



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Pentecost + 16 / Creationtide 5
September 28, 2025 4pm



Picture: *The Rich Man and Lazarus*, by JESUS MAFA
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48267>



**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 + 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.

The Collect for Purity / Almighty God

Almighty god to you all hearts are open
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears
Wash us in the fountain of your mercy
Come with your light, We cannot hide from you

Almighty god to you all hearts are open
With gratitude we raise our song to you
Come and fill the praises of your people
In grace and truth You make us new again
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Almighty god to you all hearts are open
We long for more than what this world provides
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us
Your river deep floods over everything
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Almighty god to you all hearts are open
You take away our sickness and our sin
Oh lamb of god we gather at your table
In bread and wine - You have supplied our needs
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

McCracken/Leonard / Jordan 2105 Integrity's Alleluia / CCLI

The Poem: Morning Prayer by Carla Funk **chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence**

We Proclaim

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

The Psalm Psalm 91 *(vs1-6, 14-16)*

Those who dwell in the shelter of ¹the Most High, *
abide under the shadow of ¹the Almighty.
They shall say to the Lord, “You are our refuge ¹and our stronghold, *
our God in whom we ¹put our trust.”
The Lord shall deliver you from the snare ¹of the hunter *
and from the ¹deadly pestilence.
The wings of the Lord shall cover you, and you shall find refuge ¹under them; *
the faithfulness of God shall be a ¹shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of any ter-¹ror by night, *
nor of the arrow that ¹flies by day;
of the plague that stalks ¹in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays ¹waste at mid-day.
“Because they are bound to ¹me in love, *
therefore will ¹I deliver them;
I ¹will protect them, *
because they ¹know my name.
They shall ¹call upon me, *
and I will ¹answer them;
I am with ¹them in trouble; *
I will rescue them and bring ¹them to honour.
With long life will I ¹satisfy them, *
and show them ¹my salvation.”

The Second Reading

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah *(32: 1-3a, 6-15)*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Zedekiah had said, “Why do you prophesy and say: Thus says the LORD: I am going to give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it... Jeremiah said, “The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’ ” Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy, and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.”

... The word of the Lord. **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 Luke. (16:19-31)

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

...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

Rob Shearer, 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.

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.

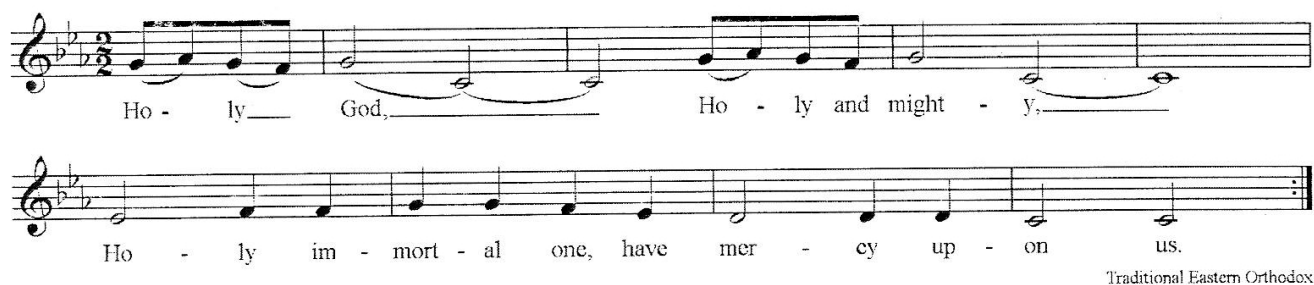
Adapted from from the Lenten series ‘Journey into Wholeness’ by Christine Sine

Our Prayers

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.

The Trisagion (chanted three times)



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 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

All this pain - I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change, at all
All this earth - Could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

Refrain: You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

All around - hope is springing up
from this old ground. Out of chaos
life is being found, in you. *Refrain*

You make me new, You are making me new
You make me new, You are making me new

Refrain. Lisa and Michal Gungor / 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.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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 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: I Receive From Christ's Hand

A Communion round *by Rob Des Cotes*

I

I re - ceive, all I am, from the hand of Christ

I re - ceive, all I am, from God's grace

II

Al - le - lu - ia I re - ceive from God's grace

Al - le - lu - ia I re - ceive from Christ's hand

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Communion Song: Little Things With Great Love

In the garden of our Savior, no flower grows unseen;
His kindness rains like water on every humble seed.
No simple act of mercy escapes His watchful eye —
for there is One who loves me: His hand is over mine.

In the kingdom of the heavens, no suffering is unknown;
each tear that falls is holy, each breaking heart a throne.
There is a song of beauty on ev'ry weeping eye —
for there is One who loves me: His heart, it breaks with mine.

Oh, the deeds forgotten; oh, the works unseen,
every drink of water flowing graciously, every tender mercy, You're making glorious.
This You have asked us: do little things with great love, little things with great love.

At the table of our Savior, no mouth will go unfed;
His children in the shadows stream in and raise their heads.
Oh give us ears to hear them and give us eyes that see —
for there is One who loves them: I am His hands and feet.

Audrey Assad, Isaac Wardell, Madison Cunningham / © 2017 Porter's Gate Publishing (BMI)
and Hymns From the Porter's Gate (ASCAP) / CCLI

We Are Sent

The Prayer After Communion

[we pray together] **Eternal God, heavenly *Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.** * or "Maker"

The Blessing

Closing Song: Canticle of the Turning (The Magnificat)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You Fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very Name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from their throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, For the world is about to turn. *Refrain.*
Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember Who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *Refrain.*

Rory Cooney / Star of the County Down Tune/ 1990 GIA / Onelicense.

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

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

October 12th - 4pm - AbbeyChurch 10th Anniv. Celebration!

Worship with Potluck Feast to follow!

Please send greetings, photos, videos, memories to lucy@abbeychurch.ca for part of our collective work of offering gratitude for all of our wee community.

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.

NO TUESDAY AM PRAYER THIS WEEK DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.

- 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 - *Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday 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 or email: youth@abbeychurch.ca

Library Work Days The Emmaus Community is having a Library Work day on Saturday October 18th between 1 and 4 pm. After a few work days we think we have found the most productive and efficient method of cataloguing the books. To make this work we would love 6 people to help for a minimum of 2 hours. If you can help or have questions, please contact Lynn Mills at library@emmauscommunity.ca

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>

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 small groups at 4pm as usual – and will be no more than an hour.

October 5 - Home Church meets

October 12 - AbbeyChurch worship - 10th!!!

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.

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