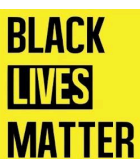


# Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025 + 4pm



*Sheep Gate - Hunterston Farm, Galiano Island*



# 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).

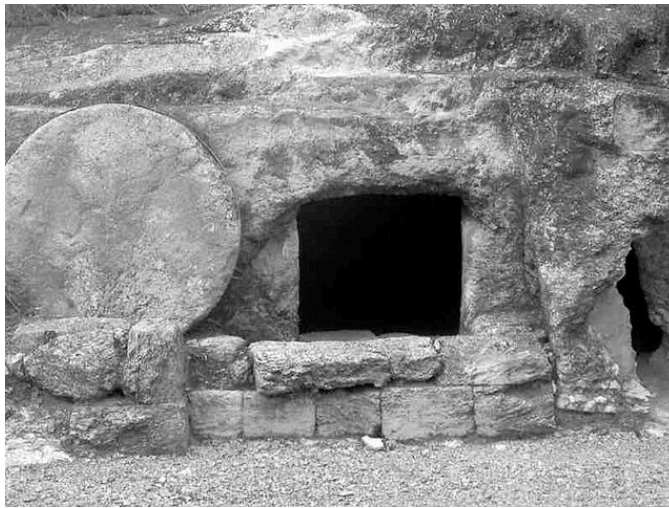
As a witness to unity in diversity, the AbbeyChurch is an affirming (full inclusion and leadership of 2SLGBTQIA+ folk) shared ministry of The United Church of Canada and The Anglican Church of Canada.

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'wəŋən 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**

Open the gate! The Good Shepherd is coming!

**We hear the Shepherd's glad voice, calling us by name, leading us to green pastures.**

No stranger's voice will we follow. We follow only the One who brings us safely home.

**One gate, one flock, one fold, one Shepherd. Open the gate! The Good Shepherd comes!**

Let us Pray: Almighty God, who sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to gather us together, may we not wander from your flock, but follow wherever he leads us, trusting his voice and staying near to his teaching, until the whole world is drawn into your fold, to live with you forever. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd. **Amen.** *Life in Liturgy, 2019, Alt.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing:*

### **Opening Song: Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty**

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 sinfulness 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!

*Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.*

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

### The Reading A reading from the Revelation of John (Rev. 7:9-17)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23 - Greenwater (sung)

The Lord is my Shepherd - Leads me beside still water (*repeat*)

Even though I walk through the dark night  
I will not fear death - You know my troubled voice  
And you will lead me - You will lead me home

*Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission*

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

### Gospel Acclamation



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 (10:7-18, 27-30)

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate.

Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired

hand runs away because the hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as Abba knows me, and I know Abba. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason Abba loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Abba.”

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Abba, in regard to what Abba has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of Abba’s hand. Abba and I are one.”

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

**With our words and with our lives!**



**Sermon**

**Lynn Mills,**

*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 & Declaration of Forgiveness**

Holy God, Maker of all

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

**Have mercy on us**

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

*Silence*

We say together: **Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

## **Absolution or Assurance of Grace**

### **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](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca) (that's our preferred method) or donate to AbbeyChurch / Emmaus via CanadaHelps by using the QR Code on the last page of this leaflet. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.)*

### **The Offertory Song: Dweller By A Dark Stream**

It could have been me put the thorns in your crown  
Rooted as I am in a violent ground  
How many times have I turned your promise down  
Still you pour out your love. Pour out your love

(Chorus) I was a dweller by a dark stream  
A crying heart hooked on a dark dream  
In my convict soul I saw your love gleam  
And you showed me what you've done  
Jesus, thank you, joyous Son

You entered a life like ours to give us back our own  
You wanted us like you, as choosers not clones  
You offered up your flesh and death was overthrown  
Now salvation is ours,  
Salvation is ours (chorus)

So when I'm walking this prison camp world  
I long for a glimpse of the new world unfurled  
The chrysalis cracking and moisten winds uncurl  
Like in the vision John saw - The vision John saw (chorus)  
*Bruce Cockburn.*

## **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**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have received your many gifts, and by your grace, so we offer the fruits of our labour and the skills and gifts you have entrusted to us.  
May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives and the life of the world. **Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

*Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, Alt.*

## **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): **Lamb of God** by Tom Wuest Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used With Permission

### **Song: The King of Love my Shepherd is**

The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am yours,  
and you are mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul you're leading;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feeding.

Confused and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love you sought me;  
and on your shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight;  
your saving grace bestowing;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from your pure chalice flowing!

And so through all the length of days,  
thy goodness fails me never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within your house forever.

*Psalm 23, H.W. Baker, 1868. Public Domain.*

### **Song: Pass me Not O Gentle Saviour**

Pass me not, O gentle Saviour,  
Hear my humble cry,  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by. *Refrain:*

*Refrain:* Saviour, Saviour  
Hear my humble cry;  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.

Let me at a throne of mercy  
Find a sweet relief;  
Kneeling there in deep contrition,

Help my unbelief. [Refrain]

Trusting only in Thy merit,  
Would I seek Thy face;  
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,  
Save me by Thy grace. [Refrain]

Thou the Spring of all my comfort,  
More than life to me,  
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?  
Whom in heav'n but Thee? [Refrain]

*Fanny Crosby, 1868. Public Domain*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us Pray: God of steadfast love and mercy,  
may we who have shared in these holy mysteries  
Of bread and body, cup and blessing  
Be nourished for the work you have called us to.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. **Amen.**  
*Anglican Church of Canada, Alt.*



# **We Are Sent**

## **The Blessing**

### **Doxology**

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

### **Closing Song: Down by the Riverside**

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield  
Down by the riverside (x3)  
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield  
Down by the riverside - study war no more!  
I ain't gonna study war no more (x3) repeat

I'm gonna put on my long white robe...  
I'm gonna shake hands around the world...  
Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938 (Renewed 1965) UNICHAPPELL MUSIC INC. / CCLI

### **The Sending**

Go in peace to follow the risen Christ on the way! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to the God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**We will be back next week at 4 pm!**

**Reach out to us at [admin@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:admin@emmauscommunity.ca) if you would like to connect.**

**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - have you subscribed to our weekly e-newsletter? We have recently learned that some [shaw.ca](http://shaw.ca) emails are not receiving the newsletters - if you are missing them, please re-subscribe with a new email here:  
<https://www.abbeychurch.ca/subscribers>**

## **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.



# Blessed are the Undone



Western Canada Tour 2025

with co-author

**Angela Reitsma Bick**

**June 6-7, 2025**

**Victoria, BC**



the  
**& EMMAUS  
COMMUNITY**

**admin@emmauscommunity.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca**

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