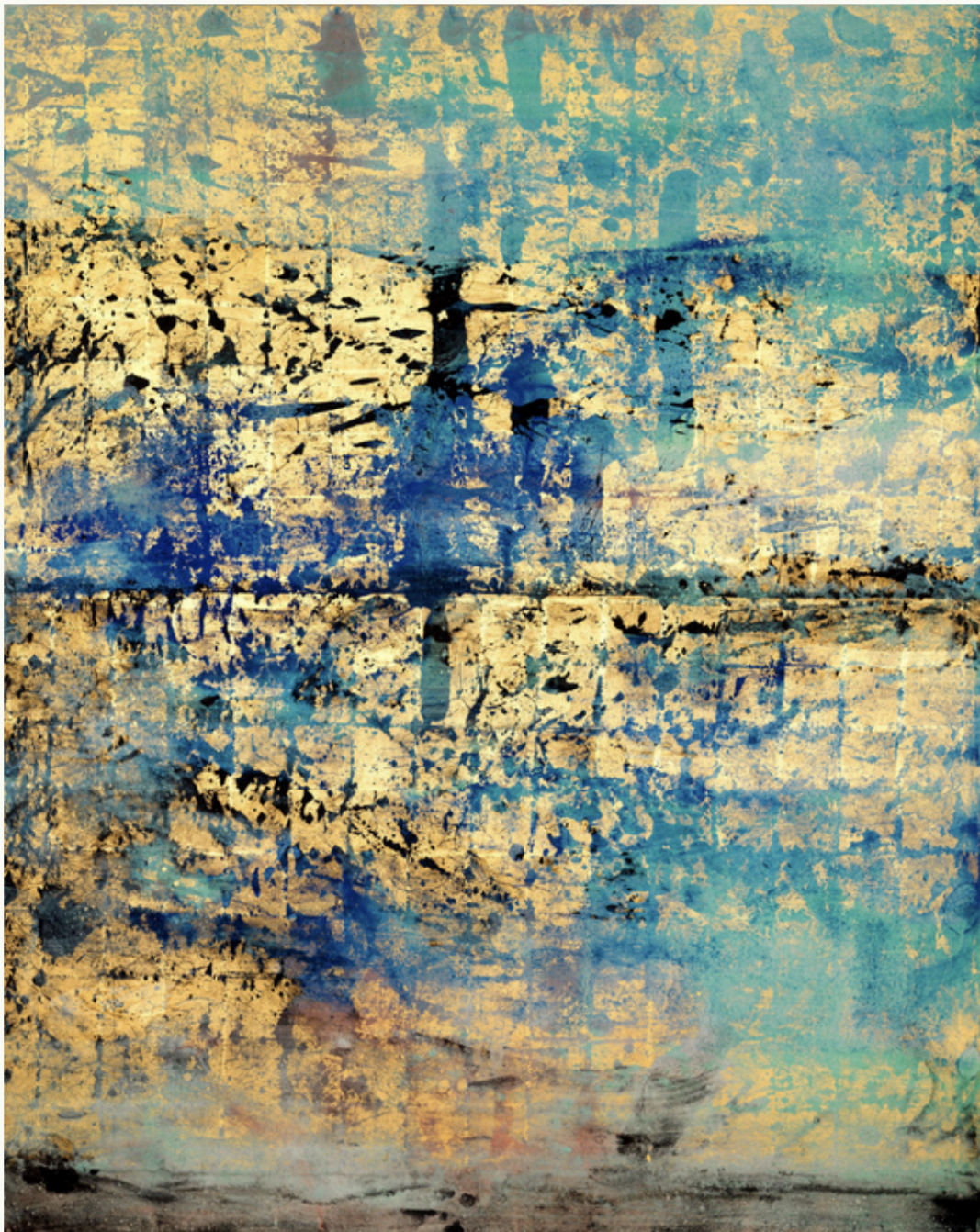


The Baptism of Jesus

January 12, 2025 + 4pm



*Image: "Golden Sea" by Makoto Fujimura
Mineral Pigments and Gold on Kumohada, 80×64", 2011, Collection of Roberta and Howard Ahmanson*





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 Prelude Song - A Forest Archive (Jason Wood) / Tolling of the Bells Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Opening Words

Begin here:
Beloved.

**Is there any other word
needs saying,
any other blessing
could compare
with this name,
this knowing?**

Beloved.

Comes like a mercy
to the ear that has never
heard it.
Comes like a river
to the body that has never
seen such grace.

Beloved.

**Comes holy
to the heart**

**aching to be new.
Comes healing
to the soul
wanting to begin
again.**

Beloved.

Keep saying it
and though it may
sound strange at first,
watch how it becomes
part of you,
how it becomes you,
as if you never
could have known yourself
anything else,
as if you could ever
have been other
than this:

Beloved.

© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

Let us pray, Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan
the heavens opened in a flash of glory as vision and voice blazed upon the waters.
May your Spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and
follow Jesus in paths of justice, right relationship, and peace. **Amen.**

Feasting on the Word, alt.

*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: How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
 for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
 for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
 and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

George Keith, Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787.

As I went down in the river to pray
 Studying about that good old way
 And who shall wear the starry crown
 Good Lord, show me the way!

Author unknown, traditional.

O sisters (brothers) let's go down
 Let's go down, come on down
 O sisters (brothers) let's go down
 Down in the river to pray

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

We Proclaim

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah: But now says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (43:1-7)... The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit as we open our hearts to hear the good news.
 (and feel free to sing all the parts)*

Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation is for a fiddle in 3/4 time, key of D major. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: [A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? [A] You are gra-cious and merc - i - ful. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? [A] Slow to an - ger and a-bound-ing in love. [C] Lord, to whom shall we go? [A] Lord, to whom shall we go? [C] Let us trust in your word.

Guitar chords indicated below the staves are: D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A.

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

The Gospel

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

A reading from the gospel according to Luke

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (3:15-22)

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

Gospel Acclamation



Sermon

Matthew Humphrey, EC

Silence for reflection

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

Confession and Assurance / Absolution

Bell. Silent Prayer of confession. Bell.

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

The Peace

The peace of the Christ 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.



The Offertory Song: Nothing to Fear

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned
I am the Lord, I am the Lord

(Chorus) And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear
For I am with you always

In the depths of your sorrow, I wept beside you
When you walked through the shadow, I drew you near
And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same
I am the Lord, I am the Lord

[Chorus]

What can separate you from my perfect love? (3x)
Do not fear (3x)

2019 Integrity Worship Music/PG Songs And Hymns/ASCAP

Paul Zach Publishing Designee/ASCAP, Fortunate Fall Music (adm by Music Services) / CCLI#7133723

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

Generous God, in Jesus Christ you have come to be with us, and to be one of us. You have called us and claimed us as your own, through baptism and through your self-giving at this table. Bless us and these gifts, that we may remember who we are, and to whom we belong. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving / The Most Holy Eucharist

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 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 recognize 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:

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!

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 God, 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 the lowly being lifted up. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

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 of all you have done to save us,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again (2x)

+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. **Amen.**

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) - Jan and Marty Reardon / Trinity music

Song: A Feast Unto the World

Oh, the bread is made for breaking (3x)

Let us lay our bodies down

Oh, the wine is made for sharing (3x)

Let us pour our lives out

Chorus:

If you're hungry, won't you come;

if you're thirsty mercy runs

From the table where the love of One

who's broken makes us one

As we join to drink and eat,

may the love in us increase

That we become a feast unto the world

Now the table is made ready (3x)

All who live are welcome here

Go on, pass it to each other (3x)

Be the food somebody needs

Chorus

Go to the world with hope and courage (3x)

Your body bread, your blood as wine

© Jason Wood 2017

Song: Everlasting God

Everlasting God, You alone are the LORD

Over all the Kingdoms of the earth.

You bring out your starry host one by one

And call them all by name.

Everlasting God, you weigh clouds with heavy dew,

Pour spring rains over barren land.

You warm soil with golden light,

Rolling hills you drape in silken moss.

(Chorus) Your grace holds us near. Your mercies rise

Long will our hearts behold you. Everlasting God

Everlasting God, You grant us daily breath,
Guide our feet along the path of peace.
You preserve the poor outcast,
hear prisoner's cries and soothe our broken hearts.
Everlasting God, You alone are the Lord
Over all the creatures of the earth.
You feed us in bread and wine,
body and blood. Your mercies ever new. (Chorus)

Everlasting God, by the star you led forth
Showed the way for shepherds and magi
You bid us: "come and see"
The God in flesh, our world is redeemed.
Everlasting God, we heard the voice,
Saw the dove
And into Christ we are baptized
You speak over us the words:
"You are my Child, with you I am well pleased." (Chorus)
Tom Wuest, 2010. Brass Trumpet Publishing

Prayer after Communion

[we say together] **Generous God, in Jesus Christ you have come to be with us, and to be one of us. You have called us and claimed us as your own, through baptism and through your self-giving at this table. Bless us and these gifts, that we may remember who we are, and to whom we belong. Amen.**

We Are Sent

The Blessing

Closing Song: Come Thou Fount

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure, sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure of my God's unchanging love.

Here I make faith's affirmation: thus far by thy help I've come,
and I hope, by thy compassion, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
take my heart, O take and seal it, seal for thy courts above.

Robert Robinson, 1758. Public Domain

Sending

Go as beloved in Christ to enflesh and encounter God's presence in the world.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude Song: Watch Over You

(Chorus)

And the Lord will watch over you, watch over you

The Lord will watch over you

The Lord will watch over you, watch over you

The Lord will watch over you

Jason Wood, 2023.

Closing Loop

***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

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 Style of Taizé

THIS Friday January 17 at 6pm



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
 - 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.

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

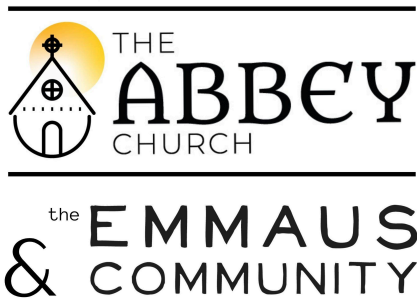
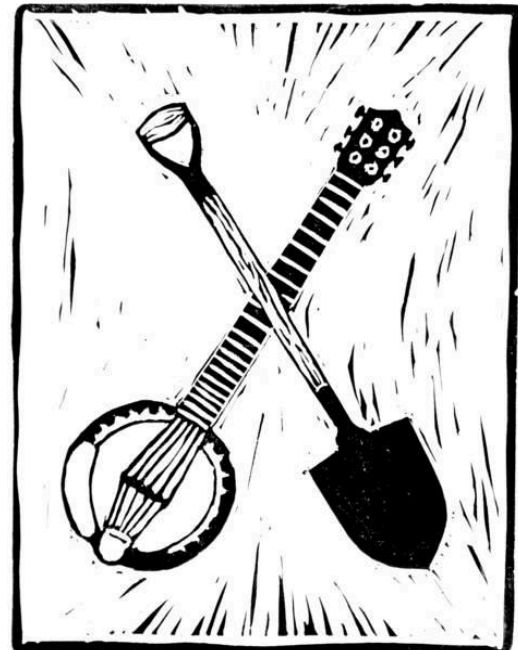
We are so grateful for your presence with us! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our ministry in 2024 and made it possible to continue to thrive in the place God has called us to. If you are interested in donating to our common life, you can now send offerings by **e-transfer to treasurer@emmauscommunity.ca** 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.



THE FOREST ARCHIVE

We're grateful and excited to have Jason Wood (aka The Forest Archive) with us today providing music and accompanying the band!

Check out Jason's music at Bandcamp <https://theforestarchive.bandcamp.com/> or on Spotify by searching *The Forest Archive*. The Forest Archive pairs the energy and earthiness of grassroots folk with a lyricism rooted in the poetry of the ancient psalmists and prophets. Sung by and for community, Jason's songs invite others to join in a deeper story, a divine epic of celebration and lament, longing and gratitude, resistance to injustice and unfettered joy. Jason is also the Youth and Families Ministry Coordinator at St. Laurence Anglican Church and a leader for ignYte, the shared youth ministry of St. Laurence and Good Shepherd Lutheran. After eight years of urban farming in Vancouver and helping found Earthkeepers, a faith-based climate justice network, Jason studied at VST for ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada. In his free time, he enjoys walking outdoors, writing and playing music, and hanging out with his wife Anna and their 4 year old child.



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

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