



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Pentecost + 14 / Creationtide 3
September 14, 2025, 4pm



Psalm 98 - Makoto Fujimura - <https://makotofujimura.com/>



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

Land Acknowledgement

Gathering our hearts to worship God. Bell x 3

Gathering Words

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 Jesus,
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. **Amen.**

Adapted from 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: Praise with Joy the World's Creator

Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge, God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence: friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure: foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in community,
calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected: God is One and One in Three.

Bell. Maule - © 1987 WGRG / Iona Community / GIA. Publications, Inc OneLicense

The Poem "Lines Written in the Days of Growing Darkness" by Mary Oliver Chosen today by Molly (our new poet-in-residence!)

We Proclaim

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

The Psalm - Psalm 98 Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvellous things, *
whose mighty hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- 2 O Lord, you have made known the victory; *
you have openly shown your righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- 3 You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory, O God.

4 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.
5 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before our sovereign, the Lord.
7 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
8 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.
9 In righteousness shall God judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth (1Cor 1:18-25)

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God

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 splendour 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. (3:12-17)[Jesus said], If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him....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

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.

Refrain: 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

The Confession

Resting in the knowledge of God's loving desire to refresh and renew the face of the earth, let us release that which we need to surrender as we sing...



Porter's Gate / Integrity Music/ CCLI

Creator, we confess that we have not honoured you. We have broken our relationships with one another and wounded your creation. We are truly sorry and repent of the ways we have turned from your call of peace. Forgive us. Lead us from apathy to love. Strengthen us as stewards of your precious people and of your glorious creation, for the sake of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen

The Absolution / Assurance of Grace

The Peace

The peace of the Creator 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: It is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say

Refrain: It is well, (it is well), with my soul, (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control, That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain:*

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought - my sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul
Refrain.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight. the clouds be rolled back as a scroll.
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, even so it is well with my soul!

Refrain. Horatio Gates Spafford (1873) / 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.

Prayer Over the Gifts

Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your creation. Receive all we offer you today and feed us with the very Bread of Life. **Amen.**

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.**

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 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.

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, alt.

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 / Brass Trumpet Publishing

Communion Song: All of Your Ways Are Peace

All of Your ways are peace, All of Your ways are peace.

Though we are pressed on ev'ry side, we trust that You are peace.

All of Your ways are just, All of Your ways are just.

Though we may say it through our tears, we trust that you are just.

All of Your ways are peace (x3)

Jessica Fox, Paul Zach, Latifah Alattas, Isaac Wardell, Liz Vice, Orlando Palmer Porters House / CCLI

Communion Song: Instrument of Peace

Refrain: Lord make me an instrument of peace, an instrument of peace, x2

Where there is hatred, let me sow love - where there is darkness, let me sow light
For in the giving we shall receive -and in the dying were given life. *Refrain*

Where there is sorrow let me sow hope - where there is doubt , let me sow faith
Where there is injury your pardon give - your consolation to those in pain. *Refrain*

Attributed to St. Francis. Paraphrase/music: Wardell/Vice/Palmer/Fox/Sach - 2020 Porter's Gate / CCLI

We Are Sent

The Prayer After Communion

Let us pray together: **God 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 - bear fruit to your honour and glory, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

RJS adapted from ACC

The Blessing

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 - sown by the riverside and study war no more

Refrain: I aint gonna study war no more (x6)

"I'm gonna put on my long white robe"...

"I'm gonna put on my starry crown"...

"I'm gonna walk with the prince of peace"

African-American Spiritual. - 19th century / published 1918.

The Sending

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

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude: The Peace of the Earth

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It features a melody in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as rests and phrasing slurs. The lyrics are in both Spanish and English.

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: †

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

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

Guatemalan Traditional - arr John Bell
/ Iona Community / GIA / OneLicense

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.

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.



Youth Group next Tuesday the 23rd 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



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

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