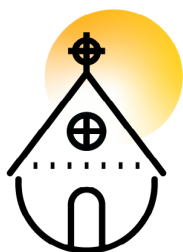


The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021



'Visitation' Icon, Modern Saints by Gracie



THE
ABBHEY
CHURCH

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 ancient Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God, and with our questions and doubts.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressives, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together in unity as we gather each week at Jesus' table of welcome.

The AbbeyChurch worships, prays, plays and gathers on the traditional lands of the ɫəkʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nation.

*Come as you are, people hope...
Filled with the breath of God!*

We Gather

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment Announcement Loop | Tolling of the Bells

Invocation/processional: Ecce Virgo concipiet

Ecce Virgo concipiet, et pariet Filium,

Et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

*Translation: (Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.)*

During the Invocation, AbbeyKids process with Advent candles

Opening Prayer

We come to know you, Holy One,

as Wisdom Incarnate,

as Flickering Flame,

as Spirit of Life,

as Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, Enfleshed.

You come to us as the Stranger, and the Strange.

Often we do not recognize you.

Often we turn away from your gifts and your demands.

Yet you come to us in Wilderness, in the Impossible Made

Possible, in Silence and Singing and Sighs Too Deep for

Words. And so, this Advent, we pause. We breathe. We

pray. We dig deep. We reach out. We rise up.

We open to You, and to one another, and to the Sacred
Mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Love Incarnate,

Divinity Enfleshed. **Amen.** © 2018 *enfleshed*

Gathering Song: Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath;

such a truth as ends all strife;

such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;

such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move:
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

George Herbert 1663 / Tune: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams / Public Domain

Poem

selected or written by Benjamin Hertwig
AbbeyChurch Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

A Reading from the book of Judges 5:1-3, 24-31

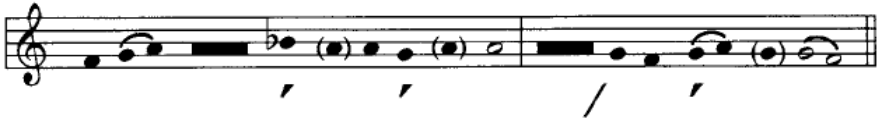
Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: “When locks are long in Israel, when the people offer themselves willingly— bless the Lord! “Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the Lord I will sing, I will make melody to the Lord, the God of Israel.

“Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling women most blessed. He asked for water and she gave him milk, she brought him curds in a lordly bowl. She put her hand to the tent peg and her right hand to the workmen’s mallet; she struck Sisera a blow, she crushed his head, she shattered and pierced his temple. He sank, he fell, he lay still at her feet; at her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell dead.

“Out of the window she peered, the mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice: ‘Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?’ Her wisest ladies make answer, indeed, she answers the question herself: Are they not finding and dividing the spoil?— A girl or two for every man; spoil of dyed stuffs for Sisera, spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as spoil?’ “So perish all your enemies, O Lord! But may your friends be like the sun as it rises in its might.” And the land had rest forty years.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 78: 1-7



Give eär, my people, /to my /teaching;
incline your ear to the utter/ances /öf my möüth.

I will open my /mouth in a /proverb;
I will utter /riddles /fröm of old.

Which we have heard and known, and which our mothers
and /fathers have /told us;
We will not hide them /from their /daughters and söns.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds of /She Who /Speaks Life,
and her might and the wonderful /works she /häs döne.

She gave her decrees for Rebekah's descendants and
placed teaching among /Sarah's /offspring,
which she commanded their mothers and fathers to make
known /to their /daughters and söns.

In order that a coming generation, children /yet to /be
might know,
and will rise up and /tell their daughters and söns.

Then they will put their /confi/dence in God,
and not forget the works of God, but will keep /her
com/mändmënts.

Reflection on Romans 8:18-25: In Labour All Creation Groans

In labor all creation groans 'til fear and hatred cease,
'Til human hearts come to believe: In Christ alone is peace.

Chorus: Be our peace (x3) Christ, our peace.

In labor all creation groans 'til war and violence cease,
'Til swords are beaten into plows and Christ will be our peace.

Chorus

In labor all creation groans 'til prejudice shall cease,
Till every race and tribe and tongue in Christ will live in peace.

Chorus

In labor all creation groans 'til false divisions cease,
'Til enemies are reconciled in Christ who is our peace. *Chorus*

Sister Delores Hufner / Traditional / CCLI

Gospel Acclamation: Make a Way (Porter's Gate)

O make a way! Open wide the gates
O make a way! - through the sorrow and the pain
O make a way! - though the road us dark and winding,
O come, Come.

Musical notation for the first line of the Gospel Acclamation. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, Dm, Bb, F, Dm, Bb, F. The lyrics are: O make a way! o-pen wide the gates. O make a way! through the sor row and the pain. O make a way!

Musical notation for the second line of the Gospel Acclamation. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, Bb, F, C/E, Dm, Bb, C, F. The lyrics are: — though the road is dark and wind - ing. O — come, come! —

Kate Bluett, Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach / © 2021 Integrity Worship Music/PG Songs and Hymns/ASCAP / CCLI

The Gospel

please rise in body or in spirit.

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives!

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (1:39-45)

Mary set out in those days and went to the hill country with haste, to a Judean town. There she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Now when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

From where does this visit come to me? That the mother of my Sovereign comes to me? Look! As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting in my ear, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Now blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of those things spoken to her by the Holy One.”

...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops.

With our words and with our lives!

We repeat the acclamation

Sermon

Bell / Silence / Bell

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Our Prayers

Confession

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in mercy and infinite in goodness, as we continue to celebrate the mystery of God’s love, let us turn to God’s light and confess our sins...

Silence is kept.

God of compassion, we confess we have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others or the earth, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. Come, Lord Jesus; forgive and restore us. Come, Lord Jesus; guide and deliver us. Come, Lord Jesus; teach and renew us. Come, Lord Jesus. Come

Absolution

Please rise in body or in spirit

The Peace

Beloved in Christ, the peace of Christ be with you
and also with you!

We invite you to acknowledge each other with a sign of peace

Offertory Song: Tell Out My Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of God's Word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!
Make known God's might, the deeds that God has done;
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;
God's holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

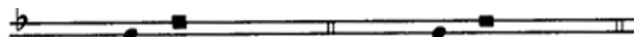
Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's Word!
Firm is God's promise, and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith / Tune: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex / One License

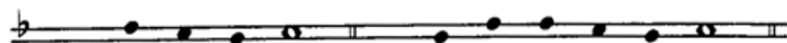
Prayer Over the Gifts

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your creation. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Receive all we offer you today and make our hearts ready for your coming. **Amen.**

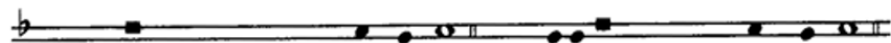
We Feast



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.



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



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

Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love...

...Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and singing:

Unison

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes, who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope...
 ...as we proclaim our hope:

Unison

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, ris - ing you re -

stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and upon these gifts...
...O Source of all life, now and forever:

Unison

A - men, a - men.

Music: PICARDY; French carol (17th cent.); adapt. George Black (1931-) ©.

Silence is kept.

The Prayer of Jesus First Nation's Version

As beloved children of a loving parent let us pray:
(as below or in a translation or language of your choosing)

**O Great Spirit, our *Father from above, (*or Parent)
we honour your name as sacred and holy.**

**Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways
in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.**

**Provide for us day by day
All the things we need for each day.**

**Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others
for the things done wrong to us.**

**Guide us away from the things that tempt us
to stray from your good road,
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless
ways... May it be so!**

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 to receive at Jesus' table.
For those in-house, the bread is gluten-free.*

Video: Come to us Emmanuel

Ordinary Time, from In the House of David, 2006.

Communion Song: Wait on the Lord

Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord
We will walk the way of peace
Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord
We will find our way

Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord
We will walk the way of peace
Wait on the Lord, waiting on the Lord
We will find our way. We will find our way
We will find our way

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing, 2017 / Used with permission

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus the Word made Flesh. **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

We Are Sent

Blessing Song: May God Keep You

May God keep you on your road
Send blessings upon your head
May Jesus share your heavy load
And bring you peace and rest
May God's face shine down upon you
May you feel Their grace
May God never remove Their steadfast love from you.

Peter La Grand / © 2008 / CCLI

And 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.*

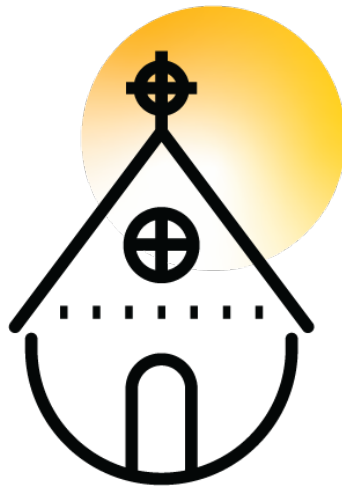
Those hidden in darkness I'll call into light,
and prisoners I'll lead into freedom;
and none shall fear hunger and none shall suffer thirst;
for their God, who is loving, will lead them.' *Refrain.*

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.*

Tune: The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond, Scottish Traditional / John L. Bell / CCLI

Go in hope to prepare the way of the Lord
Thanks be to God. Amen!

Bell x 3



THE
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CHURCH

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