

Creationtide IV

September 22, 2024 + 4pm



Image: *Vine and Branches Quilt - Metropolitan Museum - 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

A wee note on devices! We're encouraging folks of all ages to minimise device use during worship from 3:45-5:15 in order to enhance our sacred time together - and to not be a barrier for others. Let's work together for a time of fullness in worship and community! Of course, we know there are times where folks need to be available and on-call or connect with others - and we therefore don't legislate this, but we do encourage all individuals and families to be intentional around what is needed for both personal and the common good!

We Gather

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the, the Lək'əŋən 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 Catching our breath + bell x 3

Gathering Words (from Job 12, Luke 21, eco-congregations, Scotland, alt.)

Just ask the animals - **and they will teach you.**

Birds in the sky - **and they will tell you.**

To the earth - **it will instruct you.**

Let the fish in the sea inform you... And look to all the trees -

For which of all these does not know that to God belongs all wisdom and power.

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!

Procession Song: We Abide We Abide In You

1. We are the vine - yard You have plan - ted tend our leaves and wi - ld
2. Fruit grow - ing from our strength and la - bor rain on us with grace and

Porters Gate
Publications / Fair
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Publishing. Written
by Sandra
McCracken / CCLI

bran - ches, we a - bide we a - bide in You. we a - bide, we a - bide in You.
fa - vor, we a - bide, we a - bide in You. we a - bide, we a - bide in You.

Where can my soul — find liv - ing wa - ter? A - part from

You we bear no fruit! O plant my feet — down by — the

ri - ver. We a - bide, we a - bide in You.

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

We Proclaim

The Psalm (sung): We Shall Not be Moved (based on Psalm 1 vs 2-3)

I shall not, I shall not be moved
I shall not, I shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
I shall not be moved

In my Christ abiding, I shall not be moved;
In God's love I'm hiding I shall not be moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters
Lord, I shall not be moved.

When our cross is heavy,
we shall not be moved (repeat)
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's planted by the water
We shall not be moved.

African-American Spiritual, Public Domain

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the Daniel (chapter 4, selected verses NRSVUE)

I, [King] Nebuchadnezzar, was living at ease in my home and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that frightened me; my fantasies in bed and the visions of my head terrified me... This is what I saw: there was a tree at the center of the earth, and its height was great. The tree grew great and strong, its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth. Its foliage was beautiful, its fruit abundant, and it provided food for all. The animals of the field found shade under it, the birds of the air nested in its branches, and from it all living beings were fed.

"I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said: 'Cut down the tree and chop off its branches strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from beneath it and the birds from its branches.

[The prophet Daniel interpreted the dream, saying]: O king, and it is a decree of the Most High that has come upon my lord the king: You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the wild animals... until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom God will. Therefore, O king, may my counsel be acceptable to you: atone for your sins with justice and your iniquities with mercy to the oppressed, so that your prosperity may be prolonged."

[Later, the king] was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king said, "Is this not magnificent Babylon, which I have built as a royal capital by my mighty power and for my glorious majesty?" While the words were still in the king's mouth, a voice came down from heaven: "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: The kingdom is taken from you! You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the animals of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom he will." Immediately the sentence was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven away from human society, he ate grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers and his nails became like birds' claws...

... 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 (John 15: 1-8, the Message paraphrase)

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

“I am the Real Vine and my Abba is the Farmer. God cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing God prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

“Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

“I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Abba shows who they are —when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

...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

Rob Shearer, 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...

Good Lord, good Lord, good Lord, de - li-ver us.

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: Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught
be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my
best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I
ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou
my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise
thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won, may I
reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! Heart
of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my
vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.;
tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

We Celebrate

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation made manifest in things like a simple shared meal. Teach us to see all things for good, to the honour of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our sibling and our Lord. **Amen.** *New Zealand Prayer Book, alt.*

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 they may be the body and blood made real for the healing 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.**

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 (none compelled!) 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. Used with permission.

Communion Song: Your Labour Is Not In Vain

Your labour is not in vain
though the ground underneath you
is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping
are never the same
But your labour is not in vain.

Your labour is not unknown
though the rocks - they cry out
and the sea it may groan.
The place of your toil
may not seem like a home
but your labour is not unknown.

Refrain: For I am with you, I am with you.
I am with you, I am with you

For I have called you, called you by name
Your labour is not in vain.

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
the fields will sing out
and rejoice with the truth,
for all that is old will at last be made new:
the vineyards you plant will bear fruit.

The houses you laboured to build
will finally with laughter and joy be filled.
The serpent that hurts and destroys
shall be killed
and all that is broken be healed. *Refrain*

Kimbrough, Zach, Wardell, Keyes /
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Communion Song: Take O Take Me As I Am

Take O take me as I am
Summon out what I shall be
Set your seal about my heart and live in me.

John Bell / Iona Community / OneLicense / Wild Goose Publishing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray together: **O great Gardener God, O great Vine, our Christ. We have tasted the holy sap and sustaining wheat in bread and wine, body and blood. May this grace flow through our veins to send us to reflect your love and mercy through all your beloved creation. We ask this through our Friend and Sibling, Jesus. Amen.** rjs

We Are Sent

Presentation of Ordination Gift to the Rev. Reba Yeo

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: Your Peace Will Make Us One

Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of the coming of the Lord
You are speaking truth to power
You are laying down our swords
Replanting every vineyard
'Til a brand new wine is poured
Your peace will make us one.

I've seen you in our home fires
Burning with a quiet light
You are mothering and feeding
In the wee hours of the night
Your gentle love is patient
You will never fade or tire.
Your peace will make us one.

In the beauty of the lilies
You were born across the sea
With a glory in your bosom
That is still transfiguring
Dismantling our empires
Till each one of us is free
Your peace will make us one.

Glory, glory, hallelujah.
Glory, glory, hallelujah.
Glory, glory, hallelujah.
Your peace will make us one.

Audrey Assad / based on words by Julia Beecher Stowe

Sending

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

Thanks be to God.

**Folks are invited to help our partner QomQem prepare sandwiches in the kitchen today
and most Sundays after worship!**

We'll be back for worship next Sunday September 29

4pm - worship with potluck to follow (potlucks now last Sunday of month)
and also help with Qom Qem.

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) - approx 45 mins.
moral parking lot, metal stairs up) - in-person only.

Tuesdays at 9am - Morning Prayer @ AbbeyChurch office
- in-person and online on Zoom - approx 25-30 mins.

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

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

Concluding Next Sunday - Spanish Worship - Sundays at 10am - We've discerned to end our Spanish Anglican Eucharist at Quadra/Balmoral Chapel - with next Sunday, September 29 at 10am, being the last week.. We're grateful to Fr. Dimas Canjura for faithfully trying this experiment. 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.*

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 today **SEPTEMBER 22 !**

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.

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