

Harvest Thanksgiving

October 13, 2024 + 4pm



Image: "Gratitude Prayer" Sapha Bouamara, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons



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.

We Gather

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the, the Lək'wəŋən 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 seeking to live in right-relationship with each other.

Opening Loop + Tolling of the Bells + Announcements + Land Acknowledgement

Catching our breath

Opening Words

Oh God, today, we come with open-hearted gratitude

Even as circumstances all around seek to mute our praises.

For we're all too aware of the brutality of war, of weather events, of pain and violence all about

And that we're living in your world of wonders, abundance & grace.

We come bearing brokenness, griefs, traumas and dis-eases

And in knowing that we're made in Your image and that we are Your beloved.

God, as things fall apart all around ... as an act of resistance

We raise our hands [*hands are raised*].

We rejoice and marvel in You, great Creator of all.

May we apprentice your good, groaning Creation.

To remind us that there is enough, that we are enough

And that your perfect love is greater than all that is wrong.

And so it is, God of the harvest, we give You all our thanks and praise! Rob Shearer

Hands are lowered

Let's pause in stillness to bring to heart and mind that for which we are grateful today...

Silence is kept.

Bell x 3

During this 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: The Bounty Is Come

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah - the bounty has come
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
The bounty has come.

When the autumn leave have fallen
And the harvest is safe in the barn
We'll again give thanks and remember
It is all, the Creator's design
Creation rejoices and lifts up her voice
For what Jehovah has done
The fruit of our labour, the fruit of the earth

Hallelujah, the bounty has come. *Refrain.*

In the coldest days of the winter
When a blanket of snow hides the fields
Summer's bounty will sustain us
As we wait for what spring shall reveal.
Creation rejoices and lifts up her voice
For what Jehovah has done
The fruit of our labour, the fruit of the earth
Hallelujah, the bounty has come. *Refrain.*
Kenny Meeks / A Rocha Arts / CCLI

The Poem:

selected and read by poet-in-residence *Rebecca Yeo*

We Proclaim

The Psalm: Psalm 65 (Ellen Davis translation)
Please join in the bold print

To You, silence is praise, O God in Zion,
and to You vows are paid.

**O You who hear prayer,
before You all flesh comes.**

Reports of wrongdoing are overwhelming me;
our transgressions – You are the one
who atones for them.

**Fortunate are those whom You choose
and draw near to dwell in Your courts.
May we be satisfied with the goodness
of Your house, the holiness of Your temple.**

With awesome works, in righteousness,
You respond to us, O God of our salvation,
the Confidence of all the ends of the earth,
and the far reaches of the sea.

**God sets firm mountains in God's strength;
God is girded with might.**

God stills the roar of the seas,
the roar of their waves,
and the din of nations.

**Those dwelling at earth's ends
feel reverent-fear at your signs;
the horizons of morning and evening
You make ring with joy.**

You visit the earth and water it;
abundantly You enrich it –
God's stream, full of water.

**You set their grain – just so You set it.
Drenching its furrows, settling its hillocks,
You soften it with showers;
its growth You bless.**

You crown the year with Your goodness,
and Your wagon-tracks drip richness.

**Wilderness pastures are dripping,
and hills are girdled with rejoicing.**

Meadows are clothed with the flocks,
and valleys robed in grain.

They shout out; they even sing.

**...Glory to You, Source of All Being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit
As it Was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the Prophet Joel (2:21-27 NRSVUE, alt.)

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!

Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for God has given the early rain for your vindication;

God has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army that I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of *Israel

and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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

*The term "Israel" means 'one who struggles with God' and can refer to ancient Hebrew tribes - and also has rich layers of depth to describe many Beloved Communities that have struggled with God. Its spiritual use by no means is meant to endorse or support the actions of the modern nation-state of the same name.

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

Sung Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Stay close my child through this dark night

Rest in the shadows of these wings.

Hope in the Lord whose day will come,

The dawn of making all things new.

Alleluia (*repeat*)

Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission

The Gospel (Matthew 6: 25-33, NRSVUE, alt.)

Let us proclaim the gospel from the rooftops. **With our words and with our lives:**

[Jesus said]: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is life not more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Abba feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Abba knows that you need all these things. But seek first the Reign of God and God’s righteousness—justice, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

Acclamation: Alleluia

All wars will cease, all suffering end.

Justice will roll, the kingdom come.

Love will arise, grace will uphold.

Mercy will heal where the lamb reigns.

Alleluia (*repeat*) Tom Wuest / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with permission

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.

Credo

We believe in God Almighty,

Maker of all heav’n and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, our Saviour:

God’s own Son of matchless worth;

By the Spirit was conceived

of the virgin Mary born,

God in whom we have believed:

God Almighty Three-in-One.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

on the cross, he bled and died;

Placed within the grave so silent,

where for three days he did lie;

Then the stone-sealed tomb was empty;

we believe he did arise;

Triumphed o’er the grave forever,

over death he is the Christ.

Into heaven he ascended -

seated at God’s own right hand

‘Til he comes again in glory,

gracious judge o’er every land;

We confess the Holy Spirit

who was sent through Christ the Son

Who is Lord and giver of life -

God, the Spirit, Three-in-One.

We believe the Church of Jesus,
*catholic it 'ere remains;
We are one through all the ages,
the communion of the saints.
We believe sins are forgiven,

our bodies shall be raised
Everlasting life the promise
may God's holy name be praised.

*or, universal
Mindy Deckard; arr. Bruce Benedict /
Rob S verses © 2006 Cardiphonia Music / CCLI

Our Prayers

The Confession

[together we say] **God, we praise you for creating this world in all beauty. With adoring love, we acclaim your glory. All praise and glory be yours. We thank you for our communities, friends and families - and for all you are doing in our lives.**

Gentle and gracious God, we confess before you there is, at times, evil in our hearts. We acknowledge that we can be inclined toward anger, jealousy, violence, revenge and pride. Forgive us of this, through Jesus Christ. Thomas Bwalya - The United Church of Zambia, alt.

Silence is kept for personal and corporate confession.

The Assurance/ Absolution

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sin, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace,

and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be, evermore.

Words: Rinkart (1636), Trans: Winkworth (1858)
Tune: Cruger (1647) - this version words from VU

We Celebrate

Prayer Over The Gifts

Our lives are meant to be more than endless striving. So in our compassion for each other, we share what we have, that none may feel the need to earn survival. In the spirit of abundance and rest, we bring all we have and all we are and offer it once more in gratitude to the Beloved. **Amen.**

Enfleshed, alt.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer C - Celebrate God's Presence - The United Church of Canada

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.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.
You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars.
At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.
You breathe life into us and set us among all your creatures, in a covenant of love and service.
Even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us.
You send your prophets to proclaim your justice, to remind us of your promise of peace,
and to call us back to you.

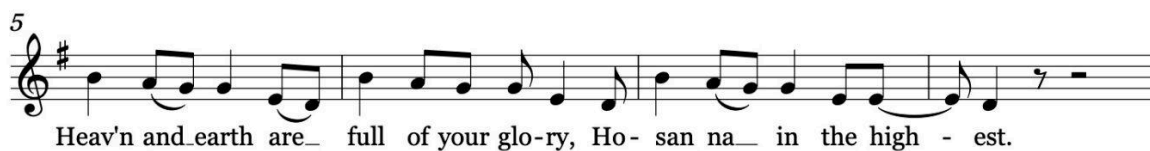
Triune God, we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus,
Who walks with us, as our Wisdom and Way, sharing our joy and sorrow,
healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and setting the captive free.

So it is that we join the song of all creation to proclaim your goodness:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might__

5



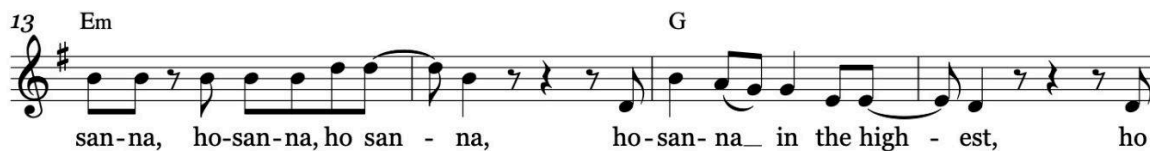
Heav'n and earth are__ full of your glo-ry, Ho- san na__ in the high - est.

9 Em G



Bles-sed is the one__ who comes in the name of the Lord__ Ho

13 Em G



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

17



san- na__ in the high - est, ho-san-na__ in the high - est

Lacey Brown /
Church of the
Apostles
(Lumen)

We remember that when Jesus ate with his friends, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died and Christ i---s ris'n! Christ wi--ll come a---ga-----in!
Christ has died and Christ i---s ris'n! Christ wi--ll come a---ga-----in!

Send, O God, your +Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that they may be the body and blood of Christ; and that all who share at this table of thanksgiving may be light, life, and love in the world. In this hope, and as your body, we praise you. *[pause]*

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.



A--men. A----men, A- me-----n.
A--men. A----men, A- me-----n.

The Prayer of Jesus

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

Our *Father (**or Parent, or Abba, or Amma, 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) Church of The Apostles / Lacey Brown c2015 Cota Music.

Communion Song: Every Grain of Sand

In the time of my confession,
 in the hour of my deepest need
 When the pool of tears beneath my feet
 flood every newborn seed
 There's a dyin' voice within me
 reaching out somewhere,
 Toiling in the danger
 and in the morals of despair.
 Don't have the inclination
 to look back on any mistake,
 Like Cain, I now behold this chain
 of events that I must break.
 In the fury of the moment
 I can see the Master's hand
 In every leaf that trembles,
 in every grain of sand.

I gaze into the doorway
 of temptation's angry flame
 And every time I pass that way
 I always hear my name.
 Then onward in my journey
 I've come to understand
 That every hair is numbered
 like every grain of sand.

I have gone from rags to riches
 in the sorrow of the night
 In the violence of a summer's dream,
 in the chill of a wintry light,
 In the bitter dance of loneliness
 fading into space,
 In the broken mirror of innocence
 on each forgotten face.

Oh, the flowers of indulgence
 and the weeds of yesteryear,
 Like criminals,
 they have choked the breath
 of conscience and good cheer.
 The sun beat down upon the steps
 of time to light the way
 To ease the pain of idleness
 and the memory of decay.

I hear the ancient footsteps
 like the motion of the sea
 Sometimes I turn, there's someone there,
 other times it's only me.
 I am hanging in the balance
 of the Master's perfect plan.
 Like every sparrow falling,
 like every grain of sand.
 Bob Dylan / Universal Music / 1981

Communion Song: In The Lord I'll Be Every Thankful

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "In The Lord I'll Be Every Thankful". It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-". The second system continues the piano accompaniment with the lyrics: "fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near!". Above the second system, the following chords are indicated: Dm, C, F, Bb6, C, Am, Dm, Bb, C, F. The music is in 3/4 time and the key signature has one flat (Bb).

J. Berthier.
 Ateliers et
 Presses de
 Taize /
 OneLicense

Prayer after Communion

[together we say] **We give You thanks for You sustain us with real food and real drink. You nourish us with friends as real as food, with joy as clear as the cool river, with love as good as this meal. *This is enough.* We do not ask for more. This is more than enough - reason to bless Your name forever: Make us mindful of those who do not have enough food and friendship - water, love and joy. Give them enough and send us as agents of your enough-ness that all may be thankful. Amen.** mary jo leddy, alt.

The Blessing

...and the blessing of God...

Closing Song: Canticle of The Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You Fixed your sight
on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing
of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very Name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might,
put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

From the halls of power
to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from their throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. *Refrain.*

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember Who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that out forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by
God, who is turning the world around.
Refrain. Rory Cooney / Star of the County Down Tune
(Irish rad / public domain) / 1990 GIA / Onelicense.

The Sending

Go in gratitude to share God's abundant love to all creation. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

We'll be back for worship next Sunday at 4pm.

Our Next Potluck is October 27 after worship.

You are welcome to join our QomQem partnership next Sunday and most Sundays after worship... There is no Qom Qem prep happening today!

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 - 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.

north path
ONE TO THE CORE

SOLID OUTREACH *
A collaborative project between:
QomQem, NPNA, SOLID, &
AbbeyChurch

THE ABBEY

NON PERISHABLE FOOD URGENTLY NEEDED!

WE NEED YOU!

Night outreach - We're at it again!
We are in need of non-perishable foods to support Street Family!

What's Needed?
Large Tins of: Peanut Butter, Jam & Nutella
Fruit Cups,
Packaged treats (wagonwheels etc)
Large bags of Soft candies
Gatorade Powder Tins
Camp gear!

TO ARRANGE DROP OFF, CONTACT:
admin@qomqem.com / 250-291-1204

Weekday Prayer Gatherings

Mondays at 9am NO MORNING PRAYER TOMORROW, THANKSGIVING MONDAY.

- 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.*



**We have 5 youth registered to go.
Let us know if your youth (12-16 is interested)**



**admin@abbeychurch.ca www.abbeychurch.ca
778.557.4166 We would love to connect.**

This leaflet is printed on tree-free paper. Please recycle.