



Advent II

December 7th, 2025 - 4pm



Image: Icon: Isaiah, David, Melchizedek, by bobosh_t on Flickr. CC BY-SA 2.0



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, uncertain, 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 Lək'wəḡən 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 pause in silence to remember and to recall the land under our feet, the hidden rivers, the trees and flowers and shifting seasons. We are grateful for the ongoing wisdom, stewardship and tending of these lands and apprentice ourselves to this good work of caring for creation and seeking to live in right-relationship with each other.

We Gather

Opening Loop and Tolling of the Bells

A Vision of the Prophet Isaiah (11:1-10)

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

Welcome Song / Lighting the Candle(s):

Wel-come to this sa - cred place. We all join to share this space.

All are pre - cious in His sight. Here we come to share His light. We
light the can - dle here, we light the can - dle here!

Here we are now ga - thered as one. Here we will wait for Your son.

In this ad - vent sea-son this year we will wait, we fe - el You near. We



Ruby Cloud Iris 2024

The Poem

chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence

Opening Song: Come to us Emmanuel

Come to us, Emmanuel, we wait for thee with bated breath
And hope-filled hearts and anxious minds
Longing to see your face and worship at your feet

Isaiah's vision didst unfold
When you descended into this world
to bring good news and set the prisoners free
You set aside eternity so that we might live

So come to us, Emmanuel, we live in hope of your return
To bring new life to this old world
To end all wars and to heal all hearts
And to reign forever more.

Peter La Grand / Ordinary Time / CCLI

We Proclaim

The Reading

A reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome (15:4-13)

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God

and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles and let all the peoples praise him" and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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: Make a Way

Come, Son of God, and make us new - Light of the world, our hearts renew

Hope in our inner darkness lies - Oh, healing sun of justice rise

Oh, make a way, open wide the gates

Oh, make a way through the sorrow and the pain

Oh, make a way, though the road is dark and winding Oh, come, come.

Paul Zach / Isaac Wardell / Kate Bluett - Porter's Gate . CCLI.

The Gospel

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops. **With our words and with our lives!**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

... Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops. **With our words and with our lives!**

Gospel Acclamation (Repeated)

Oh, make a way, open wide the gates

Oh, make a way through the sorrow and the pain

Oh, make a way, though the road is dark and winding

Oh, come, come.

Paul Zach / Isaac Wardell / Kate Bluett - Porter's Gate . CCLI.

Sermon

Rob Shearer, EC

Affirmation of Faith: The Magnificat

Please rise in body or in spirit as we join with Mary in proclaiming a vision of God's promise:

This is Ma - ry's song: The

Might - y one has done great things for me, and

ho - ly is His name, ho - ly is his name. The

Might - y one has done great things for me, and

to verses:
ho - ly is His name, our God. God.

1. My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my
2. He has shown strength with his arm. He has
3. My God lifts the hum - ble soul. He has

spi - rit re - joi - ces in God.
brought down the po - wer - ful from their thrones.
freed the op - press - ed young and old.

For he has fa - voured the low - ly,
He has lift - ed the low - ly.
Mo - ther Fa - ther of us all - .

and gen - er - a - tions will call me blessed. The
He filled the hun - gry with good things.
In his fa - mi - ly we be - long.

Our Prayers

The Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to God in penitence and faith.

Silence

God of all: **We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, of thought, word and deed, and our failures of indifference and inaction. Forgive us, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Absolution / Assurance of Grace

God of all consolation, forgive us and deliver us, heal us and strengthen us by your Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Church of England, Alt.*

The Peace

In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1:78-79)

The peace of Emmanuel, God With Us, be with you all.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace to those near you.

*Offering: Contributions to our common life can be made at the back of the space (now or later) in the boxes or using debit or credit card. You can e-transfer donations to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca (that's our preferred method) or donate to AbbeyChurch / Emmaus via CanadaHelps by using the QR Code on the last page of this leaflet.
All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.*

The Offertory Song: Peace in the Valley

Oh well, I'm tired and so weary but I must go along
Till the lord comes and calls, calls me away, oh yes
Well the morning's so bright and the lamb is the light
And the night, night is as black as the sea, oh yes

Chorus: There will be peace in the valley for me, some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble, trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me, for me

Well the bear will be gentle and the wolf will be tame
And the lion shall lay down by the lamb, oh yes
And the beast from the wild shall be led by a child
And I'll be changed, changed from this creature that I am, oh yes
Thomas A. Dorsey, 1937, 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

God our peace, your life sustains our lives. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us by your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so 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 God thanks and praise.

Holy God, how wonderful is the *work of your hands!

From the beginning your light has shone forth / bringing *order out of chaos / and life in the *midst of death.

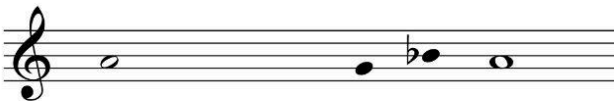
When we fled from you / you sought us out and gathered us like a *mother sheep / covered us in your mercy / and set us a place at your table.



Glory to you fore - ver and ever.

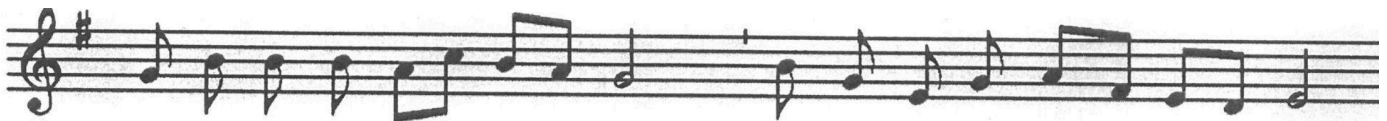
Your holy prophets longed that you might tear the *heavens and come down / and so in tenderness, you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to be Emmanuel - God with us.

As one of us/Jesus healed the sick and ate with *outcasts and sinners/ he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed liberation for all.



Glory to you fore - ver and ever.

You have sent your Holy Spirit as a mighty stream, to refresh and renew the *face of the earth/ Therefore with the company of heaven and all of your creation *we sing:



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,



hea-ven and the earth are full, are full of your glo - ry, O Lord. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na! How bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

9

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, there are also rice crackers available.
Grape juice is in the small cups. It is wine (port) in the larger chalice.*

Song (pre-recorded): **Agnus Dei / Lamb of God**

Communion Song: Instrument of Peace

Lord make me an instrument of peace
An instrument of peace,
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
Lord make me an instrument of peace

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.

Lord make me an instrument of peace, an instrument of peace - Amen.

Wardell/Vice/Palmer/Fox/Sach - 2020 Porter's Gate / CCLI (Various Publisher - Integrity, etc)

Communion Song: Reign of Mercy

Oh may our world at last be just
And hilltops echo with Your peace
A harvest come from barren dust
The reign of mercy never cease
He comes as rain, upon the grass
High heaven's Son to Earth descends
Not as the seasons that will pass
But with a light that never ends

Oh come to Him and find your rest
Who saw the poor and came as One
Who hears the cries of the oppressed
And rules 'till all oppression's done
Someday, He'll come to reign as king
And we will see His justice done

Our souls will magnify and sing!
The Christ whose Kingdom
now is come

And all the mighty and the strong
Will bow before Him on that day!
The silenced fill the world with song
The poor and lowly He will raise
And all our bitterness and tears
Our violence and our endless wars
Will end at last when He draws near
Come soon, come soon,
Oh Christ our Lord!

Kate Bluett, Paul Zach, Porter's Gate Worship Project,
2021. CCLI.

We Are Sent

The Prayer After Communion

Faithful One, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Song: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist Cries

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
Prepare we in our hearts a home
Where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.

Without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand,
our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Sending

Go from this place to watch, wait and prepare the Way.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

***We will gather together for all four weeks of Advent.
See you next Sunday at 4pm for Advent III.***

***Our Christmas Eve service will happen at 4pm on December 24
Cider at 3:30pm + Carols, communion at 4pm***

Weekday Prayer with the Emmaus Community

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

Mondays 9 am - Morning Prayer w/ Centering Prayer - approx 45 mins. In-person only.

Tuesdays 9 am - approx 25 mins - in-person and online.

Thursdays 8:15 am - morning prayer - The Upper Room and online on zoom.

Fridays 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, making it possible for us to continue thriving 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. If you would like to donate



your time or offer other gifts to our common life, be in touch! We are grateful for all of the various ways our community is cared for!

Youth Group - All youth are welcome for this after school / evening social time the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Contact youth@abbeychurch.ca for more information or look on the abbeychurch website calendar!

Library Work Days - If you can help or have questions, please contact Lynn Mills at library@emmauscommunity.ca - our next one will be December 13! See more at <https://www.abbeychurch.ca/news/the-emmaus-community-library>.



QOMQEM is Back!!

Join AbbeyChurch in Supporting weekly Indigenous-Led Night Outreach

QomQem Coastal Connections has operated a weekly night outreach initiative for the past two years, bringing basic needs, hot and cold foods, harm reduction, and other supplies to the street family. This Indigenous-and-lived-experience-led outreach model follows Coast Salish teachings that everyone should have a home, food to eat, and a role in the community.

Last year, Qom Qem partnered with AbbeyChurch, North Park Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Solidarity for the Unhoused, and family members connected to the street community. Together, we collected donations, prepared comforting foods, and delivered supplies to 150 individuals each Sunday night.

Items Needed: Drop them off into the treasure chest at the back!

- Non perishable foods used in the weekly menu: Gatorade/Powerade, juice boxes, fruit cups, pudding cups, peanut butter and jam (large jars), noodle bowls, large bags of candy/baked treats
- Supplies: Gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers, high-quality umbrellas, raincoats, winter coats, tarps, winter weight sleeping bags, emergency blankets, batteries, flashlights, tents
- Inexpensive phones and pay as you go phone credits

Volunteer: QomQem will be in the kitchen each Sunday after worship (about 5:15pm) - and AbbeyChurch folk are welcome to come and volunteer.

Donate Money: You can designate funds to this important work through AbbeyChurch - go to canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/ and select QomQem Coastal Connections on the drop down menu.

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>

admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778.557.4166 We would love to connect.