

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025 + 4pm



The Healing of the Blind Man of Bethsaida By Iconographer Julia Stankova <https://www.foundgoshen.com/julia-stankova-icons-and-fine-art>



Welcome to the 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.

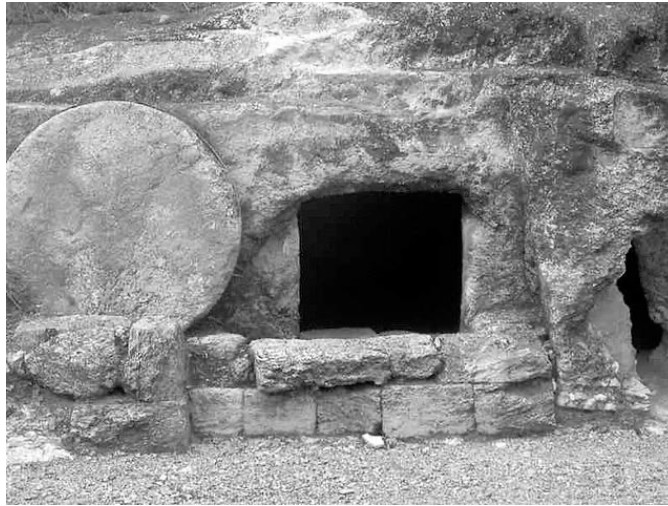
We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressive, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

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

May God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cover us with the radiance of grace!

May your ways be known everywhere, O God: in the hidden places of our hearts; in the comfort of our homes; in every corner of our world; in the farthest reaches of creation. You transform us; you bring our lives to wholeness; you renew the earth and every creature: Let our praise sing forth in songs of joy!

Let us Pray: God, we remember with wonder and joy that your spirit is reaching everywhere: rejoicing in the liveliness of all living things; touching what is wounded or ill with healing power; gathering in the lonely, the lost, the least; soothing ancient animosities; creating and recreating a vision of hope. Come now, Holy Spirit. Let our worship rejoice in you, and lift our hearts, and bind us in one family of loving grace. We ask in Jesus' name; **Amen.**

The World is Our Home, John A. Nelson, United Church of Christ, Alt.

Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing:

Opening Song: Bring 'Em All In

Words and Music by Mike Scott.

Chorus: Bring 'em all in, Bring 'em all in, Bring 'em all in,
Bring 'em all in, Bring 'em all into my heart. (repeat)

Bring the little fishes, Bring the sharks
Bring 'em from the brightness, Bring 'em from the dark. *Chorus*

Bring 'em from the caverns, Bring 'em from the heights
Bring 'em from the shadows, Stand them in the light. *Chorus*

Bring 'em in the moonlight, Bring 'em in the dawn
Bring 'em out of exile, Back where they belong. *Chorus*

Bring the unforgiven, Bring the unredeemed
Bring the lost, the nameless, Let 'em all be seen. *Chorus*

Bring 'em out of exile, Bring 'em out of sleep
Bring 'em to the portal, Lay them at my feet. *Chorus x2*

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

The Psalm: Psalm 67 Deus Misereatur

O God, be merciful to us and bless us,

show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth

your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God

let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase;

may you, O God our God, bless us.

May you bless us, *

and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

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.

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 (5:1-9)) After this there was a festival of the Jewish faith, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many who were outcast in society - blind, unable to walk and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick one answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath ...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

*As the band leads us in song, we welcome forward those who wish to receive prayers for
healing and to be anointed with oil - an ancient ritual of healing*

Song: Our Song in the Night

In the darkness, can you hear us?
When the night comes, are we alone?
Have you forgotten all of your children?
When we remember you, we groan

Chorus: But our hearts cannot be silent
O God, be our song in the night
When the light is gone
God, be our hope, be our strength
Be our sheltering place
Our song in the night

We are broken, are we forsaken?
Has your love gone down with the sun?
And your mercy through all history
Is it abandoned and undone? (C)

Your road, it led me down to the Red Sea
The waters trembled, and you made a way
You raised Your arm and
led them to dry land
Lord, will You hear us when we say?
Bifrost Arts, 2016. . CCLI

Song: Healer of our Every Ill

Refrain: Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. R

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. R

Marty Haugen, 1986, GIA publications. / OneLicense

In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. R

Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. R

Song: We Bow Down

We bow down before you
You're the one who makes us whole
(repeat 3x)

In you we live
In you we move
In you we have our being
Unknown; Grandview Church.

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 (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: O Healing River

O healing river, send down your waters,
send down your waters upon the land.
O healing river, send down your waters,
And wash the blood from off the sand.

This land is parching, this land is burning,
no seed is growing, upon this land.
O healing river, send down your waters,
O healing river, send your waters down.

Let the seed of freedom awake and flourish.
Let the deep roots nourish, let the tall stalks rise.
O healing river, send down your waters;
O healing river, from the skies.

Fran Minkoff, 1964, Alt. / OneLicense

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 wish to come forward to receive a blessing rather than bread and wine, place your hands across your chest.

Prayer Over The Gifts

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company of Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. **Amen.** *An Invitation, Prayers from Iona Abbey, Alt.*

The Great Thanksgiving / Communion

The Lord be with you! **And with your spirit!**

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 of 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 and praise 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 Jesus' 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 sacrifice and 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 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 sign, symbol and servant of Your eternal Reign - 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: Your Labour is Not in Vain

Your labour is not in vain
though the ground underneath you is hurt and in pain
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labour is not in vain.

Refrain: For I am with you, I am with you.
I am with you, I am with you
For I have called you,
called you by name
Your labour is not in vain.

Your labour is not unknown
though the rocks they cry out, and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
but your labour is not unknown. (refrain)

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
the fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth,
for all that is old will at last be made new:
the vineyards you plant will bear fruit. (refrain)

The houses you laboured to build
will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed
and all that is broken be healed. (refrain)

Porter's Gate, Work Songs, 2017 By Wendell Kimbrough, Paul Zach, and Isaac Wardell. / CCLI

Song: You are With Me

My heart is heavy and tired in this valley
Mountains grow higher and higher, but I can't find You
I'll keep lifting my eyes, I know You're with me

Chorus: I know You're with me, and You are for me
You've been behind me, You go before
You walk beside me, through darkest valleys
I know You are with me

I hear Your voice when You cry comfort, comfort
Sorrow may last for a night, but in the morning
Your joy breaks in with the light, I know You're with me. C

You led me here where it's dry, out in the desert
You bring these bones back to life, You put together
You sing a song of delight, I know You're with me. C
Sandra McCracken, 2020. / Drink Your Tea Music / CCLI

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray,
We thank you, Gracious God, that you have fed us with your life, touched us with your healing and filled us with your Spirit. Grant that all who have shared in this holy meal, may bring your love and healing to your beloved world, in your name we pray.
Amen.

We Are Sent

The Blessing

Closing Song: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen, how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do
who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.

Voices United 220 / Public Domain. Neander (1680), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1863, alt)

The Sending

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

We will be back next week at 4 pm!

WANNA CHAT? Reach out to us at admin@emmauscommunity.ca

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - Have you subscribed to our weekly e-newsletter? We have recently learned that some 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

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

COMING UP:

June 6-7 - Blessed Are the Undone Conference - see our website for details - we're co-hosting

Sunday June 8 - A BIG Pentecost New Beginning Day!

1:15pm - 100 years of the United Church : A Celebration. Worship here in the sanctuary with band and organ and parts of the 1925 liturgy (hymns, sermon, communion) followed by cake! Joint worship with Fairfield UC and AbbeyChurch.

4pm - The Ordination of the Rev. Reba Yeo (!!!) to the priesthood at the Anglican Cathedral!

Note: Our usual 4pm AbbeyChurch gathering will not be on June 8.


Thursday June 12 at 4pm - Seafood Thank You Feast for any and all who volunteered or donated to QomQem outreach. 4-7pm in the hall.

Celebrating 100 Years Of
The United Church of Canada
 In June of 1925 the Methodist, Congregationalist and many Presbyterian Churches formed The United Church of Canada.
*Join us as we celebrate 100 years of witness!
 All are welcome for worship and cake!*

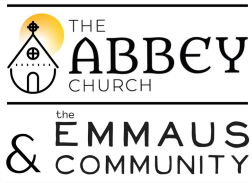
Sunday June 8, 2025 - 1:15pm
 The United Commons - Balmoral And Quadra - Victoria BC

We'll gather in the historic 1914 Sanctuary - formerly First Presbyterian, First United
 & First Mee United & now home to Abbey Church (United/Anglican), Fairfield United Church (United)
 & The United Commons: A Centre for Community, Faith and the Arts.
For more information see www.abbeychurch.ca or www.fairfieldunitedchurch.ca

1:15pm - Classic hymns, liturgy and original sermon from the 1925 inaugural service with organ and band
 2:30pm - Cake and livestream of the national celebration live from Newfoundland



Logos for ABBEY CHURCH, Fairfield United, and THE UNITED COMMONS are displayed. A small image of the 'INAUGURAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA' book cover is also shown.



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

This leaflet is printed on carbon neutral tree-free paper. Please recycle.