

# The Feast of the Epiphany

January 4, 2026



"Dream of the Magi"

KL 1/50

*Kelly Latimore Icons - Dream of The Magi - woodcut*



# Welcome to the AbbeyChurch

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today,  
know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

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 summarized 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 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 an intentional community - the Emmaus Community - who make commitments of prayer, presence and simplicity. We believe that Christ's love 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'wəṇən 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 Announcement Loop / Tolling the Bells

## Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

*Bell x 3*

### Opening Song: Oh Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem  
Shining far through shadows dimmed  
Giving the light for those  
who long have gone  
Guiding the wise men on their way  
Unto the place where Jesus lay  
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

Oh beautiful star the hope of light  
Guiding the pilgrims through the night  
Over the mountains 'till the break of dawn  
Into the land of perfect day  
It will give out a lovely ray  
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on  
*Chorus*

*Chorus*  
Oh beautiful star (beautiful, beautiful star)  
Of Bethlehem (star of Bethlehem)  
Shine upon us until the glory dawns  
Give us a light to light the way  
Unto the land of perfect day  
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem  
shine on, shine on

Oh beautiful star the hope of rest  
For all the hurting, the broken and blessed  
Yonder in glory when the crown is won  
Jesus is now the star divine  
Brighter and brighter God will shine  
Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on  
*Chorus* (A.L. Phipps) The Stanley Brothers - 1964

### Gathering Words

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

**The radiance of God's light burns away the shadows,  
illuminates the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn,**

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

**Let us sing to God with thankful hearts!** *Enfleshed, alt.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing. All are invited to help set the table...*

### Song: Wait For the Light to Shine

When the road is rocky  
And you're carrying a load  
Wait for the light to shine  
If you find your friendless  
On that weary lonesome road  
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)  
Pull yourself together  
And keep looking for the sign  
Wait for the light to shine

Don't forget your siblings  
As you travel through the land  
Wait for the light to shine  
They may be in trouble  
And may need a helping hand  
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)  
Never give up hope  
Or cast your pearls before the swine  
Wait for the light to shine

If your life is empty  
And you're on your last go round  
Wait for the light to shine  
If you hear the chime bells  
On the highway you have found  
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)  
When your friends forsake you  
And you haven't got a dime  
Wait for the light to shine

Don't let trouble fool you  
And your sins will all be gone  
Wait for the light to shine  
Don't forget it's darkest  
Just before the break of dawn  
Wait for the light to shine

Wait for the light to shine (X2)  
Keep these words before you  
As you walk that narrow line  
Wait for the light to shine

Words: Fred Rose. Tune: Hank Williams.

### **The Collect (Collecting Prayer)**

Let us Pray. Eternal God, who by a star led wise ones to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **The Gloria**

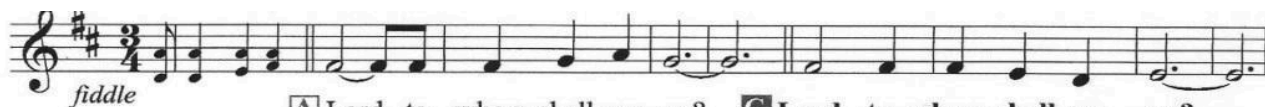
### **The Poem**

**Chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence**

## **We Proclaim**

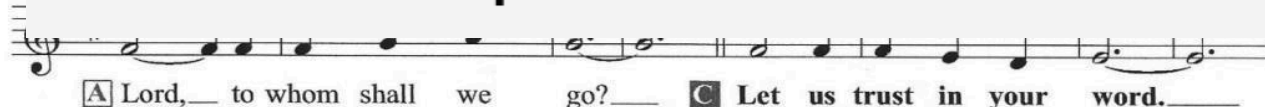
*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit  
as we prepare our hearts to hear the Gospel.*

### **The Gospel Acclamation**



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please do support the songwriter at**

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## The Gospel

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops!

**With our words and with our lives!**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (2:1-12)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

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

### **Acclamation**

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**The Sermon**

**Rob Shearer, ec**

*Bell. Silence for Reflection. Bell.*

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm the ancient story of faith:*

### **The Creed**

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### **Prayers of the People with Kyrie**

*Please sing the refrain as directed!*

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### **The Confession**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in mercy and infinite in goodness,  
let us turn to the light and confess our sins...

*Silence*

*[together we say]* **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our  
brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the  
world.**

### **The Assurance of God's Grace / Absolution**

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the Incarnate One be with you! **And also with you!**

*During the 'offertory' song, the communion table is set.*

*Contributions to our common life can be made at the back of the space (now or later).*

*As we prepare for this holy feast we are reminded that all are welcome to receive wherever  
they find themselves in their spiritual journey.  
All are welcome to Jesus' table - as you feel ready.*

### **The Offertory: The Darkest Hour Is Just Before the Dawn**

The sun is slowly sinkin'  
The day's almost gone  
Still darkness falls around us  
And we must journey on.

*Chorus*

The darkest hour is just before dawn  
The narrow way leads home

Lay down your soul at Jesus' feet  
The darkest hour is just before dawn

Like a shepherd out on the mountain  
A-watchin' the sheep down below  
He's coming back to claim us  
Will you be ready to go. *Chorus*

Ralph Stanley, Lyrics © Fort Knox Music, Inc.

# **We Celebrate**

## **Prayer Over The Gifts**

We have come asking for the child... wondering where that love might be born, seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst. We have come to this place where wise folk and shepherds meet. We have come to this place called Bethlehem – house of bread – this place where our hearts rise like yeast, where we meet our newborn hope, where we taste our deepest joy. So all you who hunger come to this table – for it is the Christ who offers bread to feed every hungry soul. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

God is here! **God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Source of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.  
To the world of shadows Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope he touched the untouchable with love  
and washed the guilty clean. This is Jesus' story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed he came to the table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is Jesus' story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all. Do this in remembrance of me.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again and is alive with you  
to plead for us and the whole world.

Almighty God, loving Source of all, your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

## The Sanctus

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Send your Spirit on these gifts that we may feed on Christ's true presence with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your great banquet feast where all creation worships you, Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

**Abba, Amma, Beloved, hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God, given for the life of the world.

Feed on Christ in your hearts through faith with thanksgiving. **Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome to receive at Jesus' table! The bread is gluten-free but contains almond flour and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy / almond option. The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup.*

*Please refrain from dipping the bread.*

**The Agnus Dei (prerecorded)** - by Paul Demer c 2024 Paul Demer (Service Music) - support the artist.

### **We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

*Chorus* Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,

Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.  
Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,

King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign. *Chorus*  
Frankincense to offer have I.  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all are raising,  
Worship our God most high. *Chorus*



Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume  
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Chorus*

Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Sounds through the earth and skies. *Chorus*

### **King of Kings**

What would you do if you heard a voice,  
That called you away that left no choice?  
Would you sell all you had  
to you follow a star?  
Would you trust it  
and leave your life behind?

We followed a star it led us to the west,  
We couldn't explain  
to our neighbors and friends  
We waited so long watching the sun,  
Now that we're here it all seems so clear  
*Chorus*

King of kings and Lord of lords  
Emmanuel, God with us  
Prince of peace, Almighty One  
Emmanuel, God with us

(solo) Now we can see that it was all true  
This child is born King of the Jews  
But he is more than even we knew  
the very angels of heaven worship him here

And the angels said: "Do not be afraid I  
bring you great news that will be for all  
people. Today in the town of David a Savior  
has been born. This is Christ the Lord!"  
Author: Peter La Grand © 2006.

### **Prayer After Communion**

Holy God, strengthen our faith, increase our love and guide us with your light.  
Nourish us with your Word and send us with your Spirit, that we may create tables of  
welcome in our lives this week. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

## **We Are Sent**

### **The Blessing of the Chalk (see last page) and the Blessing**

#### **Closing Song: I Saw The Light**

I wandered so aimless life filled with sin  
I wouldn't let my dear savior in  
Then Jesus came  
like a stranger in the night  
Praise the Lord I saw the light

*Chorus* I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, no more night  
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord I saw the light

I was a fool to wander and stray  
Straight is the gate and narrow's the way  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right  
Praise the Lord I saw the light *Chorus*  
Hank Williams, Sr.

### **The Sending**

Go now as light into the world! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

## **Musical Postlude: Light at the River**

There's a deep silent river flowing just beyond  
And its waters are so deep and wide  
But faith sees a light yes a beaoning light  
Just down by the river side

*Chorus:* There's a light at the river, a light at the river  
A light at the river I can see  
My Lord will stand and hold in his hand  
A light at the river for me

To that deep silent river we will one day come  
And will cross over waters wide  
But how happy we'll be if by faith we can see  
Our home at the other side. *Chorus*

Many dear ones have gathered safe before the throne  
Dipped their wings in the mystic tide  
They have passed over deep where they do not weep  
To their homes on the other side. *Chorus*

*written by Carl Story and Bud Brewster, Alt. by Russell Moore and Illrd Tyme Out*

## **Closing Loop**

Liturgical Music Credits: Service music is taken from *Light into the World: Hope for a New Day*. Music by Kent Gustavson. ©2004 Kent Gustavson. All Rights Reserved. [www.kentgustavson.com](http://www.kentgustavson.com). Published by Owl Mountain Music, Inc. With deep gratitude to Kent for the use of this music.



## **Donations to our Common Life and Ministry**

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our ministry in 2025, making it possible for us to continue thriving! We recommend you use one of the following giving methods to ensure your donation will be included in the 2026 tax receipts:

1. **E-transfers.** This method is our favourite as we receive the full amount. (no fees) Please use your online banking to interac e-transfer to [treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca). Make sure you have filled out [this form](#) so we have the details to provide a tax receipt or email [treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca) with the details of the amount, date and your full contact details.
2. **Online** Via [Canada Helps - follow the link below or click the QR code -> here:](#)  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/>
3. The **Square POS** reader at the back of the church. Again, be sure to provide your name and contact details either when making the donation via Square or using one of the slips by the iPad.



*We have one donor who has given a number of times via the Square, but we have no contact information. If you desire a tax receipts, please email Lynn at [treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca). with the dates and amounts donated and your full contact details.*

With deep gratitude for your generous support of this beloved AbbeyChurch.

## QOMQEM is Back!!



Join AbbeyChurch in Supporting weekly Indigenous-Led Street 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.

**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/](https://canadahelps.org/en/charities/emmausabbeychurch/) and select QomQem Coastal Connections on the drop down menu.



## **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*

***We resume morning prayer tomorrow - Jan 5, 2026.***



**WANNA CHAT?** Reach out to us at [admin@abbeychurch.ca](mailto:admin@abbeychurch.ca)

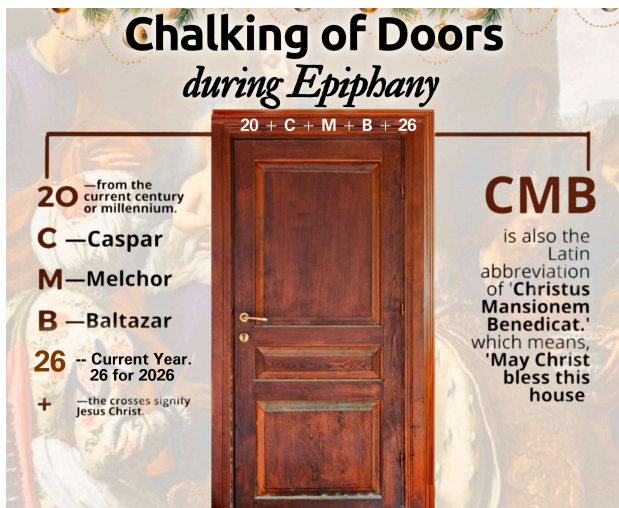
**BORROW A BOOK?** the (very in-process - 15% catalogued) library catalog is here: [www.librarycat.org/lib/EmmausCommunity](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/EmmausCommunity) or email [library@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:library@emmauscommunity.ca)

**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>

# Chalking your doors this Epiphany!

20+C+M+B+26



There is a tradition of blessing the door as a way of marking the New Year. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows in the year to come. "Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home.

*First, the chalk is blessed!*

One: Our help is the name of the Lord:

**All: The maker of heaven and earth.**

Onet: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

**All: From this time forth for evermore.**

One: The Lord be with you. Let us pray.

**All: (saying together) Loving God, +bless this**

**chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** *(The chalk may be sprinkled with holy water.)*

Then, a traditional way of chalking is to then use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 2026 is the year. With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions.

## **As you chalk above your door you can say the following prayer:**

*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the New Year. God of doors and homes, bless this home this year and every year. Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit. May all who enter through this door come in peace and bring joy. May all who come to this door find welcome and love. May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread into the community and the world. Amen.*

One: Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here. **Amen.**

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is your incarnate Word, now and forever. **Amen.**

*As participants take turns making the inscription, the leader says:* The three Wise Men, [C] Caspar, [M] Melchior, [B] and Balthasar followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus [20] two thousand, [26] and twenty-six years ago. [+ +] May Christ bless our home [+ +], and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

★ ★ ★

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