

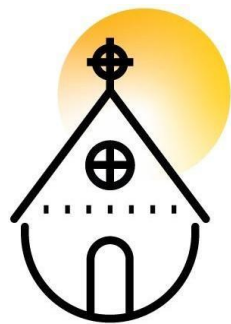
The Feast of the Epiphany

January 7, 2024

I Saw The Light!



A Bluegrass Mass



THE
ABBHEY
CHURCH



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



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).

As a witness to unity in diversity, The AbbeyChurch is an affirming shared ministry of The United Church of Canada and The Anglican Church of Canada. We draw on those spiritual traditions, as well as others across the Christian spectrum. We're also connected to an intentional community - the Emmaus Community - who make commitments of prayer, presence and simplicity. 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.



Kelly Latimore Icons

We Gather

Opening Announcement Loop / Tolling the Bells

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

As we gather to worship, we do so with gratitude for the first peoples' of this land. For the Lək'wəḡən people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations – for their language and culture, for their care and ways of being in creation.

Bell x 3

Opening Song: Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem
Shining far through shadows dimmed
Giving the light for those
who long have gone
Guiding the wise men on their way
Unto the place where Jesus lay
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

Chorus

Oh beautiful star (beautiful, beautiful star)
Of Bethlehem (star of Bethlehem)
Shine upon us until the glory dawns
Give us a light to light the way
Unto the land of perfect day
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem
shine on, shine on

Oh beautiful star the hope of light
Guiding the pilgrims through the night
Over the mountains 'till the break of dawn
Into the land of perfect day
It will give out a lovely ray
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on
Chorus

Oh beautiful star the hope of rest
For all the hurting, the broken and blessed
Yonder in glory when the crown is won
Jesus is now the star divine
Brighter and brighter God will shine
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on
Chorus (A.L. Phipps) The Stanley Brothers - 1964

Gathering Words

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

**The radiance of God's light burns away the shadows,
illuminates the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn,**

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts! *Enfleshed, alt.*

Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing. All are invited to help set the table...

Song: Wait For the Light to Shine

When the road is rocky
And you're carrying a load
Wait for the light to shine
If you find your friendless
On that weary lonesome road
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
Pull yourself together
And keep looking for the sign
Wait for the light to shine

Don't forget your siblings
As you travel through the land
Wait for the light to shine
They may be in trouble
And may need a helping hand
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
Never give up hope
Or cast your pearls before the swine
Wait for the light to shine

If your life is empty
And you're on your last go round
Wait for the light to shine
If you hear the chime bells
On the highway you have found
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
When your friends forsake you
And you haven't got a dime
Wait for the light to shine

Don't let trouble fool you
And your sins will all be gone
Wait for the light to shine
Don't forget it's darkest
Just before the break of dawn
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)
Keep these words before you
As you walk that narrow line
Wait for the light to shine

Words: Fred Rose. Tune: Hank Williams.

The Collect (Collecting Prayer)

Let us Pray. Eternal God, who by a star led wise ones to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Gloria

Refrain:



C Glo-ry to God in hea - ven, and peace to us your peo - ple here be - low.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse One:



Ha - le - lu - jah, let us re-joice, the Lord our God in glo-ry reigns. Great and won-drous



are your deeds, just and true are your ways. For you a - lone are ho - ly, we are your



ser-vants great and small. Ha - le - lu - jah, let us re-joice in the feast you've set for all.

The Poem

by Rebecca Yeo, AbbeyChurch Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (61: 1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord
has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried
on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea
shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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.*

The Gospel Acclamation

fiddle

A Lord, to whom shall we go? **C** Lord, to whom shall we go? —

A You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. **C** Lord, to whom shall we go? —

A Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. **C** Lord, to whom shall we go? —

A Lord, to whom shall we go? **C** Let us trust in your word. —

C Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

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 (2:1-12)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Acclamation

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for the first line of the acclamation: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff continues the melody for the second line: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia." The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are placed below the notes.

The Sermon

Matt Humphrey, ec

Silence for Reflection

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm the ancient story of faith:

The Creed



C We be-lieve in one God, Cre - a - tor, Mak - er of all that is seen and un - seen.

You are with us al - ways, to the end of the age, God who was and is and is yet to be.

We be - lieve in one Re - deem - er, Je - sus Christ, God from God and light from light.

You car - ry us a - long as dis - ci - ples, we are al - ways in your - sight.

You suf - fered and died for all of sin, to bring us close to our lov - ing God.

Through death in bod - y, made a - live in the Spir - it, in glo - ry your king - dom will not end.

I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spir - it, gi - ver of life, God who was and is and is to come,

wa - ter of life and wind that blows, Cre - a - tor, Re - deem - er, Ho - ly One.

A - - - men, A - men, A - men, A - - - - men.

Prayers of the People with Kyrie

Please sing the refrain as directed!

Refrain



ending with...



The Confession

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in mercy and infinite in goodness, let us turn to the light and confess our sins...

Silence

[together we say] **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

The Assurance of God's Grace / Absolution

The Peace

The peace of the Incarnate One be with you! **And also with you!**

During the 'offertory' song, the communion table is set.

Contributions to our common life can be made at 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 to Jesus' table - as you feel ready.

The Offertory: The Darkest Hour Is Just Before the Dawn

The sun is slowly sinkin'
The day's almost gone
Still darkness falls around us
And we must journey on.

Chorus

The darkest hour is just before dawn
The narrow way leads home

Lay down your soul at Jesus' feet
The darkest hour is just before dawn

Like a shepherd out on the mountain
A-watchin' the sheep down below
He's coming back to claim us
Will you be ready to go. *Chorus*
Ralph Stanley, Lyrics © Fort Knox Music, Inc.

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

We have come asking for the child... wondering where that love might be born, seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst. We have come to this place where wise folk and shepherds meet. We have come to this place called Bethlehem – house of bread – this place where our hearts rise like yeast, where we meet our newborn hope, where we taste our deepest joy. So all you who hunger come to this table – for it is the Christ who offers bread to feed every hungry soul. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

God is here! **God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Source of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the world of shadows Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope he touched the untouchable with love and washed the guilty clean. This is His story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed he came to the table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is His story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

This is my body, given for you all. Do this in remembrance of me.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said:

This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.

Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and the whole world.

Almighty God, loving Source of all, your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly, Ho - san-na in the high - est heav - en— *Fine*

Verse:
Bles - sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
who was and is and is to come, the earth is full of your glo - ry.

Send your Spirit on these gifts that we may feed on Christ's true presence with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your great banquet feast where all creation worships you, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

Abba, Amma, Beloved, 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.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God, given for the life of the world.

Feed on Christ in your hearts through faith with thanksgiving. **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 larger common cup.

Please refrain from dipping the bread.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. *Chorus*

Chorus Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all are raising,
Worship our God most high. *Chorus*

Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Chorus*

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies. *Chorus*

King of Kings

What would you do if you heard a voice,
That called you away that left no choice?
Would you sell all you had
to you follow a star?
Would you trust it
and leave your life behind?

We followed a star it led us to the west,
We couldn't explain
to our neighbors and friends
We waited so long watching the sun,
Now that we're here it all seems so clear
Chorus

King of kings and Lord of lords
Emmanuel, God with us
Prince of peace, Almighty One
Emmanuel, God with us

(solo) Now we can see that it was all true
This child is born King of the Jews
But he is more than even we knew
the very angels of heaven worship him here

And the angels said: "Do not be afraid I
bring you great news that will be for all
people. Today in the town of David a Savior
has been born. This is Christ the Lord!"

Author: Peter La Grand © 2006.

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, strengthen our faith, increase our love and guide us with your light.
Nourish us with your Word and send us with your Spirit, that we may create tables of
welcome in our lives this week. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

We Are Sent

The Blessing

Closing Song: I Saw The Light

I wandered so aimless life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear savior in
Then Jesus came
like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord I saw the light

No more darkness, no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord I saw the light

I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow's the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord I saw the light *Chorus*

Hank Williams, Sr.

Chorus I saw the light, I saw the light

The Sending

Go now as light into the world! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Musical Postlude: Light at the River

There's a deep silent river flowing just beyond
And its waters are so deep and wide
But faith sees a light yes a beaoning light
Just down by the river side

Chorus: There's a light at the river, a light at the river
A light at the river I can see
My Lord will stand and hold in his hand
A light at the river for me

To that deep silent river we will one day come
And will cross over waters wide
But how happy we'll be if by faith we can see
Our home at the other side. *Chorus*

Many dear ones have gathered safe before the throne
Dipped their wings in the mystic tide
They have passed over deep where they do not weep
To their homes on the other side. *Chorus*

written by Carl Story and Bud Brewster, Alt. by Russell Moore and Illrd Tyme Out

Closing Announcement Loop

Liturgical Music Credits: Service music is taken from *Light into the World: Hope for a New Day*. Music by Kent Gustavson. ©2004 Kent Gustavson. All Rights Reserved. www.kentgustavson.com. Published by Owl Mountain Music, Inc.

Weekday Prayer

Mondays at 8pm - Centering Prayer with Evening prayer. Resuming Jan 15. Online only between Jan 15 and 29. Resuming in-person in February at Balmoral Chapel.

Tuesdays at 8:15am - Morning Prayer. Online-only January 9. Resuming in-person/online January 16 at Lynn and Phil's (email for location - near Castle Hardware on Cook) and on Zoom.

Wednesdays at 4pm - Communion at Our Place. Resuming January 10 in-person only, followed by a meal. Meet at church at 3:45 to walk over together.

Thursdays at 8:15am - Resuming January 11. Morning prayer at Quadra/Balmoral Chapel - in person only. Enter from parking lot at 932 Balmoral.

Fridays at 8:15am - Morning Prayer. Zoom-only.

*Our common prayer is liturgical in nature and based on ancient monastic practices.
It's open to all who wish to join in-person or online.*

admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778.557.4166 We would love to connect.

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