Creationtide V

And Orange Shirt Sunday

September 29, 2024 + 4pm



Tsartlip artist TEMOSENTET (Dr.) Charles W. Elliott, Eucharist and Spiritual Nourishment, 1987. Yellow cedar altar box carvings, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria, British Columbia. Photo: Trish Simpson-Boulsbee.











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 əpən 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 are grateful for the ongoing wisdom, stewardship and tending of these lands and apprentice ourselves to this good work of caring for creation and living in right relationship with each other.

Opening Loop + Tolling of the Bells + Announcements

Catching our breath + bell x 3

The Confession

We say the bold words together... saying -

Today we acknowledge -

We acknowledge the shadow side of the history of Canada in which settler peoples have reaped the benefits of the land by pushing aside indigenous peoples.

Today we lament -

We lament the attempted erasure of indigenous peoples through the Indian Act which criminalized the practice of traditions and cultures, and mandated the seizure and indoctrination of children in residential schools...

Today we acknowledge -

we have no appropriate words, so we stand respectfully in silent lament. Silence ...for the children who died while in the custody of residential schools, died of active abuse, died of lonely hearts and separation from family.

Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words, so we offer silent respect. Silence ...for the families and communities who mourn their children who did not come home from residential schools, mourn the disruption of family and way of life, mourn the exploitation and desecration of their traditional lands...

And in the presence of the God who hears, we today acknowledge those places in our lives in need of forgiveness and freedom...Silence

Join in singing this refrain...



In gratitude to God who demonstrated the way of humility and reconciliation with us we acknowledge with gratitude and respect the lakwanan peoples on whose traditional land we worship and the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. As a community, we commit to an ongoing journey of decolonization, deep listening and humility as we seek to walk in right-relationship. Ron Flaming Truth and Reconciliation Action Group Waterloo North Mennonite Church

Assurance of Grace / Absolution

In God, there is healing, forgiveness and mercy. May the One who unbinds us and sets us free, draw you in and +cleanse you from your sins that you may walk in the way of the Word Made Flesh. Jesus Christ our Companion. **Amen.**

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: Bring In the Year of Jubilee!



Porters Gate Publications / Fair Trade Music Publishing.Written by Jessica Fox et al / CCLI

The Poem: Warrior Cry by Sarah Lewis - Curve Lake First Nation, Ojibwe/Cree (first poet laureate of Nogojiwanong-Peterborough)

- selected by poet-in-residence Rebecca Yeo

We Proclaim

The Psalm (sung): Psalm 121

I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from? I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from? Oh my help comes from the maker of the mountains You have been my defender since my birth Oh my help comes from the maker of the heavens Oh my help comes from the maker of the earth

I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from? I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from? In the sunshine, in the moonlight God will keep you safe In the sunshine, in the moonlight God will keep you...

In the sunshine, in the moonlight God will keep you safe In the sunshine, in the moonlight God will keep you safe In the sunshine, in the moonlight God will keep you... I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from Rain For Roots / A Rocha Arts / CCLI

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from First Kings (chapter 21, NRSVUE)

Later the following events took place: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. And Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; I will give you a better vineyard for it, or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance." Ahab went home resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you my ancestral inheritance." He lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would not eat.

His wife Jezebel came to him and said, "Why are you so depressed that you will not eat?" He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it,' but he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.' "His wife Jezebel said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal; she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. She wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the assembly; seat two scoundrels opposite him, and have them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death." The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. The scoundrels brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death.

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive but dead." As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. You shall say to him: Thus says the LORD: Have you killed and also taken possession? You shall say to him: Thus says the LORD: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood."

Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" He answered, "I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, I will bring disaster on you; I will consume you and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked me to anger and have caused Israel to sin. Also concerning Jezebel the LORD said: The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the bounds of Jezreel. Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the air shall eat."

When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth over his bare flesh; he fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days, but in his son's days I will bring the disaster on his house."

... 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 Integrity Music Publishing / CCLI

The Gospel (Matthew 21: 23-32, NRSV alt.)

Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops! With our words and with our lives! When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the sex workers are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the sex workers believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him. ...Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops! With our words and with our lives!

Acclamation: Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Gentle wind, welcome home - You've been travelling with your song

Singing 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

Sermon Matt Humphrey, ec

Bell + short silence

You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm 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				Denise Nadeau
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The Peace

...The peace of Christ 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: My City of Ruins

There's a blood red circle on the cold dark ground And the rain is falling down The church door's thrown open, I can hear the organ's song But the congregation's gone My city of ruins. My city of ruins

Now the sweet bells of mercy drift through the evening trees Young men on the corner, like scattered leaves The boarded up windows, the empty streets While my brother's down on his knees My city of ruins. My city of ruins Now there's tears on the pillow, darlin', where we slept
And you took my heart when you left
Without your sweet kiss
my soul is lost, my friend
Tell me, how do I begin again?
My city's in ruins. My city's in ruins

Now, with these hands, with these hands With these hands, with these hands (keep singing "with these hands")

...Come on, rise up
Bruce Springsteen / Sony Music

Come on, rise up (repeat)

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

Creator, you bless us with many good gifts returned to you from your creation. Feed us with the Bread of Life. **Amen.** *The Anglican Church of Canada (Nat. Indigenous Day)*

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to God our Creator. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks to you O God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation, in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus.

He was baptised in the waters of the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, travelled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, vines and vineyards, labour and wages, yeast and bread. In the grief and joy of human community, he showed us the way of reconciliation and pointed to the day when all creation would be made new.

Filled with this 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.

Around a table with his companions on the night before his death, Jesus took bread, the fruit of field and hearth and he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his companions saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

And as supper was ending, he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land and human labour and gave thanks and gave it to his companions saying: This is my blood, given for you. do this in remembrance of me.

As we prepare to share in these gifts of the earth, we declare the mystery of faith: (chanting) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit of reconciliation over the whole earth and 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. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honour, glory, and praise, forever and ever. 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 /nut 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: Simple Gifts ('Tis A Gift To Be Simple)

Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where I ought to be; And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained, To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed; to turn, turn, will be my delight. Till by turning, turning we come round right. Traditional Shaker Hymn - Joseph Brackett Jr. 1797 - 1882

Communion Song: Just A Closer Walk With Thee

I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Refrain: Just a closer walk with Thee,

Grant it, Jesus, is my plea, Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be. Thro' this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more; Guide me gently, safely o'er To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. [Refrain] Anonymous / Public Domain / 19th c.

Prayer after Communion

[together we say] Jesus stay with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the Way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

A Disciples Prayer book - Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

The Blessing

May God who established the dance of creation and marvelled at the lilies of the field, lead us to listen to the voice of all creatures as they reflect God's glory in creation and the blessing of God... *adapted from the CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme*

Closing Song: Your Shall Go Out With Joy (The Trees of the Field)

You shall go out with joy
And be let forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy
And the trees of the fields
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields will clap their hands (CLAP, CLAP)
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands, (CLAP, CLAP)
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands, (CALP, CLAP)
While you go out with joy!
Stuart Dauermann 1975 / OneLicense (Voice United)

The Sending

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

A Sending Challenge: Which TRC Call (or Calls) To Action will you / we focus on in the coming year.

Feel free to stay for the potluck whether you have a contribution or not (there's always enough!)

We don't have QomQem partnership today - but we'll be back after worship next week to prepare sandwiches in the kitchen today and most Sundays after worship (except thanksgiving Sunday)!

We'll be back for worship next Sunday. Prayer Gatherings other than Sunday Afternoons

NO MORNING PRAYER FOR TOMORROW - HOLIDAY MONDAY.

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*

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. **NOTE: There will be no QomQem sandwiches today or on Thanksgiving Weekend.**

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.

This leaflet is printed on tree-free paper.

Please recycle or reuse.



CONTEMPLATIVE DAY RETREAT

Season of Creation - Sat. October 5th!

We will gather in a beautiful place outside the city to join our hearts and minds to listen to the voice of God and the chorus of Creation! As this Season of Creation wraps up on October 4 (the Feast of St. Francis) we will spend some time reflecting on the themes of this year and contemplating the basis of our hope and action in and for Creation.

Registration is just \$35 for the full day, includes a delicious catered lunch, homemade snacks and beverages, as well as our exclusive use of Earthspring Sanctuary, a beautiful and unique setting of indoor and extensive outdoor spaces from which to contemplate Creation!





YOUTH GROUP TOMORROW - POWWOW!

Jake looks forward to joining the AbbeyYouth for a visit tomorrow to the South Island Powwow. On Monday, Sept 30 (the youth are not in school) meet at the Church at 10am and walk the few blocks to Royal Athletic Park. Youth are encouraged to bring a bit of money as they will purchase lunch together and be back at the Church for pickup at 1:30pm.