Jesus' holy name, may it be so. **Amen.** *enfleshed.*

The Great Thanksgiving

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 Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We lift our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving, faithful God, because in your generosity you created all things in overflowing plenty, in love you called the children of Abraham to be your companions, in covenant goodness you sent prophets to restore their life, and in grace you sent your Son to redeem the past and embody our future in you. In his crucifixion we see the worst we can do, yet in his resurrection we behold your will and your power to make sin and death the threshold of everlasting life in you. And

so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels, singing the praise of your glory.

**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**

God of destiny and coming joy, you have prepared for those who love you such things as pass our understanding. As wheat and grapes reach their fulfilment in bread and wine, so we your children await the day when you will turn us from faltering followers into faithful friends. Bless your church in the power of your Spirit that it may be made ready to meet you in glory. Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again 2)

God of hope, in you the future is always bigger than the past. Visit your children when the sound of their weeping is heard in your cities; comfort your people when an infant lives but a few days; transfigure the lives of any who labour in vain, or bear children for calamity. Strengthen those who build houses and plant vineyards and inspire all who strive to restore communities after conflict or disaster. Give endurance to those who are hated and betrayed, until the time when you create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall pass away, and you make Jerusalem a joy, and its people a delight, and your whole creation is once again a blessing, one God, Three-in-One, now and forever.

Amen. Joining the Angel's Song

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 may contain almond flour and/or 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 refrain from dipping the bread.

Communion Song: Lamb of God (pre-recorded)

Poor Clare / Lacey Brown © 2018, Poor Clare Music.

Communion Song: Stay With Me

Stay with me - remain here with me

Watch and pray - watch and pray *Repeat*

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Communion Song: How Long?

How long, will you turn your face away?

How long, do you hear us when we pray?

On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way

How long? How long, 'til your children find the rest?
How long, 'til you draw them to your breast?
We go on, holding to your promises How long?

'Til you wipe away the tears from every eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain? - Jesus, give us hope again
How long, 'til your word will still the storm?
How long, 'til you bare your mighty arm?
How we grow, 'til you snatch us from the thorns
How long?

'Til you wipe away the tears from every eye
'Til we see our home descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain? - Jesus, give us hope again
Amen, Jesus come (*repeat*)

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We Are Sent

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, in this sacrament we have shared the body and blood of Christ. Even in waiting, may we who have been nourished by holy things bear witness to his light, and share in his eternal priesthood; for Christ is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Go forth, awake to the work at hand, which is to love one another— Fiercely. Tenderly. Joyfully. Reverently. The Holy delights in our solidarity. Go in the Wake of Her Love. (Enfleshed). ... and may the blessing of God...

Closing Song: The Lorica

I bind unto myself today
The gift to call on the trinity
The saving faith where I can say
Come three-in-one, oh one-in-three

Be above me, as high as the noonday sun
Be below me, the rock I set my feet upon
Be beside me, the wind on my left and right
Be behind me, oh circle me with your truth and light

I bind unto myself today
The love of angels and seraphim
The prayers and prophesies of Saints
The words and deeds of righteous men

God's ear to hear me
God's hand to guide me
God's might to uphold me
God's shield to hide me
Against all powers deceiving
Against my own unbelieving

Whether near or far
I bind unto myself today
The hope to rise from the dust of earth
The songs of nature giving praise
To Source and, Spirit, Living Word
Gayle Salmund / CCLI

The Sending

Go in peace to love God and serve God's people.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

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

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We would love to connect!