



THE
ABBHEY
CHURCH



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Pentecost + 13
September 7, 2025 4pm



Psalm 139 - Makoto Fujimura - <https://makotofujimura.com/>



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



**CEASE
FIRE
NOW**

Welcome to The AbbeyChurch

***No matter who you are or what you are carrying today,
know you are beloved and so very welcome here in Jesus' name.***

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.

Land Acknowledgement

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.

Season of Creation / Creationtide 2025

The Theme for Season of Creation 2025 is "Peace with Creation" Peace is more than just the absence of war. In the Hebrew Bible, shalom represents a far deeper concept—one that extends beyond the absence of conflict to the full restoration of broken relationships. This restoration encompasses our relationship with God, ourselves, the human family, and the rest of Creation. Throughout history, many human activities have contributed to the destruction of Creation. Yet today, more than ever, some human activities take the form of a war against Creation. Our impact has expanded from local to global, manifesting in unsustainable lifestyles, excessive consumption, lasting pollution, and a throwaway culture.

The 2025 Symbol (top front of leaflet) is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled "Garden of Peace," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable. Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year's Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace. The white dove with an olive branch is a globally recognized symbol of peace.

We Gather

Opening Loop and Tolling of the Bells

Welcome

**Greetings from Elaine Barnett & Sandra Lopez Methodist Churches Ireland and UK.
Land Acknowledgement**

Gathering our hearts to worship God. Bell x 3

Gathering Words

In the name of God, +the Source of All Being, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Come, let us worship God, the Creator of all things, who calls us to dwell in peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

**We gather in gratitude for God's creation,
longing for justice and peace to abide in the land.**

Come, let us follow the Lord Jesus Christ, who reconciles all things and leads us in the way of righteousness, so that the wilderness may become a fruitful field and the fruitful field be deemed a forest.

**We come to walk in the footsteps of Christ,
seeking healing for creation and peace for all people.**

Come, let us move with the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, who is poured out upon us, bringing renewal to the earth and restoring the harmony of Creation.

**We praise God, who revives the land
and calls us to be peacemakers with all of Creation.**

The effect of righteousness and justice will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

**God of justice and peace, we gather in Your presence, united with all living beings.
We come in hope, in worship, and in commitment to live as caretakers of Your world.**
May our prayers rise like incense, and our worship be a song of love for all Creation.

We thank the Lord for giving life to all Creation!

We thank God for our neighbours' life, human and non-human alike.

As we gather, we share the hope and the sufferings of our siblings in the whole Creation.

**In communion with the waves of the sea, with the waves of the trees, we proclaim:
"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." We love you, God! Amen.**

WCC Ecumenical Centre's Morning Prayer, Geneva, Led by ACT/Season of Creation guide 2025

Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing, and our community altar is set.

Opening Song: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good!
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

Isaac Watts / ELLACOMBE / Public domain

The Poem

We Proclaim

The First Reading: Hebrew Scripture - Isaiah 32: 14-18

For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted;
the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever,
the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks;
until a spirit from on high is poured out on us and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.
Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.
...The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We chant our psalm together - please join along as you wish.

The Psalm: Psalm 139 1:5, 13-17 - Domine, probasti

Lord, you have ¹searched me out *
¹and known me.
You know my sitting down and my ¹rising up; *
you discern my thoughts ¹from afar.
You trace my journeys and my ¹resting-places *
and are acquainted with ¹all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word ¹on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it ¹altogether.
You press upon me behind ¹and before *
and lay your ¹hand upon me...
Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright ¹as the day; *
darkness and light to you ¹are both alike.
For you yourself created my ¹inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my ¹mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am mar-¹vellously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I ¹know it well.
My body was not hid-¹den from you, *
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths ¹of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished ¹in the womb; *
all of them were written ¹in your book;
they were fashioned ¹day by day, *
when as yet there was ¹none of them.
How deep I find your ¹thoughts, O God! *
How great is the ¹sum of them!

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

The Gospel Acclamation:

All creatures, worship God most high! Sound every voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright,
sing, sister moon and stars of night: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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: [Jesus said] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops. **With our words and with our lives!**

The Gospel Acclamation:

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears: Alleluia...
St. Francis of Assisi / Augsburg Fortress / Evangelical Lutheran Worship 835 / OneLicense

Sermon

Lynn Mills, ec

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith and remember our ancient Story of trust.
For the season of Creation, we are invited to sing this paraphrase of the Nicene Creed -
to remember the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea.*

Credo: Nicene Creed (The God of Love)

We believe in One God, Abba, Maker - the Almighty, the Source of all Life
Who is Maker of all – the seen and unseen – visible and invisible

Jesus Christ, the Lord of creation. Who is begotten of Abba, not made
Light from Light, who is true God from true God. God from God through which all came to be.
For creation and for our salvation - was incarnate from heaven above
Born of Mary and the Spirit - fully human, fully God
Crucif--ied by Pont-i-us Pilate, entered death and was laid in the grave
And in accordance with the scriptures, on the third day rose again.

Refrain: All glory to the Source of All. All glory to the Son.
And to the Spirit – world without end. Who evermore shall be.

Bridge: And Christ then made the ascent - into the heavens above...
Where He sits at Abba's right hand now. And will return once again
Reign will come, judge in truth (the alive and the dead)
The Spirit giver of life, proceeds from Abba and Christ...
Who is adored, glorified - speaks through the prophets who cry for
Liberation for all (Come Lord, heal this world)

We believe for forgiveness, one baptism. Cat-ho-lic, holy, sent-out church – one.
And the +resurrection of the body from death - and the life of the new world to come.

RRefrain: All glory to the Source of All. All glory to the Son.
And to the Spirit – world without end. Who evermore shall be.

Amen Amen Amen. Amen. Paraphrase R. Shearer as adapted from Thompson Robinson Redman / CCLI 2025

Our Prayers

Marilyn Gough

The Confession

Turning to face the cross, we say together: **I confess to God almighty, and to you my siblings that, through my actions and inactions, I have hurt myself, others and God's beloved creation. Collectively, we confess that through our actions and inactions we have caused harm in our lives, relationships, communities and in God's beloved creation.**

Silence for personal and collective confession.

The Absolution / Assurance of Grace

The Peace

The peace of the Creator 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 on the last page of this leaflet. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

The Offertory Song: This Is God's Wondrous World

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!
Maltbie D. Babcock (Maltbie D. Babcock (1901), alt. / Public Domain

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.

Invitation to the Table

Beloveds. We come to this Table because we are claimed in covenant and called to be witnesses to your work in the world. We come because we long for liberation
We come because we thirst for justice. We come because we know the need — fierce and urgent— for grace and freedom and nourishment in our flesh and our bones
We come proclaiming that this is not the table of The Abbey Church or any branch or denomination of the church. This is the table of Christ, the Word made flesh, who blesses us in love. YOU are welcome to receive. If you are not able or wishing to, you are welcomed to witness this holy moment. So come, for you are made welcome here. *Enfleshed - rev. anna bladell, Alt.*

The Great Thanksgiving / Communion

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Most Holy and Glorious Trinity. Truly it is right and just to glorify you, bless you, praise you, adore you, and give you thanks, O Maker of all things, visible and invisible. The highest heavens and all its powers praise you; the sun, the moon, and all the stars; the earth, the seas, and all that is in them, the heavenly Jerusalem and the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven; the angels, archangels, and heavenly hosts all sing, praising your majestic glory with triumphant hymns, with never ending voices, and with acclamations. With them and with all Creation we cry out and proclaim:

Liturgy of the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church. Anaphora of Saint James, Brother of the Lord/ Season of Creation 2025

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.

Hear us Creator God, as we remember with thanksgiving the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who poured out his life on the cross, and +send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, so that they may be to us his body and blood.

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, when the feast was ready, he sat with his friends, took the bread, and looking up to heaven, gave thanks to you, our Creator God. He broke the bread and gave it to them saying:

“Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”.

After supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying: “take this all of you and drink from it, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven; whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me”.

Let us join together to proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died Christ is risen Christ will come again.

Christ has died Christ is risen Christ will come again.

As we recall these great mysteries, we give thanks and praise to you Creator God. In your greatness you humbled yourself by becoming one with us. As we share together in this holy feast, we pray that through this act of remembrance, you will bless us as your people with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be a blessing to all your creation.

Through this sacred feast, make us one so that we may grow in holy fellowship with Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and all your faithful people. Accept this sacrifice of thanks and praise, God our Creator, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, in unity with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen!** Anglican Church of Southern Africa

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): **Agnus Dei / Lamb of God** Tom Wuest

Communion Song: In The Lord

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-
 fraid. Lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near!

Chords: Dm C F B^b6 C Am Dm B^b C F

x

Ateliers et Presses de Taize / OneLicense

Communion Song: We Abide We Abide In You

VERSE

1. We are the vine-yard You have plan-ted; tend our leaves and wi-ld
 2. Fruit grow-ing from our strength and la-bor rain on us with grace and

5 bran-ches. We a-bide, we a-bide in You. We a-bide, we a-bide in You.
 fa-vor, we a-bide, we a-bide in You. we a-bide, we a-bide in You.

CHORUS

10 Where can my soul find liv-ing wa-ter? A-part from You we bear no fruit! O plant my
 15 feet—down by the ri-ver. We a-bide, we a-bide in You.

Chords: C F/C G C F/C G C F G C F G C Am G F F C Am G F C Am G F

McCracken / Vice / Wardell / Zack - Porter's Gate Music, et al - CCLI

We Are Sent

The Prayer After Communion

Let us pray together: **Lord of all creation - of water earth and sky
your word and your sacrament give us food and life.**

May we who have shared in holy things - the gifts of the earth

May be bear fruit to your honour and glory, in the name of Jesus Christ the Creator.

Amen. RJS adapted from ACC

Blessing of the Backpacks

God of Wisdom, thank you for the beginning of this new year, at school, at church,
at work and in our community groups.

We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Thank you for schools and classrooms, for the teachers and students who fill them each day.

We thank you for new friends, new books and new ideas.

We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again.

We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Thank you for all our places of work, fun and service, for fresh challenges and worthy
goals. Give us the good questions that can be as important as the right answers.

We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Thank you for these your children, youth, young adults and older adults.

Bless us all with curiosity, understanding and respect.

+Bless these backpacks (briefcases, diaper bags, tote bags, purses, tool kits).

May they be a sign to us, that we have everything we need to learn and grow this year.

We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

May these buttons remind us all of the love and support of our faith community at the
AbbeyChurch, on hard days and on wonderful days. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus...

With whom we gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Adapted from Cari Copeman Haynes, Crossroads United, Delta.

The Blessing - A video from the Methodist Church in Ireland

Closing Song: How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder - Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

refrain: Then sings my soul - my Saviour God to Thee. How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur & hear the brook & feel the gentle breeze .*Refrain*

And when I think that God, whose Son not sparing - sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing - he bled and died to take away my sin *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Carl Gustav Boberg, trans. Stuart K. Hine - Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART, Swedish folk melody / Public domain

The Sending

Go with joy to proclaim the good news of Christ and live in peace with all of creation!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude: The Peace of the Earth

La paz de la tie-rra es - té con ti - go, la
The peace of the earth be with you, the

paz de los cie-los tam - bién. La paz de los rí-os es -
peace of the heav - ens, too. The peace of the riv - ers

té con ti - go, la paz de los ma-res tam - bién. La
be with you, the peace of the o - ceans, too: La

paz pro - fun - da ca - yen - do so - bre ti. La
deep peace fall - ing o - ver you, La

paz pro - fun - da cre - cien - do en ti.
God's peace grow - ing in you.

Letra: Tradicional de Guatemala; tr. por Christine Carson
Música: Tradicional de Guatemala; arr. por John L. Bell, n.1949
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COMING UP

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

@ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch *Upper Room* (off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up)

Mondays at 9 am - Morning Prayer with Centering Prayer

- approx 45 mins - in-person only.

BACK AGAIN: Tuesdays at 9 am - Morning Prayer @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch *Upper Room* (off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up)

- approx 25 mins - in-person and online.

Thursdays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - The Upper Room 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.



RAGS of LIGHT

Leonard Cohen, Lament and
Biblical Imagination

An evening of music and conversation
launching Brian Walsh's book *Rags of
Light: Leonard Cohen and the
Landscape of Biblical Imagination*, and
Rachel Colman's album *Make a Way*.



Saturday September 20, 2025 7pm

The United Commons
Quadra and Balmora
Free / By Donation

FREE TICKETS AT [RAGSOFLIGHT.EVENTBRITE.CA](https://ragsoflight.eventbrite.ca)
OR SCAN QR CODE
OR EMAIL ADMIN@ABBeyCHURCH.CA
TO GET ON THE GUESTLIST



Sponsored by the AbbeyChurch,
The Place Community Church & Holydene Community Church
and VISTA – with support from the UnitedCommons

NORTH PARK OPEN MIC
SONGWRITERS AND
STORYTELLERS CIRCLE
HOSTED BY WES CARROLL

FRIDAY
SEP 12TH
6-9PM

ALL GENRES
MUSICIANS
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POETS
STORYTELLERS
WELCOME!

FIRST MET
CHURCH
932 BALMORAL
ROAD

FREE
SHOW!



2025
**YOUTH
TREEH**

CHINOOK WINDS &
PACIFIC MOUNTAIN
TOGETHER:
A JOINT YOUTH GATHERING!

VERNON, BC
OCTOBER 24-26

@ TRINITY UNITED
CHURCH

A GATHERING OF YOUTH
AND THE LEADERS WHO
LOVE THEM!

Youth Group this week Tuesday at 4pm here at the church.
Youth Formation (optional Baptism or Confirmation at end)
- starting in October - talk to Meagan or Lucy.

United Commons Building Redevelopment
Information session - Come and make your voice heard!
- Monday, September 22, 2025 at 7pm

admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778.557.4166 We would love to connect.

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