

# Reign of Christ Sunday

November 24, 2024 + 4pm



*Images: (front) Christ of the Abyss, statue by Guido Galletti / (back) Trinity Icons - support the artist.*



# Welcome to the AbbeyChurch

*No matter who you are or what you are carrying today,  
know you are beloved and so very welcome here.*

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's creation, and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey but we share a guiding sacred story as found in scripture (The Bible) and 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 whose members make 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.

***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'əḡən 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

#### Opening Words

We gather together to remember who God is:

**The One who remains as rulers rise and fall. The One whose love sets free.**

**The One who took on flesh to serve the world.**

Be still, and remember that God is our refuge.

**When the cross looms and evil stands tall we remember:**

God is courage in destruction's wake. **God is solidarity in the midst of struggle.**

God is justice that brings cruelty to an end.

**Our strength does not mirror systems of dominance.**

Salvation is this: God within us, God among us.

**With thanks, we gather with God, our hope in times of trouble.**

Vulnerable One, you challenge all our notions of power. You do not seek the thrones of our time. You turn, instead, towards taking on flesh in people and places despised. Free us, O God, from all that deceives us into seeking our deliverance among the mighty and forceful. Through Christ, our way, **Amen.** ©2019 *enfleshed*

*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!*

#### Opening Song: Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns  
The Lamb upon his throne  
Hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
All music but its own  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of him who died for thee  
And hail him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity

Crown him the Lord of love  
Behold his hands and side  
Those wounds, yet visible above  
In beauty glorified  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight  
But downward bends their burning eye  
At mysteries so bright

Crown him the Lord of peace  
Whose pow'r a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease  
Absorbed in prayer and praise  
His reign shall know no end  
And round his piercèd feet  
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet

Crown him the Lord of years  
The Potentate of time  
Creator of the rolling spheres  
Ineffably sublime  
All hail, Redeemer, hail  
For thou hast died for me  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity  
George Elvey, Godfrey Thring & Matthew Bridges  
(1851) / Public Domain

#### The Poem

selected and recorded by Rev. Reba Yeo, Poet-in-Residence

# We Proclaim

## The Hebrew Scripture

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel (34: 11-16)

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick bleakness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice... The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## The Christian Scripture

A reading from the book of the Revelation (1: 4-8). [From]John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we sing to prepare our hearts for the reading of the gospel.*

## Gospel Acclamation: Jesus Let Your Kingdom Come

*Chorus* Hallelu- Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! X2

May the words from my mouth speak your peace! X2 *Chorus*

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## The Gospel according to John (18:33-37)

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

...Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to [my own religious leaders]. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."... Let us proclaim the Gospel from the rooftops! **With our words and with our lives!**

## **Gospel Acclamation: Jesus Let Your Kingdom Come**

*Chorus* Hallelu- Hallelujah! Jesus, let your kingdom come! X2

May the words from my mouth speak your peace! X2 *Chorus*

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## **Sermon**

**Matt Humphrey, EC**

*bell + short silence*

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit as we affirm 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.

Mindy Deckard; arr. Bruce Benedict / Rob C-S verses ©  
2006 Cardiphonia Music / CCLI

\* or, 'universal'

## **Our Prayers**

### **The Confession**

Let us turn to the God of mercy and love, Christ the good Shepherd-kin.

*Silence is kept.*

[together we say] **Holy God we pray for the courage to admit our fault, the strength to amend our actions, And the hope that your grace awaits us. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

### **The Assurance or Absolution**

#### **The Peace**

Beloved in Christ, may peace as sweet as the water of life promised to us by God, be with you all. **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. You are also welcome to come forward for a  
simple blessing prayer if you do not wish to receive.*

*All are welcome to Jesus' table (none compelled!) - as you feel ready.*

### **The Offertory Song: You Shall Reign**

Come broken, come captive - Come all you who mourn  
Oh groaning creation, rejoice  
A child, a Savior, our healing you bring.  
What freedom! What consolation!

You shall reign (You shall reign), You shall reign  
You shall reign (You shall reign), You shall reign (X2)

You'll order Your kingdom with justice and peace  
Oh merciful one, oh Lamb of God  
All nations, all people All heaven and earth  
Will bow down and to You proclaim

El reignara, (El reignara) El Reignara  
El reignara, (El reignara) El Reignara

You Shall Reign.... Tom Wuest, alt. / Brass Trumpet Publishing / Used with Permission

## **We Celebrate**

### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

Not by might nor by riches will the Kin-dom of God be built. It takes community. And persistence. And laughter. And the labour of those who hunger for justice.\* Receive all we offer you this day, O God, take these gifts and our lives and fold them like yeast into the bread of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen** ©enfleshed

### **The Great Thanksgiving** enfleshed, Jade Kaiser, alt.

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Creator of all.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. Throughout all time, from ancient days until this very day, you are always seeking us out – longing for us as a Divine Lover..

You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred.

By your grace, we come to recognise the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbours, in your creation, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you:

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)

Blessed are you, Loving God who calls us to your eternal table. You welcome all who thirst for justice and hunger to grow in love.

You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbours, but since our beginning, we have struggled. And so in your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of a kingdom of healing, liberation and love.

His commitment to practising love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death and on the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:

“This is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying:

“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

In remembrance that in Jesus you have come near to us, we proclaim the mystery of our 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!

+Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again, the body and blood of Christ.

May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into resurrection life. Enliven us in our pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and all creation is celebrated. Today, may we taste in bread and wine your humble reign of justice, peace and love.



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 c 2015 COTA Music.

### **Communion Song: Let All Mortal Flesh**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.



Rank on rank the host of heaven  
 Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
 As the Light of light descendeth  
 From the realms of endless day,  
 That the powers of hell may vanish  
 As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six wingèd seraph,  
 Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
 Veil their faces to the presence,  
 As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
 Alleluia, Alleluia -  
 Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Fifth Century / Paraphrase Moutrie / Public Domain

### Communion Song: The Kingdom of God / My Sweet Lord



The king-dom of God is jus-tice and peace and joy in the Ho-ly Spi-rit.



Come, Lord, and o-pen in us the gates of your king-dom. The

Ateliers et presses de Taize / OneLicense

#### My Sweet Lord

My sweet lord  
 Hm, my lord  
 Hm, my lord

My sweet lord (hallelujah)  
 Hm, my lord (hallelujah)  
 My sweet lord (hallelujah)

I really want to see you  
 Really want to be with you  
 Really want to see you lord  
 But it takes so long, my lord

I really want to know you  
 Really want to go with you  
 Really want to show you lord  
 That it won't take long, my lord  
 (hallelujah)

George Harrison

#### Prayer after Communion

God, we recognize the ways you still make yourself vulnerable to us today. In gratitude for a taste of your Kindom, may our discipleship shape us into fierce protectors of the vulnerable, give us courage to practice our own vulnerability, and help us to honour the sacredness of our need for one another. In Christ's name we pray. **AMEN**

#### The Blessing

### **Closing Song: Christ Was Lower Still**

Breathe in reach out  
Touch the hem of Your garment now  
Help me heal me  
My mind my body and soul

Refrain: Let the King descend  
Living word made flesh  
Lift this heavy heart  
To Your throne o God  
In Your wounds I find  
Room for all of mine  
When from grace I fell  
Christ was lower still

Humbly lowly  
Jesus waits in the valley  
My Saviour suffers with me  
With Him I'll rise again (Refrain)

[Bridge]  
We lift it all up to You Lord  
We lift it all up to You Lord  
We lift our heads  
We lift our hands  
We lift it all up to You Lord  
We lift our dreams  
We lift our plans  
We lift it all up to You Lord  
We lift our sorrow  
And our pain  
We lift it all up to You Lord  
We cast our cares  
On You again  
We lift it all up to You Lord  
Matt Maher, Kate Bluett, DOE, John Swinton/  
Sanctuary Mental Health / CCLI

### **The Sending**

Go in peace to incarnate, to follow Christ the King whose rule of Shalom ends all violence, fear and hatred. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **Closing Loop**

**We'll be back next Sunday as the season of Advent Begins.**  
**Please note that we won't be livestreaming for Advent but will post sermons.**

# **TODAY!**

**Potluck and our first Annual Community Meeting -  
immediately following worship.**

**All are welcome to stay**

**(whether you brought a contribution for the meal or not - there's always lots).**



**OR... You are welcome to join our QomQem partnership today in the kitchen around 5:15 and most Sundays after worship - we prepare food for their 'street family'...**

## **Partnership with QomQem : ONGOING 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.

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.

## **Weekday Prayer Gatherings**

**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.

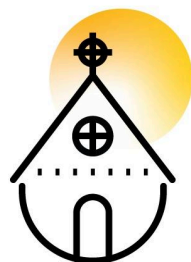
**Thursdays at 8:15am** - morning prayer - AbbeyChurch office (see above) and online on zoom.

**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.*

## **DONATE TO ABBEYCHURCH / EMMAUS COMMUNITY**

**Want to donate to our common life? You can now send offerings by e-transfer to [treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca) or talk to Lynn, our treasurer to sign up for monthly giving! There's also a point of sale machine at the back table for debit or credit donations. All donations are eligible for a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.**



THE  
**ABBAY**  
CHURCH

**[admin@emmauscommunity.ca](mailto:admin@emmauscommunity.ca) [www.abbeychurch.ca](http://www.abbeychurch.ca)**

**778.557.4166 We would love to connect.**

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