

Creationtide II

And Blessing of The Backpacks

September 8, 2024 + 4pm



Image: Flower In The Utah Desert - Public Domain, Wikicommons.



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 practise 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 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 that makes 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.

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

Season of Creation 2024 - September 1 until October 6



In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. And yet, there is hope for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather by our groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggle. Just as in childbirth, we will go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

2024 Season of Creation Resource Guide

We Gather

The Abbey Church acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the, 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.

Opening Loop + Tolling of the Bells Announcements and Land Acknowledgement

Bell x 3

Opening Chant: Ring the Bells

Ring the bells that still can ring (repeat)...

Forget your perfect offering (repeat)...

There is a crack in everything (repeat).

That's how (that's how) The light (the light)

Gets in (that's how the light gets in)

Wilderness Way, Portland - inspired by Kabbalah and Leonard Cohen.

Gathering Words

Blessed be the name of God; God of our ancestors, God of the generations yet to come.

Blessed be the Creator; The Source of All, Redeeming Christ and The Sustaining Spirit.

As we gather, we hear the groanings of creation and the cries of our siblings.

As we gather, we long for our seeds of hope, planted in us by the Spirit.

Rev Sikawu, Central Methodist Church, Cape Town, Alt.

During this gathering song, folks of all ages (including children and youth!) are welcome to set the orange table with icons and symbols of faith and hope found on the back table - and any are welcome to bring backpacks or other symbols of back to school or teaching or work forward!

Procession Song: Praise the One Who Breaks The Darkness

Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.

Praise the one who preached the Gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.

Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.

Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.

Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.

Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.

Rusty Edwards, Hope Publishing 1987 / OneLicense.

Blessing of the Backpacks (and briefcases and diaper bags and power purses...)

Adapted from Cari Copeman Haynes, Crossroads United, Delta.

Michelle: God of Wisdom, thank you for the beginning of this new year, at school, at church, at work and in our community groups.

All: We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Michelle: Thank you for schools and classrooms,
for the teachers and students who fill them each day.
We thank you for new friends, new books and new ideas.
We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again.

All: We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Michelle: Thank you for all our places of work, fun and service, for fresh challenges and worthy goals. Give us the good questions that can be as important as the right answers.

All: We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Michelle: Thank you for these your children, youth, young adults and older adults.
Bless us all with curiosity, understanding and respect.
+Bless these backpacks (briefcases, diaper bags, tote bags, purses, tool kits).
May they be a sign to us, that we have everything we need to learn and grow this year.

All: We gather together to remember, you are always with us!

Michelle: May these "Jesus fish," keyrings to attache to you backpack remind us all of the love and support of our faith community at the AbbeyChurch, on hard days and on wonderful days.
We pray all of this in the name of Jesus...

All: With whom we gather together to remember, you are always with us!

The Poem: *selected and recorded by poet-in-residence Rebecca Yeo*

We Proclaim

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35: 1-10, NRSVUE)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

God will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. God will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind ones shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf ones shall be opened;
then those who cannot walk shall leap like a deer & the tongues of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground gush up with springs of water...

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

The Epistle (Romans 8: 18-27, NRSVUE)

A reading from the Letter to the Beloved Community in Rome

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labour, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit for the reading of the Gospel.

Sung Gospel Acclamation: Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Brother sun, sister moon your light shines from the heavens

Giving glory, all the glory to the Maker

Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Singing glory, glory,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Singing glory to the Maker Hallelujah!

Liz Vice/Porters Gate [Merlin] Absolute Label Services (on behalf of Integrity Music); Integrity Music Publishing / CCLI (from Brother Sun, Sister Moon / Climate Vigil

The Gospel (Mark 7: 31-37, NRSVUE)

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

Then [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a man who was deaf who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

Acclamation: Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Singing glory, glory,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Singing glory to the Maker Hallelujah!

Liz Vice/Porters Gate [Merlin] Absolute Label Services (on behalf of Integrity Music); Integrity Music Publishing / CCLI (from Brother Sun, Sister Moon / Climate Vigil

Sermon

Matt Humphrey, ec

Bell + short silence

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

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith as we say, together

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.**

Our Prayers

Confession

As we listen to the groans of Creation, we confess to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world...

Join in singing this refrain...



Assurance of Grace or Absolution

The Peace

In Christ, we are called not to conform to this world,
but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

We seek to discern God's way, to pursue what is good and true and beautiful.

Let us be ardent in spirit as we act with hope for Creation.

Let us live in harmony with one another and with all of Creation.

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

We share a sign of God's Peace

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 Song: Jesus Feed Us

Again and again and again
To this table we come
Once a people estranged
Now as one in your name
In your mercy and grace
Forgiven of what we've confessed
By your body and blood
One last thing we request

To you we pray Jesus feed us
Feed us Jesus. Feed us Jesus
With your healing love
Gord Johnson / St. Benedict's Table.
Signpost Music 2008 / CCLI

We Celebrate

The Prayer Over the Gifts

Great Creator - O source of all. Prepare our hearts for this holy mystery; to receive your healing presence in the fruits of the earth; the grape and the wheat. In Christ, Creator, we pray. **Amen.** rjs

The Great Thanksgiving *Creation-inclusive liturgy, Church of Scotland, 2024, Alt.*

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

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

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

Throughout all ages, as mountains dance and trees applaud,
the cries of birth are also loud for all to hear and tend.
Your Sabbath and Jubilee made space for all Creation's refreshment.
But we made exceptions. Your People sought milk and honey, yet injustice laid lands to waste.
Your prophets: priests, protestors and farmers call us to account.
Yet your loving signs of warning fall often by the wayside.
As greed and pride inspire harmful choices knowingly embraced, still comes the Human One,
Christ Jesus, friend of wildlife, beloved of the poor,
walking upon the seas teaching with rocks and trees, listening to the wild wind of the Spirit.
With Christ we hear the groans of Creation
and with Christ we embrace the cross of redemptive healing.

Filled with hope, we join in Creation's unceasing song:

(chanting) **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.**

Triune God, our sustainer, giver of all good things: receive this food and drink we offer,
this flesh and blood that we are. As Jesus did, so do we:
We break this bread (bread is broken). We share this wine (cup is raised)

We put our trust in the one who died, rose, and will come again.

(chanting) **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts that we might worship the lamb of God who
takes away the sin of the world. Gather us into your one body that we might become the hands
and feet of Christ for a hurting world, ready to be made new. **Amen.**

A period of 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!

The bread is gluten-free. It may contain dairy and/or almond flour. (If you'd like a dairy or nut free option, please let the presider know - we have Gluten-free sealed hosts as well). Grape juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the common cup. We discourage 'intinction' (dipping) the bread in the cup due to health concerns.

The Prayer of Jesus

As beloved children of a loving parent, we pray as Jesus taught:

Our *Father (*or Parent, 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.

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! The bread is gluten-free but may contain almond flour, egg and dairy. Please ask the server if you would like a non-dairy / almond option (rice cracker). The juice is in the small cups. Wine is in the larger common cup. Please refrain from dipping the bread.

Lamb of God (pre-recorded) Tom Wuest - Brass Trumpet Publishing

Communion Song: Behold I Make All Things New

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Behold I make all things new.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

God unseen is taking form.

God unseen is taking form.

God unseen is taking form.

Let there be light. Let there be light.

The First and Last is surging forth.

The First and Last is surging forth.

The First and Last is surging forth.

Becoming Light. Becoming Light.

Alana Levandoski / CCLI

Communion Song: Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace
How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost,
But now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught
My heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious
Did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers,
Toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought
Me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been here
Ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days
To sing God's praise
Then when we'd first begun.
John Newton / Public Domain

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray together: O God of all creation - of water, earth and sky. We give you thanks for this table, and your presence at it where we have feasted together and longed for a world where all is made whole and new. This we pray through Christ our Creator. **Amen.**
rjs

We Are Sent

Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation, Who marvelled at the lilies of the field, Who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the life of the faith community to listen to the voice of all creatures as they reflect God's glory in creation
... and the blessing of the Triune Creator God... *adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme*

Closing Song: O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king,
the triumphs of God's grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear those who won't - and voiceless ones
Your tongues again employ

Look, now, behold our Saviour comes
Let's dance in awe and joy!

Creator God who shaped the earth
And O Christ who sets all free
We groan in bondage of decay
Yet your Spirit intercedes.

Your earth it cries in labour pains
As it waits for your own kin
When all will be made whole and new
In your glory and free-dom.

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.
Charles Wesley, alt . Vs 5-6 Rob Shearer

Sending

Go in the wild, animating power of the Spirit to love God, live with respect in Creation.
Thanks be to God.

Sunday September 15 - NO WORSHIP HERE

join us for Reba's ordination to the transitional diaconate at the Anglican Cathedral -Abbey
All are welcome to gather at 3:30pm to hang out at the Courthouse part across from the
Cathedral and will hang out during the worship.

September 21 - 4pm - weekly worship resumes at Abbey Church in the Season of Creation

September 29 - 4pm - worship with potluck to follow (potlucks now last Sunday of month)

Prayer and Communion gatherings **other than Sunday Afternoons**

Mondays at 9am - Morning Prayer with Centering Prayer @ AbbeyChurch office
(off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up)
moral parking lot, metal stairs up) - in-person only.

NEW TIME: Tuesdays at 9am - Morning Prayer @ AbbeyChurch office
- in-person and online on Zoom

Thursdays at 8:15am - morning prayer - AbbeyChurch office (see above) and online on zoom.

Fridays at 8:15am - morning prayer - *on-line zoom only*

Sundays at 10am - Spanish Anglican Eucharist at Quadra/Balmoral Chapel.
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe - Misas Los domingos a las 10: 00 de la Mañana con Fr. Dimas
Canjura. Guadalupe will meet on the same Sundays as AbbeyChurch for the Summer.

*Our weekday common prayer is liturgical in nature and based on ancient monastic practices.
It's open to all who wish to join in-person or online. Liturgies can be found on our website.*

New Partnership with QomQem : Call for Food Donations

We're now welcoming food donations for AbbeyChurch/Emmaus partnership with QomQem coastal connections - an indigenous harm reduction organisation. We'll be using this food to support their street outreach on Sunday evenings. Our folk are also welcomed to assist in sandwich prep after church at 5:30pm most Sundays starting **SEPTEMBER 22 (that's REALLY the date)!**

Here is the list of desired items:

- large bags of soft candies to make up mixed candy bags (ie sour keys, cherry blasters etc)
- Large jars of peanut butter, Nutella or jam
- Tins of Gatorade powder
- Tins of hot chocolate powder (once it starts to cool)
- Sweet treats like pre wrapped Rice Krispie squares, wagon wheels, ding dongs etc
- Fruit cups
- Flavoured Apple sauce cups
- Soft chew granola bars (nutrigrain, etc)
- Small easy peel oranges and bananas (for Sunday drop-off)
- Gatorade/powerade bottles
- Home baking on the day of - starting September 22nd (ideally 150 units)
- Sunscreen, batteries, flashlights

Up to 150 people served each night, so bulk family/sized items appreciated. We now have a treasure chest at the back of the church for collection. Thanks for any help you can be in this amazing work.

admin@abbeychurch.ca + www.abbeychurch.ca

778.557.4166 We would love to connect.

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