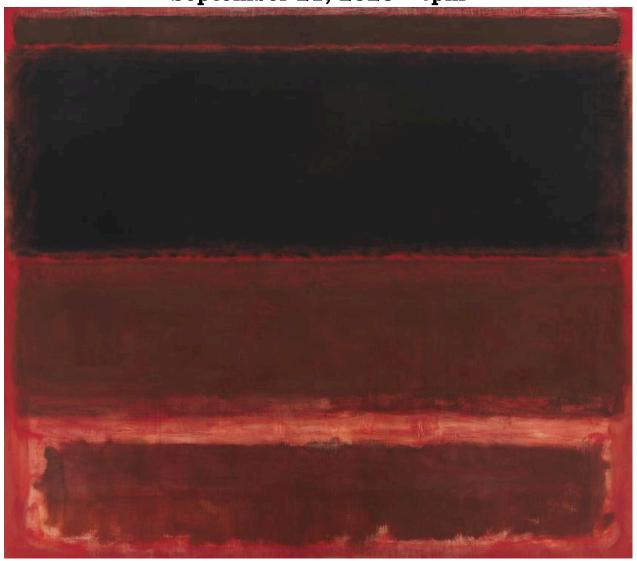




Pentecost + 15 / Creationtide 4

September 21, 2025 4pm



Picture: Four Darks in Red, by Mark Rothko - https://whitney.org/collection/works/897











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 Ləkwəŋən 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

The band will sing this song as we prepare our hearts for worship

Opening Reflection Song: the Whole Night Sky (by Bruce Cockburn)

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 out of exile and despair to dwell in peaceful habitation 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 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: Make A Way 2023 Rachel Colman / CCLI

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__ of joy.___

We Proclaim

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

The Psalm - 79 A Psalm of Asaph. (vs1-9)

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;

they have defiled your holy temple;

they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

They have given the bodies of your servants

to the birds of the air for food.

the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.

They have poured out their blood like water

all around Jerusalem,

and there was no one to bury them.

We have become a taunt to our neighbors,

mocked and derided by those around us.

How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever?

Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

Pour out your anger on the nations

that do not know you

and on the kingdoms

that do not call on your name.

For they have devoured Jacob

and laid waste his habitation.

Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;

let your compassion come speedily to meet us,

for we are brought very low.

Help us, O God of our salvation,

for the glory of your name;

deliver us and forgive our sins,

for your name's sake.

Second Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (8:18-9:1)

My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick.

Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land:

"Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,

I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and nightfor the slain of the daughter of my people.

... The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 Luke. (16:1-13). Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."...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 Brian Walsh

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

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

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith as we say,

We trust in God above us, the Creator of all things, the Sustainer of all life.

We trust in Jesus, the Christ beside us, our Companion and Friend, our Sibling and Lord; The Redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe who calls us into lives of right relationship, healing and renewal.

We believe in the Holy Spirit deep; both within and beyond; Our Advocate and Guide, who lifts up the groans of creation.

We believe in the hope of Christ's resurrection

And of our own resurrection.

Of a time when all creation will be renewed in beauty, truth and justice;

Where all will live in peace and without fear.
We trust this God of hope; above, beside, within, beyond.

We trust in this Triune God of yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

Adapted from from the Lenten series 'Journey into Wholeness' by Christine Sine

Our Prayers Josh Ruberg

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.

We prepare our hearts and confess as we sing verse 1:



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, in the name of Jesus we pray. 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: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand - Lead me on, let me stand I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn. Through the storm, through the night Lead me on to the light - take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When my way grows drear Precious Lord, linger near When my life is almost gone. Hear my cry, hear my call - hold my hand lest I fall Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

When the darkness appears and the night draws near and the day is past and gone At the river I stand - guide my feet, hold my hand Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Rev. Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938 (Renewed 1965) UNICHAPPELL MUSIC INC. / CCLI

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

Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter, Martha and Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and Zacchaeus, he was always the guest. At the meal table of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him, those who want to follow him must first be fed by him, those who would wash his feet must first let him cradle our feet in his hands. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who are tired and in need of rest, those of you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his table. **Thanks be to God!**

The Great Thanksgiving / Communion

God is with you! And also with you!

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

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

Truly, it is right and just to glorify you, bless 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.

Oh God we praise you that you have come to us in Jesus, taking on our flesh and embracing the whole of our creaturely life. And we remember that on the night before his arrest, Jesus gathered with his companions in an upper room and at supper with them took bread, fruit of the earth and gave you thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the wine, fruit of the vine, and gave you thanks and gave it to his companions saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Recalling that we are one with you and with all of creation, we offer to you these gifts of the land, this bread and wine, and our own bodies — a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. Breath over us now and brood once more over your creation, that your Spirit of compassion, justice and healing may renew the face of the earth. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, now and forever. **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): Agnus Dei / Lamb of God Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing

Communion Song: Heart With No Companion

Now I greet you from the other side of sorrow and despair With a love so vast and shattered it will reach you everywhere

And I sing this for the captain whose ship has not been built For the mother in confusion - her cradle still unfilled

For the heart with no companion - for the soul without a king For the prima ballerina who cannot dance to anything

Through the days of shame that are coming through the nights of wild distress Though your promise count for nothing you must keep it nonetheless

You must keep it for the captain whose ship has not been built For the mother in confusion - her cradle still unfilled For the heart with no companion - for the soul without a king For the prima ballerina who cannot dance to anything

And I greet you from the other side of sorrow and despair With a love so vast and shattered - it will reach you everywhere Leonard Cohen. Sony Music.

Communion Song: Daughters of Zion Wardell/Rose/Zach - 2019 Porter's Gate Music et al. 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 ad. from ACC

The Blessing (let us bless one another as we sing)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make Their face shine upon you - and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up Their countenance upon you -

And give you peace. And the blessing of God...

Closing Song: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down, fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art; visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver; let us all Thy grace receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore Thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above; pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee. Changed from glory into glory, on this ea-arth Thou makest Thy place, as we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise! Charles Wesley (1747), alt. Public Domain

The Sending

Go with joy to proclaim the good news of Christ and live with peace in creation! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Postlude: The Peace of the Earth



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 - *THIS* Tuesday the 23rd at 4pm here at the church. All youth are welcome for this social and hang out time!

Youth Formation with optional Baptism or Confirmation at Easter - starting in October - talk to Meagan or Lucy.

United Commons Building Redevelopment

Information session - Come and make your voice heard! - TOMORROW - Monday, September 22, 2025 at 7pm

Thanks to Brian Walsh and Rachel Colman for being part of our worship

today. Check out more on Brian at https://bibleremixed.ca/brian-walsh
And more on Rachel at https://rachelcolmanmusic.com/.
We do have copies of Brian's latest books and Rachel's CD's available for purchase after worship.



October - November 2025

Home Church Groups ::: Gospel-based Discipleship

At AbbeyChurch, we celebrate a rich worship gathering every Sunday at 4:00! As we come upon our 10th anniversary (October 4) we are remembering the small roots of this ragtag community – which was originally lay-led and met in parks, houses, and a make-shift theatre long before it inhabited a Church building! And we are taking Church back into our homes every other week for a time to get to know one another more deeply!

We are doing this every other Sunday afternoon beginning on October 5 and ending just before Advent. (On the alternate Sundays we will continue to gather in person for regular worship with music and Communion). Our format will follow the lead of the self-determining indigenous Church (in this case, primarily in the Anglican tradition – but also informed by United Church traditions) in a practice they call "Gospel-based Discipleship." We gather and have time to check in, we read the Gospel aloud and listen attentively, three times, with three prompts to listen, and we offer prayers together. We meet in smalle groups at 4pm as usual - and will be no more than an hour.

October 5 - Home Church meets

October 12 - AbbeyChurch worship

October 19 - Home Church meets

October 26 - AbbeyChurch worship

November 2 - Home Church meets

November 9 - AbbeyChurch worship

November 16 - Home Church meets

November 23 - AbbeyChurch worship (and annual community meeting/potluck).

November 30 - AbbeyChurch Advent begins and back to weekly AbbeyChurch worship!

These groups will be hosted by different AbbeyFolk across the city:

James Bay - Fernwood - North Park - Brentwood Bay - Oak Bay + Youth Formation

Signup at AbbeyChurch or by emailing matt@abbeychurch.ca

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

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

