

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025 + 4pm



Traditional Ikon: The Resurrection of Lazarus



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 summarised 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.

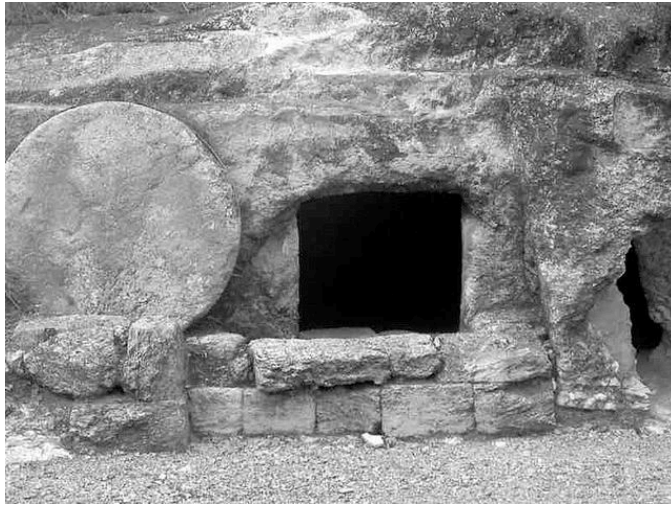
We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressive, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

As a witness to unity in diversity, the AbbeyChurch is an affirming (full inclusion and leadership of 2SLGBTQIA+ folk) 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 Emmaus, an intentional community that is inspired by monasticism and whose members make commitments to prayer, presence and simplicity.

We believe that Christ's love and grace binds our differences together and renews our hope as we gather each week at Jesus' table of radical welcome.

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the Lək'wəḡən peoples', the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations. We strive to journey toward reparation, right relationship and reconciliation with justice. We confess the complicity of our religious traditions and institutions in the loss of life, lands, languages, spiritualities and cultures of the First Peoples' of these lands. We are grateful for the ongoing wisdom, stewardship and tending of these lands and apprentice ourselves to this good work of caring for creation and seeking to live in right-relationship with each other.



Lent: Living towards Liberation

Lent is a time for honesty. Sometimes it feels like the world is split between those who have it all together and those who are struggling to make sense of it all.

To you who are struggling - welcome. This is a time for you.

To those who have it together - welcome. May you know ever deeper solidarity with those who are struggling, (and give yourself grace when you discover you don't have it quite so together).

This Lent we are drawn to the story of Jesus and Lazarus.

Lazarus is dead and buried, yet his friend Jesus comes and speaks a life-giving word, has the stone rolled away, calls him out, and invites his community to unbind him from his graveclothes.

Lent is a time for us of introspection, a time of preparation and reflection, a time of shining a light into the tombs of our lives and waiting for God's voice to speak.

Lent is where we get honest about all the tombs we find ourselves inside. All the ways cannot make sense of our lives, of our calling, of the mystery of God.

Lent is a time of fasting from all the things that we compulsively fill ourselves with, distract ourselves with, or use to drown out the depths of our souls deep longing.

What might it mean for you to hear the stone rolling away and the voice of God bidding you to new life?

What grave clothes might we collectively strip away for one another? What sort of practices orients us back to the central work of liberation and living the risen life?

What creative ways might God invite us to share in this work together?

As we gather each week, we hear the words of the song "Loosen" by Aly Halpert - we invite you to hear this song as an invocation, sung to you and over you from your Divine loving parent +

**Loosen, loosen, baby
You don't have to carry
The weight of the world in your muscles and bones
Let go, let go, let go...
Holy breath, and holy name
Will you ease, will you ease this pain...**

(and check out their music here: <https://www.alyhalpert.com/>)

We Gather

Tolling of the Bells

We begin in quiet and gentleness as we encounter the God of mercy who calls us to return.

Confession *(we sing)*

Have Mercy on Me, Have Mercy on Me. O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.

God of compassion,

We know the times we have clung to sackcloth not of our making, when we have lived clothed in weariness, cloaked with anger, and enshrouded by sorrow.

We grieve the occasions when we have lived with alienation rather than association, when we have sought isolation rather than consolation, when our wounds within have shut others out. We confess our fear of the dark and our uncertainty of the light.

Have Mercy on Me, Have Mercy on Me. O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.

Yet you have placed within us, O God, a longing for survival, a hunger for your wholeness, a yearning for your comfort, and a hope for our collective healing.

Bless our mouths to name our wounds, that we may not fear them; our bodies, that we might cherish them; our hearts, that we may delight in their longings, and our souls, that we may trust the wisdom of the stories they hold. Grant us the courage to be touched by You, that when our days of weeping are done, we may wear your garments of gladness, and stand together in the power of your resurrection. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Selections of Prayer © Jan L. Richardson, from In Wisdom's Path: Discovering the Sacred in Every Season

Have Mercy on Me, Have Mercy on Me. O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.

Sandra McCracken & Thad Cockrell©2015 DRINK YOUR TEA MUSIC (ASCAP). Admin. by Music Services. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Edited by Joel Littlepage (joel.littlepage@gmail.com)

Absolution

The God who calls us to return, draw you in and cleanse you from your sin that you may walk in the freedom and love of Jesus Christ our God. **Amen**

Children and youth are warmly invited to join our leaders in AbbeyKids!

Opening Song: Here By the Water

Soft field of clover - Moon shining over the valley
Joining the song of the river - to the great Giver of the great good
As it enfolds me - somehow it holds me together
I realize I've been singing - still it comes ringing - clearer than clear

Refrain: And here by the water - I'll build an altar to praise You
Out of the stones that I've found here - I'll set them down here - Rough as they are
Knowing You can make them holy (3x)

I think how a yearning - has kept on returning to move me
Down roads I'd never have chosen - half the time frozen - Too numb to feel
I know it was stormy - I hope it was for me learning - Blood on the road wasn't mine though
Someone that I know - has walked here before. *Refrain.*

Music and Lyric by Jim Croegaert / © 1986 Rough Stones Music / CCLI

The Poem - Selected and Read by Rebecca Yeo, Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise...

(NRSV 43:16-21)

The Word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**

The Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, * "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, * like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Glory to You, Source of all being* , eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be*, world without end, Amen.

Please rise in body or in spirit as we prepare our hearts to hear the gospel:

Gospel Acclamation: Restore Us Again

Restore us again God of our salvation

Revive us again in your unfailing love

We long for Egypt in the wilderness, a kingdom made of dust

We built an idol out of happiness, a paradise of rust

We lost all the meaning, drowned out the feeling, our hearts barely beating

Restore us again God of our salvation

Revive us again in your unfailing love

Paul Zach (feat. Liz Vice), God Is the Friend of Silence, 2018. CCLI

The Gospel

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

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now

Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to

Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was

coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if

you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give

you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to

him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I

am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and

everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him,

"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

Sermon

Ernest Morrow

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

Please rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith and remember our ancient Story of trust.

Creed

We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond a safe place:

into action, into vulnerability
and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully
and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and listen to the Spirit
for the sake of our neighbour
and God's new community of hope. Amen
Iona Community

Our Prayers

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

You are invited to share a sign of peace to those near you.

Offering: Contributions to our common life can be made at the back of the space (now or later) in the boxes or using debit or credit card. You can e-transfer donations to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca (that's our preferred method) or donate to AbbeyChurch / Emmaus via CanadaHelps by using the QR Code to the right. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.)



The Offertory Song: Behold I Make All Things New

Behold I make all things new. Behold I make all things new.
Behold I make all things new. Let there be light. Let there be light.

God unseen is taking form. God unseen is taking form.
God unseen is taking form. Let there be light. Let there be light.

The First and Last is surging forth. The First and Last is surging forth.
The First and Last is surging forth. Becoming Light. Becoming Light.

Alana Levandoski / CCLI

We Celebrate

As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome to receive wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. You are also welcome to come forward for a simple blessing if you do not wish to receive. If you don't wish to receive, place your hands across your chest to receive a prayer of blessing

Prayer Over The Gifts

Let us pray,
God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.
We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that you will provide for our needs.
We give these offerings in hope,
knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.
And with these offerings, this bread and wine, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>, Alt.

The Great Thanksgiving / The Most Holy Eucharist

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands!...
...justice that would never fail.
Glory to you forever and ever.
...Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your creation 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!

While Jesus was eating with his disciples, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take, this is my body. Do this in remembrance of me."

Glory to you forever and ever.
As supper was ending, Jesus took the wine and after blessing it, poured it, gave it to them and said, "take, this is my blood, do this in remembrance of me.

Glory to you forever and ever.
Holy God, we give you thanks for the mystery of faith given to us in Jesus your Child:
Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again (2x)
...be gathered and made one in your love.

Amen. St. Lydia's Table, alt.

Silence is kept

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent, we pray as Jesus taught:

Our *Father (*or Parent, or Abba, or Amma, or Source, or Mother)
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.
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, the power and the glory. Forever 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!

*All are welcome (none compelled!) to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but may contain almond flour, egg and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy / nut option (rice cracker). The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup.
Please refrain from dipping the bread.*

Song (prerecorded): **O God Will You Restore Us?** - Bifrost Arts, Lamentations, 2016. CCLI.

Song: Communion Song: We Come, We Cry

Our hearts our empty without you
Barren and cold but for the bold
hope that you yourself planted within

Refrain: In the mighty name of God
In the saving name of Jesus
In the strong name of the Spirit
We come, we cry, we watch we wait, we look, we long for you.
We come, we cry, we watch, we wait, we look, we long for you.

Sometimes we long for the morning
For a refrain, from etchings in pain
Yet our loneliness draws us to you. *Refrain.*

Jim Croegaert: and David Adam / 1997 Rough Stones Music / OneLicense

Song: Our Darkness *(sung in English)*

La té - nè - bre n'est point té - nè - bre de - vant toi: la
Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the

nuit com - me le jour est lu - miè - re. La té -
deep - est night is clear as the day - light. Our

Bm A D Em⁶ F#sus⁴ F# Last time F#

Berthier / Ateliers et Presses de Taizé / OneLicense

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, God of mercy and forgiveness, may we who share this sacrament live together in unity and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

We Are Sent

The Blessing

Closing Song: Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
Raise thou my heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

(8th Century; tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); vers. Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) Music traditional © Oxford U. Pres.

The Sending

Go in peace to walk in Jesus's way of love and liberation.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

We'll be back next Sunday at 4pm.

QomQem volunteering is not happening for now as we work with them to find new funding sources.

Holy Week

**Wednesday April 16th – 7:00pm Tenebrae, service of Holy Darkness
in the way of Taize (with Fairfield United)**

**Thursday April 17th – 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Supper Church/Potluck
With Holy Eucharist and optional foot/hand washing**

**Friday April 18th – 10:00am Good Friday worship
(with Fairfield United and the Place Community Church)**

**Sunday April 20th – 5:45am Easter Sunday Sunrise
(meet at Willows Beach for worship and a breakfast potluck)**

Sunday April 20th – 4:00pm Easter Sunday Worship

Other Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, **April 9 - Lenten Book Study: Lazarus Come Forth! (15, 16, 17)**
We will continue gathering 6:45-8:15pm (see final page for further details or talk to
Matt)

Thursday, April 24th - Martyn Joseph Live
Welsh Singer-Songwriter back (again!) for an unforgettable evening
7:30 - 9:30 pm - 932 Balmoral (AbbeyChurch)
Tickets online at Eventbrite or in-person at The Local General Store
TICKETS Available from Rob after worship

Weekday Prayer

Mondays at 9 am - Morning Prayer with Centering Prayer @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office
(off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up) - approx 45 mins - in-person only.

Tuesdays at 9 am - Morning Prayer @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office
- in-person and online on Zoom - approx 25-30 mins.

Thursdays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office and online on zoom.

Fridays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - *on-line zoom only*
Contact us for information on accessible entrance or zoom/liturgies link

Donations to our Common Life and Ministry

We are so grateful for your presence with us! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our ministry in 2024 and made it possible to continue to thrive in the place God has called us to. If you are interested in donating to our common life, you can now send offerings by **e-transfer to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca** or talk to Lynn, our treasurer to sign up for monthly giving (PAR)! There's also a point of sale machine at the back table for debit or credit donations. Or give through Canadahelps by clicking the QR code here: All donations are eligible for a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.

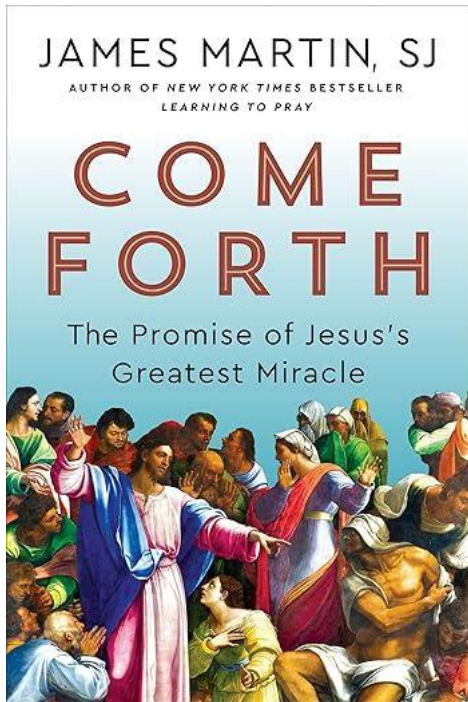




Our Partnership with QomQem :
Done for Now!

As we have a break in our funding cycle, we're putting the outreach, Up to 150 people were served each night on hold. We are grateful for this partnership and to all the volunteers from Abbey Church and elsewhere who helped out in various ways. We are currently looking to work with Qom Qem to keep this going. More soon!

PS> They're still doing outreach other times, so any food that's in the treasure chest will be used.



Lenten Book Group - get your copy today!

Join Matt for a journey through Jesus' encounter with Lazarus!

We will read *Come Forth* by James Martin, SJ, and focus in on a few key moments. 6:45 we gather for tea and discussion, closing at 8pm with a brief evening prayer/examen, and departing by 8:15.

The book is available locally at Bolen and Chapters, or by special order or online/as an ebook. Email us admin@emmauscommunity.ca

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|--------|---|--|
| Mar 12 | - | Lazarus, Scripture, culture and us (1,2) |
| Mar 19 | - | Characters and costumes (3, 4, 6) |
| Mar 26 | - | The Waiting is the hardest part (5, 8, 10) |
| Apr 2 | - | The Gift of Tears (12, 13, 14) |
| Apr 9 | - | Lazarus Come Forth! (15, 16, 17) |

Martyn Joseph



"Britain's best kept secret...
a challenging songwriter
& compelling & courageous
live performer"
MOJO

"One of the most charismatic
and electrifying performers
in Britain today"
Tom Robinson, BBC 6 Music

www.martynjoseph.com

Martyn Joseph - Live in Concert

Thursday April 24, 2025 • Doors 7pm Show 7:30pm

United Commons/AbbeyChurch (Former First Met United Space)

932 Balmoral at Quadra • Tickets: \$28

plus service charge for online sales, only available in advance / pick-up, no door sales.

Tickets from Eventbrite *or* at the Local General Store - 1440 Haultain

Presented by The AbbeyChurch

With support from the Local General Store and the United Commons / UCC
<https://www.abbeychurch.ca/martyn>



the
& EMMAUS
COMMUNITY

admin@emmauscommunity.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778.557.4166 We would love to connect.

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