

The Feast of the Epiphany

January 5, 2024 + 4pm



Image: Epiphany at Gethsemane Abbey



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 (full inclusion and leadership of 2SLGBTQ2IA+ folk) 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.

We Gather

The AbbeyChurch acknowledges that we worship and pray on the stolen territory of the Ləkʷəŋən peoples', the Songhees and Xwsepsum (Esquimalt) Nations. We strive to journey toward reparation, right relationship and reconciliation with justice. We confess the complicity of our religious traditions and institutions in the loss of life, lands, languages, spiritualities and cultures of the First Peoples' of these lands. 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 Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Blessing of the Chalk and Opening Words

Our help is in the name of The Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

God be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to humanity and all creation. Grant that we who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of our homes the names of thy saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The chalk is sprinkled with baptismal water.

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Bell x 3

*During this song, folks of all ages (including children and youth!) are welcome to set the table with creche figures and symbols of faith and hope found on the back table.
Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing:*

Opening Song: The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Refrain: Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
refrain.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.
refrain.

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *refrain.*

Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *refrain.*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who has made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood salvation
bought. *refrain. Traditional English carol/Public Domain.*

The Poem - Nativity by Scott Cairns Selected and read by **Rebecca Yeo**, Poet-in-Residence

We Proclaim

Please rise in body or in spirit as we open our hearts to hear the good news.

Gospel Acclamation

fiddle

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —
 D G D A

[A] You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —
 D G D A

[A] Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —
 D G D A

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Let us trust in your word. —

[C] Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Kent Gustavson / Used with permission - for permission contact <https://drkent.co/>

The Gospel

Joy and Nick Hunter

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

A reading from the gospel according to Matthew

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

Gospel Acclamation

fiddle

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —
D G D A

[A] You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —
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[A] Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? —
D G D A

[A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Let us trust in your word. —
D G D A

[C] Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Sermon

Rob Shearer, ec

Please rise in body or in spirit as we affirm our faith and sing our ancient Story of Jubilee.

Credo

I believe in God, the Maker Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heav'n, and is seated at the right hand of the Maker.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
+The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. A---men. Ryan Flanigan/ Liturgical folk, alt./ CCLI

Our Prayers

Josh Ruberg

Confession and Assurance / Absolution

Lord Jesus, illuminate the bleakness in our hearts: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Church of England, alt.

Bell. Silent Prayer of confession. Bell.

God who is with us, draw us in and cleanse us of our sins so that we might journey in the
light of the Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Christ child be always with you. **And also with you.**
You are invited to share a sign of peace to those near you.

During the 'offertory' song, the communion table is set.

*Offering: Contributions to our common life can be made at the back of the space
(now or later) in the boxes or using debit or credit card. You can e-transfer
donations to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca (that's our preferred method) or
by making a donation to AbbeyChurch / Emmaus via CanadaHelps by using
the QR Code to the right. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.*



Offertory Song: Come Darkness, Come Light

Come darkness, come light
Come new star, shining bright
Come love to this world tonight. Alleluia

Come broken, come whole
Come wounded in your soul
Come anyway that you know. Alleluia

Refrain: There's a humble stable
and a light within
There's an angel hovering
and three wise men
Today a baby's born in Bethlehem. Alleluia

Come doubting, come sure
Come fearful to this door
Come see what love is for. Alleluia

Come running, come walking slow
Come weary on your broken road
Come see Him and shed your heavy load
Alleluia. *refrain*
Mary Chapin Carpenter

We Celebrate

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 if you do not wish to receive.

Prayer Over The Gifts

Holy One, in a spirit of awe we offer these gifts. For you have led us to Love, invited us to linger in its presence, and promised us that no matter where we go, Love will go with us. May these offerings also be swept up into the embrace of Love to be channeled in the direction of all who hunger for your presence. **Amen** enfleshed.

The Great Thanksgiving / The Most Holy Eucharist

God is shining upon you! **And God's light streams upon you!**

Open your hearts. **We open them to the brilliance of God.**

Let us give thanks for the light and love of God!

We praise our Creator with joy and thanksgiving!

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. For out of nothing, you called the world into being, and still, you draw Creation to its fulfillment. Day and night celebrate your glory until time shall be no more. And we, your children made of clay, know your enkindling love in this place.

In Christ, you have revealed yourself to the world. By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations as the heir of David and sovereign of all creation; that in following Jesus, we might be led from the depths of shadows out into this marvelous light.

As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the manifestation of your Son, we offer you our praise and thanks. And so, with angels and archangels, and the whole Creation, we chant the hymn of your unending glory:

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.

Glory and thanks be to you, triune God. In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us to be our God-with-us. Having revealed yourself in the babe, Jesus, your Kingdom of Justice and Love has been born in our midst. The Light has come! It is a year of Jubilee - all is forgiven, healing is abundant and the captives are set free. And your people are called and entrusted with your unfolding work.

On the night before Jesus died, when some were plotting to extinguish the Holy Light, a sacred meal was shared between friends. And at this table, with the warmth of love and light, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and with his blessing, renewed the Divine Glow among his followers. As he broke the bread, he reminded them to eat in remembrance of him.

Later that same evening, Jesus took the cup. He blessed it and invited his friends to taste from the cup of grace. "Do this, as often as you drink of this," he said, "for the remembrance of me."

Responding to your invitation, we enter this sacred meal. Recalling the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of your Christ, we look for the Kingdom to unfurl in our midst. +Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving Light, we may enter this Holy Feast and become your hands and feet in our world. Kindled with the fire of your love, we anticipate your New Creation, where all Creation shall worship you, Triune God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Scottish Episcopal Church - 2016, Rev. Michelle L. Torigian - 2019, Alt.

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.

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God (prerecorded)

Song: We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. *Refrain.*

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him God Most High. *Refrain.*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb. *Refrain.*

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Earth to Heaven
replies. *Refrain.*

John Henry Hopkins Jr. 1857 / Public Domain.

Song: The Coventry Carol

Refrain: Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child
By by, lully, lullay, thou little tiny child
By by, lully lullay

O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling
For whom we do sing
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king - in his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight,
All young children to slay

That woe is me poor child for thee!
And ever morn and day,
For thy parting neither say nor sing
By by, lully lullay!

15th century English / Public Domain.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the Magi have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Church of England, Alt.*

We Are Sent

The Blessing

... and the blessing of God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit be with you this day and evermore...

Closing Song: I Saw The Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Saviour in.
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night.
Praise The Lord, I saw the Light.

Refrain: I saw the Light, I saw the Light
No more darkness, No more night
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight.
Praise the Lord, I saw the Light.

With spiritual blindness, I wandered alone,
Worries and fears, I made all my own.
I once would not see,
but the Lord gave me sight.
Praise the Lord, I saw the Light. *Refrain.*

I was a fool to wander and stray
For straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the Light. *Refrain.*
Hank Williams Sr. 1948, renewed 1975, alt Acuff-Rose
Music, Inc. & Hiram Music.

Sending

Go now as light into the world! **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Postlude Song: Felix Culpa

God who watches over you
Will never slumber nor sleep.
God who watches over you
Will never slumber nor sleep. *(repeat)*

Oh, My child, lay your burden down
Lay them at My feet.
God who watches over you
Will never slumber nor sleep
music and words by Alana Levandoski, alt.

Closing Loop

You are invited to take some blessed chalk to chalk your lintel
(see instructions on back page)

We'll be back next Sunday at 4pm. QomQem volunteering is in the kitchen now
Any and all are welcome to come help pack sandwiches for their street family.

* * *

Weekly Prayer - Restarting Tomorrow!

Mondays at 9 am - Morning Prayer with Centering Prayer @ Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office
(off the Balmoral parking lot, metal stairs up) - approx 45 mins - in-person only.

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

Thursdays at 8:15 am - morning prayer - Emmaus/AbbeyChurch office and online on zoom.

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

Contact us for information on accessible entrance or zoom/liturgies link

Ecumenical Prayer in The Way of Taizé

Friday January 17 at 6pm



* * *

Ongoing Donations to our life and ministry to The AbbeyChurch / The Emmaus Community

We are so grateful for your presence with us! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our ministry in 2024 and made it possible to continue to thrive in the place God has called us to. If you are interested in donating to our common life, you can now send offerings by **e-transfer to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca** or talk to Lynn, our treasurer to sign up for monthly giving (PAR)! There's also a point of sale machine at the back table for debit or credit donations. You can also use the CanadaHelps for to donate by using the QR code here. All donations are eligible for a charitable receipt for income tax purposes.



Our 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.

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

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 (once it starts to cool)
- Tins of hot chocolate powder
- 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.



La Sagrada Familia and
 اللاجئين العائلة المقدسة "Refugees:
 The Holy Family
 - Kelly Latimore Icons
 www.kellylatimoreicons.com



Chalking the Doors!

We invite you to adopt this ancient Epiphany custom in your own home or those of your families and community. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes, our comings and goings, our

conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. "Chalking the door" is a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the symbols written sink into the depths of our heart and be manifest in our words and actions the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, 20 + C + M + B + 25. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross and 20, 25 is the year.

Instructions for Blessing the Home

Using the chalk mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step) as follows: 20 + C + M + B + 25 while saying: *The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-five ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.* Then offer the following prayer: *Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. God of doors and homes, bless this home this year and every year. Bless all who come and go through this door, both those who live here and those who visit. May all who enter through this door come in peace and bring joy. May all who come to this door find welcome and love. May the love and joy in this home overflow and spread into the community and the world. Through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*

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

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