

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025 + 4pm



Go On, Thomas (2006) Jack Baumgartner



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 Lək̓ʷəŋən 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.



We Gather

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Bell x 3

Gathering Words

Let every creature and creation rejoice!

All who know the power of Love cry, "Alleluia!"

Let us share every story of coming alive again.

And testify to all that brings peace and justice.

No spirit of destruction can silence us. Nor fear confine us.

Let everything that has breath praise God!

Spirit of Life and Liberation, set us free from everything that binds and confines our witness to Love. Make us bold in our defence of the suffering and oppressed. Make us courageous in speaking truth that reveals everyday evil. Make us soft in the presence of pain and make us strong before those that intend to silence. Even when we tremble, even as we question, O God, do not let us turn from your saving ways. **Amen.**

enfleshed alt.

Opening Song: Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. *r.*

Refrain: Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. *refrain.*
Anonymous - likely 19th c African-American

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." ACTS 5:27-32

Psalm 150 *Laudate Dominum* (read responsively)

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord in the holy temple; *
praise God in the firmament of divine power.

Praise the Lord for mighty acts; * praise God for excellent greatness.

Praise the Lord with the blast of the ram's-horn; * praise God with lyre and harp.

Praise the Lord with timbrel and dance; *praise God with strings and pipe.

Praise the Lord with resounding cymbals; * praise God with loud-clanging cymbals.

Let everything that has breath *praise the Lord!

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

Gospel Acclamation Refrain:



Music © 2012, 2016, Joshua Blakesley and Leland G. "Grae" McCullough, IV. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops. **With our words and with our lives!**
A reading from the Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that

you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives!



Sermon

Matt Humphrey

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

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

Credo

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. A-----men.

*Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk/ CCLI * = Universal*

Our Prayers

Confession & Forgiveness

Let us turn to the God of mercy and grace and offer our confession.
God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts,

**When we are confined by our hurts,
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.
When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,
forgive us and give us the power to forgive.
When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,
pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace.**

Silent prayer

Christ comes with healing into our locked places and shadowy hurts,
resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life.
Almighty God draw you in and cleanse you from your sin that you may walk in the
way of the Risen Christ, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Peace

Beloved in Christ, the peace of the risen Christ be with you all! **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: O Sons and Daughters

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O sons and daugh-ters, let us sing!
The King of Heav-en, the glo-ri-ous King,
Over death to-day rose tri-um-phing.
Alleluia! *refrain.*

That East-er morn, at break of day,
The faith-ful women went their way
To seek the tomb where Je-sus lay.
Alleluia! *refrain.*

That night th'apos-tles met in fear;
Amidst them came their Lord most dear,
And said, My peace be on all here.
Alleluia! *refrain.*

When Tho-mas first the tid-ings heard,
How they had seen the ris-en Lord,
He doubt-ed the dis-ci-ples' word.
Alleluia! *refrain.*

My pierc-èd side, O Tho-mas, see;
My hands, My feet, I show to thee;
Not faith-less but be-liev-ing be.
Alleluia! *refrain.*

No long-er Tho-mas then de-nied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
Thou art my Lord and God, he cried.
Alleluia! *refrain.*

Public Domain. Attributed to Jean Tisserant (Franciscan 15th century); Tr; JM Neale,

We Celebrate

As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome at Jesus's wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey. If you do not wish to receive, place your hands across your chest to receive a prayer of blessing.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Life-giving God, by your steadfast love, you make all things new. Give us power to receive and rejoice in all your gifts, that we may live in the abundance of your resurrection life. In the name of Jesus, the risen One, we pray; **amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving / Communion

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

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, for you are the God of creation and new creation, of covenant and new covenant. You brought your people out of Slavery into Freedom and you brought your son from the depth of death into the glory of Resurrection Life. And so we gladly thank you, with all the company of Heaven and all your creation, singing the hymn of your unending praise:
[singing] **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,
Heaven and earth of your glory are full
Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. repeat.**

Steve Bell, alt. / © 1991 Signpost Music / CCLI

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord.
With thanksgiving, we remember his words: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you.

And so this afternoon, we remember how he took a loaf of bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
And after supper, he took the cup saying, This cup that is poured out for you
is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me

Remembering your acts of mercy, we celebrate this feast of the risen Lord,
offering our lives in thanksgiving and praise as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

As you did in creation, so too in the wonder of your resurrection - send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the body and blood of the risen Christ. Come among us once more and breathe into us your peace, breathe into us your life, that all who labour, all who weep, all who hunger, all who rejoice, may meet you here - in the breaking of the bread.

Shape your church to be your risen body, a diverse and beautiful demonstration of Your Kingdom until you come again and we are made one in your love. **Amen.**

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.**

Silence is kept

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 crackers). The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup.
Please refrain from dipping the bread.*

Song (pre-recorded): **Turn Me Tender** Martyn Joseph from Deep Blue

Song: How Good and How Sweet It Is

We yearn for a dwelling place
Faint for a living womb
We are aliens strangers trying to find a room
We are longing for a garden we can call our own
A country to root in where we will be known

The sparrow has a home the swallow a nest
In pine tree boughs the owl finds rest
Wild goats have the mountains
Badgers rocky beds
But where can the prophet rest his weary head

(Chorus) Like the precious oil
running down the beard
Running down the beard of Aaron
Like the dew of Hermon
falling on the mountains
Falling on the mountains of Zion
We are pilgrims journeying on the way
As we pass through this valley of dismay
Send autumn rains clear pools
and flowing springs
In Your courts we long to dance and sing

Come live with us wipe away each tear
Let us dwell with You in a place without fear
There will be no more dying
There will be no more mourning
There will be no more suffering
There will be no more crying

How good and how sweet it is. How good and how sweet it is
How good and how sweet it is. How good and how sweet it is

(Chorus) Tom Wuest © Brass Trumpet Publishing, 2008/ Used with permission.

Song: Give Me Doubt

Give me doubt so I can see my neighbor as myself
Give me doubt so I can lay all my weapons on the ground
When the armour of God is too heavy for peace
Give me doubt, give me doubt
J. Arndt / D. Gungor - The Brilliance / CCLI

Prayer after Communion

Source of All Being, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and each other, through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen**

We Are Sent

The Doxology

Glory to God **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Song: Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heav-en and I danced on the earth,
At Beth-le-hem I had my birth.

(chorus) Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wher-ev-er you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribes and the Pha-ri-see,
But they would not dance and they would not fol-low me;
I danced for the fish-er-men, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on. (Chorus)

I danced on the Sab-bath and I healed freely,
The ho-ly peo-ple said it "oh how dare he?"
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
And they left me there on a cross to die. (Chorus)

I danced on a Fri-day and the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the dev-il on your back;
They bur-ied my bo-dy and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on. (Chorus)

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that'll nev-er, nev-er die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (Chorus)

Sydney Carter 1964 / Hope Publishing / OneLicense.

The Sending

Go out rejoicing to practice resurrection. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to the risen Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 the accessible entrance or zoom/liturgies link

Next Potluck - May 25th (After worship)

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.



**To admin@emmauscommunity.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca
778.557.4166 We would love to connect.**

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