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## Communion & Advent Gathering

A partnership between AbbeyChurch and Our Place  
Wednesdays at 4:00 pm

Advent 2023

Bell x3

*Welcome, announcements and land acknowledgment*

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

### *Week One*

One: This is the path that prophets marked, who heard the voice of God saying 'Whom shall I send?' and responded 'Here I am, send me!

**All: They declared that God required the people to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God.**

One: One prophet said that a young woman would conceive, give birth to a son, and name him Emmanuel, God with us

**All: That one would come who would preach good news to the poor and bind up the broken hearted**

One: and rejoiced, a child is born to us, a Son is given He will be called Wonderful Councilor, Prince of Peace!

**All: Today, as we mark the Advent Path with candle flames, we light the first candle, the candle of hope.**

*The candle is lit in silence*

One: When our path is menaced by shadows

**All: Circle me, Lord; keep light within, keep darkness without.**

One: When our path is targeted by conflict,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep love near, keep hatred afar.**

One: When our path is threatened by worry,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep peace within, keep fear without.**

One: This is the path the prophets marked who promised that if we stay awake One would come to preach good news!

## Week Two

One: This is the path that John marked, whose voice called in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of the Lord'

**All: Who cried, 'Repent for the kingdom of God is near!' and baptized  
many in the River Jordan who confessed their sins**

One: And pointed to Jesus saying 'Behold the Lamb of God!'

**All: Today, as we mark the Advent Path with candle flames, we light the  
second candle, the candle of peace.**

*The candle are lit in silence*

One: When our path is menaced by shadows

**All: Circle me, Lord; keep light within, keep darkness without.**

One: When our path is targeted by conflict,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep love near, keep hatred afar.**

One: When our path is threatened by worry,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep peace within, keep fear without.**

One: This is the path that John marked, The kingdom of God is near!

## Week Three

One: This is the path that Mary walked, to whom Gabriel said, 'You will give  
birth to a son, and will call him Jesus.'

**All: Mary replied, 'I am the Lords servant, let it happen as you have said'.**

One: And she rejoiced in her calling, 'My heart is overflowing with praise!  
My heart is full of joy in God my Saviour!'

**All: Today, as we mark the Advent Path with candle flames, we light the  
third candle, the candle of joy.**

*The candle are lit in silence*

One: When our path is menaced by shadows

**All: Circle me, Lord; keep light within, keep darkness without.**

One: When our path is targeted by conflict,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep love near, keep hatred afar.**

One: When our path is threatened by worry,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep peace within, keep fear without.**

One: This is the path that Mary marked with courage and faith that we might say with her; let it be with me according to your will.

### Week Four

One: This is the path that God marked, who said, 'Let there be light.'

**All: And there was light; and God saw that the light was good.**

One: For people walking in darkness a great light dawns

**All: The true light, which lightens everyone, is coming into the world.**

One: The light shines in the darkness, the light that darkness cannot put out

**All: Today, as we mark the Advent Path with candle flames, we light the fourth candle, the candle of love.**

*The candle are lit in silence*

One: When our path is menaced by shadows

**All: Circle me, Lord; keep light within, keep darkness without.**

One: When our path is targeted by conflict,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep love near, keep hatred afar.**

One: When our path is threatened by worry,

**All: Circle me Lord; keep peace within, keep fear without.**

One: This is the path God marked with light that shines in the darkness.

### Opening Song

#### The Gathering Prayer

*A volunteer is chosen to read, or we read together:*

**Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the centre of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the**

way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

## **The Gospel**

*Advent One: Mark 13:24-37*

*Advent Two: Mark 1:1-8*

*Advent Three: Luke 1:46-55*

*Advent Four: Luke 1: 26-38*

*Christmas: Luke 2: 1-20*

## **Our Responses**

Reflect and Respond to the Gospel of the Day:

1. *What word(s), image (s), or idea(s), stands out for you in the Gospel of the Day?*
2. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?*
3. *What is Jesus (the Gospel) inviting you to do in response?*

## **Our Prayers**

### **Confession and Assurance**

In silence let us draw to mind all that separates us from the God who draws near to us in Jesus Christ.

*Silence*

As far as the east is from the west, that's how far God removes our transgressions from us. In the name of God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit, I declare to you: your sins are forgiven +

### **The Peace**

The Peace of Christ be yours this day and always.

**And also with you.**

*The table is set.*

## **The Table**

Let us pray, Thank you, O God, Thank you for the earth and the waters, Thank you for the sky, the air and the sun, Thank you for all living creatures. Come, O God, in the Bread of Life. Come, O God, in the Cup of Healing

God we have been gathered by you, caught in your net, and summoned to your table. As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality, let your Spirit move among us as it moved over your earth at creation. Let it inspire our hearts as You spoke through prophets and rested on Mary. Be present in the food we share so this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus broke bread, he gave thanks and gave it to his companions saying, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

As Jesus took wine, he gave thanks and gave it to them saying “This cup is the new relationship with God. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming kingdom of God.”

Following Jesus’ example, we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world through which God continually blesses us. And, as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, we also celebrate God’s goodness.

Come now, O Christ, bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh, forever bound to us in promise and mystery; send your holy spirit on us and on this bread and wine. Let them become, for us, the sign, seal and sacrament of your healing love with the power to make us whole. And through these gifts make us again your body for this world, offering ourselves to your loving service until that day when all creation is made whole. **Amen.**

We pray as Jesus taught us:  
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

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

## Communion Song

## Prayer after Communion

## Blessing

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.  
And the blessing of God +

## Closing Song

### Sending

Go in Peace, walking in the way of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

## Songs for Worship

### Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

*John Newton*



**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.

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.

*Charles Wesley*

### **Eat This Bread**

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Jesus Christ, bread of life,  
those who come to you will not hunger.

Jesus Christ, Risen Lord,  
those who trust in you will not thirst.

Jacques Berthier

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,  
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*Reginald Heber*

### **In the bleak midwinter**

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay:  
enough for him whom angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,  
but only his mother, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man I would do my part,  
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti*

### **It is well with my soul**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

[R] It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [R]  
My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [R]

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so, it is well with my soul. [R]

*Horatio Gates Spafford*

### **Joyful Joyful We Adore thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,  
earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You, center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Father, Christ our Brother, let Your light upon us shine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

*Henry Van Dyke*

## **Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

*Isaac Watts*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

[R]: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. [R]

O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. [R]

O come, O Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. [R]

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us our Prince of Peace. [R]

*J. M. Neale*

### **Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord**

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

*Taizé*

### **Wait on the Lord**

Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord  
We will walk the way of peace.  
Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord  
We will find our way.

*Tom Wuest*



‘Mary, Mother of God’  
The Modern Saints by Gracie