



Fourth Sunday of Easter

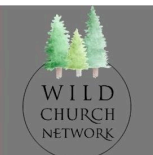
April 26, 2026 + 4pm



Image: "The Good Shepherd" by Kelly Latimore. (more on this image on back cover)



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**



**CEASE
FIRE
NOW**

Welcome to the AbbeyChurch!

Christ Is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

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 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 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

Tolling of the Bells

Welcome - Announcements - Land Acknowledgment

Opening Words:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Blessed be the Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth!

All praise and glory and honour belong unto God who abounds in steadfast love.

Blessed be Christ Jesus, our risen Saviour.

He is our good shepherd, the one who laid down his life for his sheep.

Blessed be the Spirit, who makes us one.

By the Spirit of God we enter into the new and abundant life that God gives to us.

Let us rejoice, for God is good and God's steadfast love endures forever! **Amen.**

Let us pray: We are standing at the gate, loving Shepherd, not sure about the journey. But you have called our names, and in your voice we hear such love and surety. Bring us safely on the journey and strengthen us that we may serve you in all that we do. **Amen.**

Ministry Matters

Gathering Song: Jesus calls us here to meet him

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as through word and song and prayer
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and language-
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.
Graham Maule; John L. Bell, CCLI.

The Poem

Chosen by Molly LeBlanc - Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

The Reading: A reading from the first letter of Peter: (2:19-25)

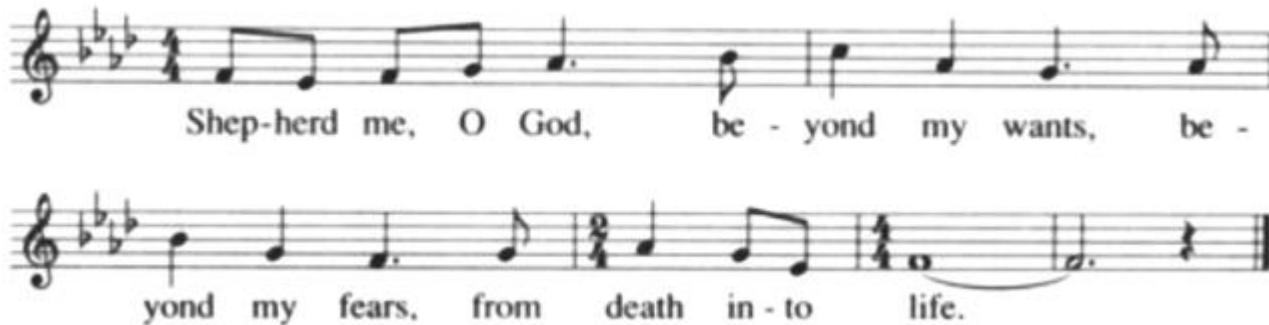
For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he

entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23:

Dominus regit me

Refrain is sung twice before and after:



The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters. *Rx2*

You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Rx2*

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Rx2*

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

Gospel Acclamation: Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

Glory, glory, Hallelujah, Jesus rose up from the ground! x2

American traditional, Public Domain.

The Gospel:

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

A reading from the Gospel according to John (10:1-10)

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Christ is risen! Alleluia! **Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!**

Gospel Acclamation: *Repeated*

The Sermon

Matt Humphrey

Bell. Silence for reflection. Bell.

The Creed

I believe in God, the Maker Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heav'n,
and is seated at the right hand of the Maker.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy cath'lic church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting! A-----men.

Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk/ CCLI

Our Prayers

Lynn Mills

Confession

God who walks with us, sometimes we are so busy talking with each other that we fail to see you beside us. Walking on, so busy talking, we avoid the silent spaces in which you come and speak. We confess our need for you and our failures to heed your call...

Silence

Stay with us, Jesus Christ. Reach out towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray. As we look at our lives and that of the world around us, we are sometimes too anxious to share our real questions or our doubts and fears. They live within us in troubled silence....

Silence

Saying together, **Stay with us, Jesus Christ. Reach out towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray. We call your name, O Christ, and hope to discover you here in our community of vulnerable faith. Amen.**

Absolution

Beloved friends, Jesus Christ never leaves us nor forsakes us. Let us open our hearts to receive the grace which Christ brings to us in faithfulness. You are forgiven and free! Thanks be to God.
Words for Worship. <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au>, (Alt.)

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God's 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: We Will Make No Peace With Oppression

We will make no peace, no peace, no peace with oppression, we will make no peace, no peace. X2
Those who live by the sword will die by the sword.

We will stand against violence of every form.

We will march in the streets, "No justice, no peace!"

Arm in arm with our neighbour till we all stand free.

Chorus: Almighty God, help us not to be afraid.

Almighty God, give us your strength.

We will make no peace, no peace, no peace with oppression, we will make no peace, no peace. X2

We won't turn away from the pain of our brothers,
cries of our sisters, grieving of our mothers.

We won't turn away from destructive politicians,
overflowing prisons, corruption in our systems. *Chorus*

Latifah Alattas, Liz Vice, Paul Zach. © 2020 Integrity's Alleluia! Music/Paul Zach Publishing/Porters Gate Publications/SESAC/ CCLI

We Celebrate

*As we prepare for this holy feast, we are reminded that all are welcome at Jesus's table,
wherever they find themselves in their spiritual journey.*

*If you wish to come forward to receive a blessing rather than bread and wine,
simply place your hands across your chest.*

Prayer Over The Gifts

Let us pray: Great Shepherd of the sheep,

We are your flock, and we bring to you our gifts and offerings from our hearts and lives.

**Be our Good Shepherd always, and send us forth, that we might be witnesses to your
mercy and draw other sheep into your loving fold. Amen**

'Good Shepherd liturgy' TLW, ELCA, 1998, (alt.)

The Holy Eucharist

The Living God is with you! **And also with you**

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

Let us give thanks to the Risen One.

It is right to give God thanks and praise...

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, for you are the God of creation and new Creation, of covenant and new Covenant. You brought your people out of slavery to freedom and you have walked the path from the depths of death to the glory of Resurrection Life. And so we gladly praise you, joining with all the company of Heaven and your creation, as we sing the hymn of your unending praise.

The Sanctus:

Steve Bell / © 1991 Signpost Music / CCLI

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna Hosanna Hosanna in the highest.

Bless's is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Bless's is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. repeat

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for Christ is risen! And around the table once more we proclaim that Jesus, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying Take and Eat, This is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup. Again he 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!

Hope and joy are our breath, merciful God, for in a garden of life, you have rolled away the stone of fear and despair, the stone of oppression, the stone of sin, the stone of death.

As you did in creation, so too in the wonder of resurrection - send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of the risen Christ. Come and stand among us and breathe on us your peace, breathe on us your power, breathe on us your life, that all who labour, all who weep, all who hunger, all who rejoice shall meet you in the breaking of the bread. Shape your church to be your risen body, a diverse and beautiful garden of your Spirit, until you come again and we feast together in your kingdom and all are made one in your love. **Amen. Alleluia!**

The Prayer of Jesus:

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:

Our Father (Mother/Source/Parent)

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. And 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, for ever 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! Alleluia!

*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): Father let your Kingdom Come

Porter's Gate Worship Project, Mason Jar Music, 2017, CCLI

Song: The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still, still waters
His goodness restores my soul

C: And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home
He guides my ways in righteousness

And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup, it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights C:

And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know C:
Stuart Townend, 1996, Getty Music Hymns, CCLI.

Song: You are with me

My heart is heavy and tired in this valley
Mountains grow higher and higher,
but I can't find You
I'll keep lifting my eyes, I know you're with me

I hear Your voice when You cry: comfort, comfort
Sorrow may last for a night, but in the morning
Your joy breaks in with the light,
I know you're with me

C: I know you're with me, and You are for me
You've been behind me, you go before
You walk beside me, through darkest valleys
I know you are with me

You led me here where it's dry, out in the desert
You bring these bones back to life,
you put together
You sing a song of delight, I know you're with me
Sandra McCracken, 2020 Integrity Music, CCLI

The Prayer After Communion:

Author of life divine, in the breaking of bread we have known the risen Lord. Feed us always in these mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anglican Church of Canada

We Are Sent

The Blessing:

Closing Song: The day soon will come

The day soon will come when I'll stand by your side,
and I'll show you my face and my favour;
your cries I will answer, your tears I'll wipe away;
I will guard and protect you forever'

*Refrain: Let music fill heaven
and gladness fill earth
Let the tall mountains sing with deep fervour
For God will respond to the cry of the poor
and will banish oppression forever*

To you and to yours and to those far away
this promise I'll make for my people:
the fields which were barren shall flourish once again,
and the land once abandoned will settle. *Refrain.*

Those hidden in shadow I'll call into light,
and prisoners I'll lead into freedom;
and none shall fear hunger and none shall suffer thirst;
for their God, who is loving, will lead them.' *Refrain.*

A highway across tall mountains I'll make,
a road I'll prepare for my people;
from east and from west, from all corners of the earth
I will gather the lost and the broken. *Refrain.*

The Sending:

Go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Amen. Alleluia!

Postlude: You Shall go out with Joy

You shall go out with joy and be let forth with peace -
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy And all the trees of the fields - will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the fields will clap their hands (x x)
And all the trees of the fields will clap their hands (x x)
The trees of the fields will clap their hands (x x)... While you go out with joy
Stuart Daeuermann / OneLicense / Hope Publishing / Voices United

Weekday Prayer with the Emmaus Community

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

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

Tuesdays 9 am - approx 25-30 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.

Open to any and all!

BORROW A BOOK? the (very in-progress - 15% catalogued) library catalog is here:
www.librarycat.org/lib/EmmausCommunity or email 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>



Donations to our Common Life and Ministry

A huge thank you to all who have supported our ministry as we've moved into 2026, making it possible for us to continue thriving! With deep gratitude, we continue to receive your offerings. If you wish to give a financial gift to support what you have encountered here, there are a few ways you can do so:

1. **E-transfers.** This method is preferred, as we receive the full amount with no fees assessed. You can use your online banking to send an interac e-transfer to 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 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. We encourage you to double check your name and contact details are accurate when making a donation via Square or using one of the slips on the back table.

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



More on front cover image from Kelly Latimore:

This icon holds a lot of meaning for me. It was painted for a Parish that is dear to my heart, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio. The people of the parish were an integral part to our mission, work, and community life of the Good Earth Farm where I lived and worked for six years. The community at the farm grew and gleaned produce for the many food pantries in the area, inviting anyone in the Athens community to join us planting, harvesting, and delivering food, collecting eggs, feeding pigs, and shearing sheep. There is much to be said about the conversations and connection that comes from weeding an entire row of carrots with a complete stranger. Our real work was about communion. We hoped our work as farmers brought us a greater connection to Creation and the marginalized. We hoped to be a sign for the dignity of work and the reverent use of resources. We wished to balance the roles and responsibilities that uplift the common good while respecting the individuals' need for creativity and autonomy. To be signs of peace while working side by side. Most Shepherds in Jesus' day would spend weeks with their flock out in the wilderness. The Shepherd would even drink the milk of the ewes for sustenance. He needed them as much as they needed him. The Good Shepherd is not a sign of a Jesus who rules over us, or telling us what to do, or of our almighty benefactor. Rather, it is a sign that the world-like humanity is a place where God communes with us. The relationship of humanity to creation isn't just to ensure its flourishing, or prevent its extinction, or worse, consume our allotted share of it and dominate it. It is to bring creation into the relationship of praise and thanksgiving and see it all, and our very lives, as gifts. To all of my fellow Good Earth Farm companions, The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, The Diocese of Southern Ohio, to the many groups, organizations, Congregations, lone individuals, interns, and priests who joined us on our way, this icon is for you.

Support their work! <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>

admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778.557.4166 we would love to connect.

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