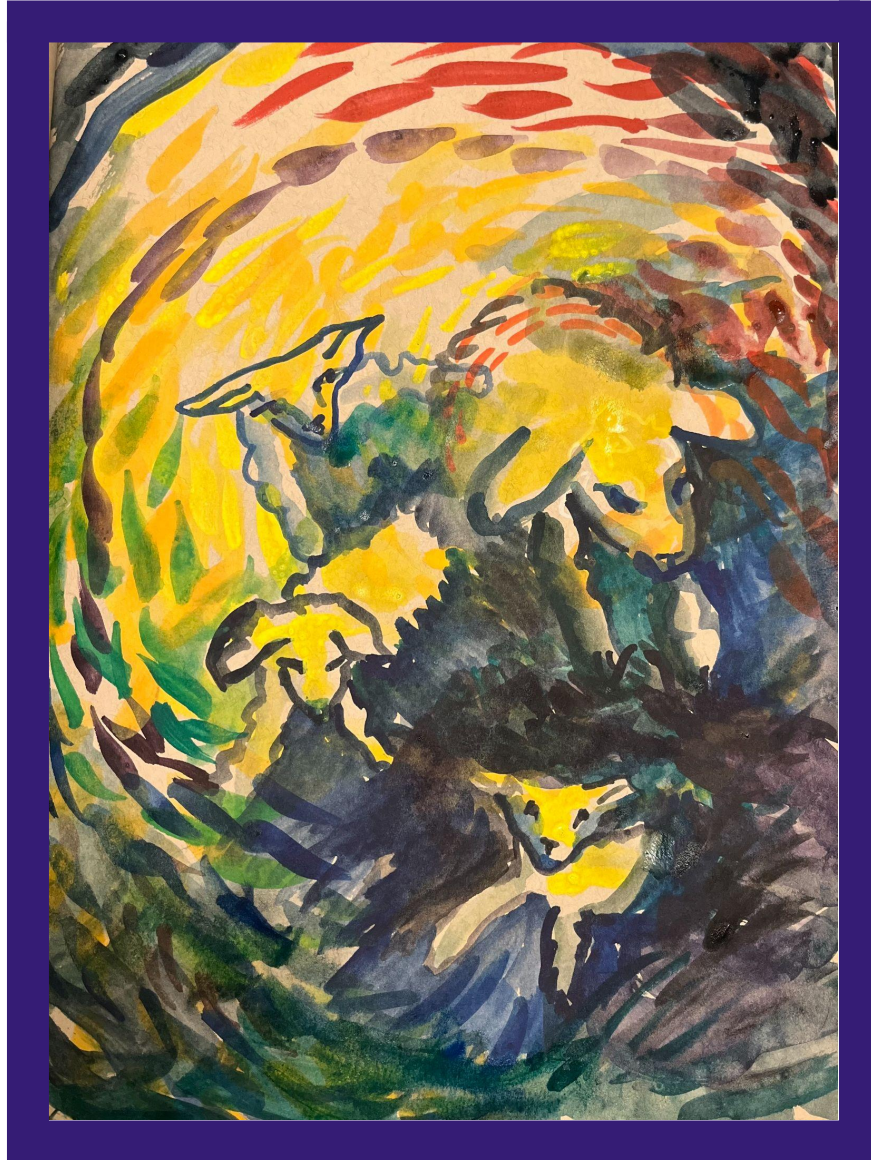


Advent Two

December 10, 2023 + 4pm



Front Image: "Lambs of God" + Back Image: "I Have Baptised You With Water but He Will Baptise You With the Holy Spirit"
Both by Charlotte Walton + AbbeyChurch Advent Artist-in-Residence



We Gather

During this Advent Season, the art supplies with on the carts at the back and near the lectern are available for folks of all ages to engage creatively. Grab a tray and some art supplies!

Opening Loop / Tolling of the Bells Welcome and Announcements

Bell x 3

Sung Invocation: Benedictus (Guide Our Feet)

VERSE

Am D A Em B/F#

God in all Your ten - der com - pas - sion,

7 Am D A Bm C G/B

the Dawn from on high, it will break — on us,

15 Am D A Em B/F#

shin - ing on those liv - ing in sha - dows,

21 Am D A Bm C G/B

guid - ing our feet in - to the way — of peace. You will

31 Am A♭ G

guide our feet, You will guide our feet, You will guide our feet in - to

TURN / CODA

43 Am D Em B/F# Am D Bm C

peace.

Opening Words

In this time and place we gather with gratitude on the stolen lands of the ləkʷəŋən people; known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place we mark the Advent Path with candle flames, and we light the second candle, the candle of peace....

The second candle is lit.

In this time and place we await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

Maranatha, Come Christ Come.

In this time and place we await God's transformation of the world.

Maranatha, Come Christ Come.

In this time and place we await the coming of the commons of peace.

Maranatha, Come Christ Come.

In this time and place we commit ourselves to work with Christ that all these things may be accomplished.

In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Anglican Church of Canada, alt.

Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing. Folks of all ages are welcome to set the table with icons and symbols of faith during our opening song...

Opening Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel (selected verses)

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Refrain.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all humankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our Prince of Peace.
Refrain,

Based on the ancient "O" Antiphons / Mason Neale / Public Domain.

Poem: Selected by poet-in-residence Rebecca Yeo

We Proclaim

The Hebrew Scripture

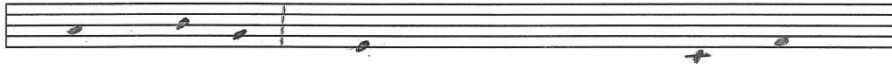
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the
LORD; make straight in the desert a highway
for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the
field.
The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom and gently lead
the mother sheep.

...The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.



The Psalm: Psalm 85 (select verses) - *Benedixisti, Domine* (chanted)

Please join in chanting as you can.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, *
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to
you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *
that your glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness and justice shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Come to us, Emmanuel we wait for thee with bated breath
And hope-filled hearts and anxious minds.
Longing to see your face and worship at your feet

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / 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
Mark. The beginning of the good news of
Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you, who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

So John the baptizer appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
And the whole Judean region and all

the people of Jerusalem were going
out to him and were baptized by him
in the River Jordan, confessing their
sins. Now John was clothed with
camel’s hair, with a leather belt
around his waist, and he ate locusts
and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The
one who is more powerful than I is
coming after me; I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie the strap of his
sandals. I have baptized you with
water, but he will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit.”

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

With our words and with our lives

Gospel Acclamation

So come to us Emmanuel - we live in hope of your return.
to bring new life to this old world - to end all wars and to heal all hearts
and to reign forevermore - to reign forevermore

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / 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:

Affirmation of Faith / Credo

[together, we say] **We are not alone, we live in God’s world.**

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the church; to celebrate God’s presence,

to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil;

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. *The United Church of Canada 1968, rev.*

Our Prayers

Chivonne Graff

The Confession

In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God - to incline our ears to the whispering of the Spirit. Too often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move toward God.

Let us open ourselves to God's healing and mercy as we make our confession...

Silence

Holy God, **as we turn to you, restore us again. Mend our hearts, comfort us in our grief, and open our hands. Come to us again, we pray and make us ready to receive you. Amen.** *Beth Merrill Neel. alt.*

The Absolution / Assurance of God's 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 made in the back of the space (now or later).

As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome to receive wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. All are welcome as you feel ready.

Offertory: Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.

Come my Light my Feast my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

George Herbert / R.V. Williams / OneLicense.

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

Holy One. In this meal, give us your peace. Accept these gifts we offer for the healing of the earth, for the common good and for the renewal of all creation. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace to all!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
your ancient love still touches us and stirs within us.
Even when we turn away from you, you keep faith with us.
You send your messengers
to prepare the way through the wilderness of our living,
to guide us in the path of wholeness,
to call us to repent.

In Mary, woman of your promise,
you showed us courage and faith;
in the fullness of time, you sent us your greatest gift,
Jesus, the Christ, our prince of peace and herald of hope.
So it is that we join in the Advent prayer of all your people,
“O come, Emmanuel.”

And as we wait and watch for your coming,
we proclaim your goodness:

(sung to the tune of O come o come Emmanuel)

**Holy holy hol—y Lord - God of power Go—d of might
Heaven and the earth are full... are fu—ll of your glo—ry, O God
Hosanna, Hosanna! How blessed is the one who comes in the name of the lord**

As we gather at this table,
we remember that on the night before he died,
Jesus had supper with his friends.
He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.”
Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:
“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, poured out in my life’s blood.
Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ,
we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (x2)

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your church,
that we who eat and drink at Christ’s table
may share in his life.
Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth, and make it your new creation.
Gather your church together
from the ends of the earth
into your realm where peace and justice are revealed—
that we, with all your people,
of every language, race, and nation,
may share the banquet you have promised.

We praise you, eternal God,
through Christ your Word made flesh,
and in the power of your life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus

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 Mother, 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 refrain from dipping the bread.

Communion Song (Pre-recorded): Creator of Orion (Agnus Dei)

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing used with permission

Communion Song: Holy Darkness

Refrain: Holy darkness, blessed night

Heaven's answer

hidden from our sight

As we await you, O God of silence

We embrace your holy night

I've taught you the prize of compassion

You have stood before the grave

Though my love can seem

Like a raging storm

This is the love that saves. *Refrain*

I have tried you in fires of affliction

I have taught your soul to grieve

In the barren soil of your loneliness

There will I plant my seed. *Refrain.*

In your deepest hour of bleakness

I will give you wealth untold.

When the silence stills your spirit,

will my riches fill your soul. *Refrain*

Dan Schutte, SJ - Based on St. John of the Cross / OneLicense

Communion Song: Wait For the Lord

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Wait For the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The first system has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with some rests. The vocal line is written in a simple, clear style.

Ateliers et Presses de Taize / OneLicense

Prayer after Communion *(read by one of the children or teens)*

Generous God, you have come to us in the bread and the cup, in Jesus the Word made flesh, and by the power of your Spirit. As we arise from your table, make us again who we are: the body of Christ, vessels of your hope and peace, joy and love, for the world you love. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

We Are Sent

Blessing

Closing Song: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come Thou long expected Jesus
born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation -
Joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
news, glad tidings of a birth:
""Go to Christ, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth.""

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
You whose glories know no end;
by your life you brings us gladness,
our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend,
Leaving riches without number,
born a refugee, born the least;
this the everlasting wonder,
Christ come be the Lord of Peace.

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a Child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Vs 1, 4 Charles Wesley / public domain / tune:
hyfrydol. Vs 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, alt. / IVCF / CCLI

Sending

Go in the peace of Christ, to prepare the way.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Closing Announcement Loop

There is a potluck after worship.

*Whether you've been able to bring a contribution or not, you're welcome to stay
- there's always LOTS of food!*

We'll be back next Sunday at 4 pm.



Coming Up

Mondays at 8 pm - Centering prayer with evening prayer. Quadra/Balmoral chapel or on Zoom. Enter from the parking lot at 932 Balmoral. Centering prayer is a contemplative practice of spending 20 minutes in silence within a compline (night prayer) liturgy.

Tuesdays at 8:15 am - Morning prayer at Lynn and Phils and Zoom . Please email for the address/buzzer code or for the Zoom link if you can't make it in person.

Wednesday Communion - 4 pm at Our Place. Meet at the church to walk over together and stay for dinner after (5 pm).

Thursdays at 8:15 am - Morning prayer at Quadra/Balmoral Chapel - in person only.

Thursdays - Helping out with hampers at North Park Neighbourhood Association (AM, on-site)

Friday Morning Prayer at 8:15 am - zoom only.

UPCOMING!

- TODAY - **Potluck** after worship
- Thursday December 14, 7 pm - **Youth Group Christmas Movie**
- Saturday December 16, 4 pm - **Christmas Sing-Along**
Church courtyard with the North Park Neighbourhood Association + Lending Hub event
- Sunday December 24, 4 pm - **Christmas Eve Worship**
- Sunday December 24 7-9pm - **Drop in meditative spiral in the sanctuary**
- Monday, Dec 25th **Christmas Dinner** at 5 pm - *RSVP for details and location*
- Sunday, Dec 31st at 4 pm- **New Year's Eve service** in the way of Taize

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778.557.4166 We would love to connect.

Leaflet is printed on tree-free paper. Please recycle.