

The Feast of Epiphany

January 5, 2025, 9:30 am

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" by J. Pachelbel

Welcome & Announcements Kathy Abernathy

Opening Hymn, #124 What star is this with beams so bright The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Gloria

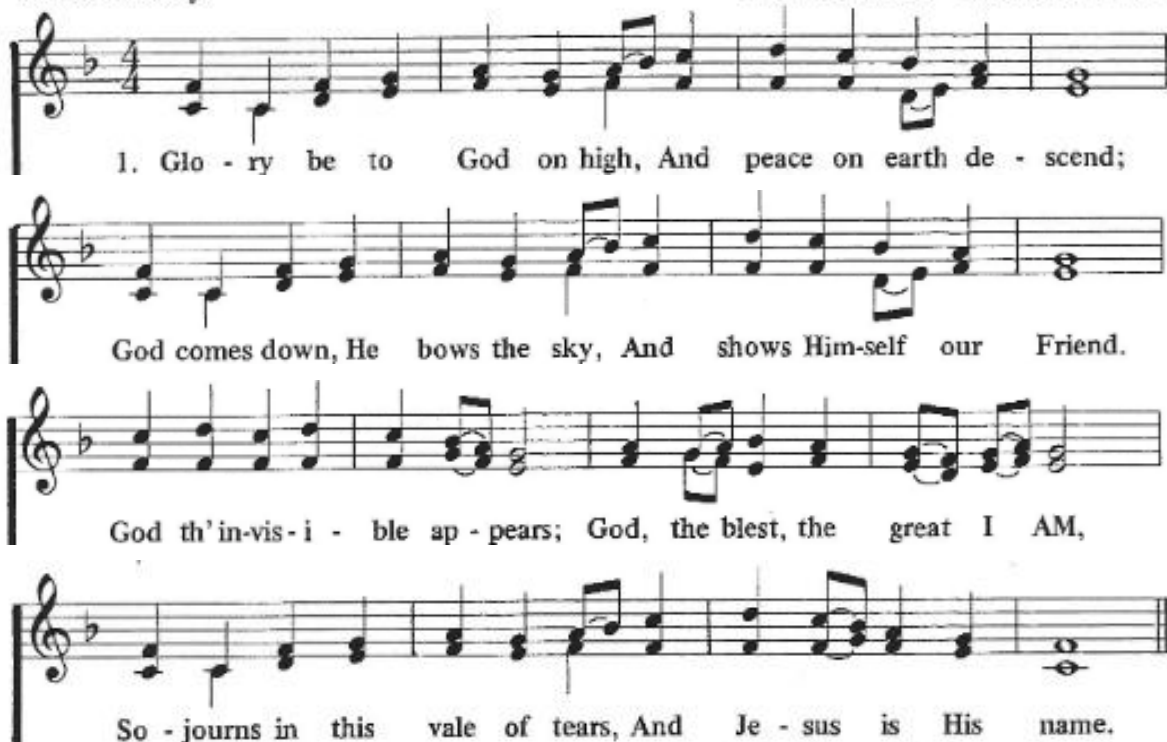
143

Glory Be to God on High

AMSTERDAM 76767776

Charles Wesley

From *Foundery Collection*, 1742



1. Glo - ry be to God on high, And peace on earth de - scend;
God comes down, He bows the sky, And shows Him-self our Friend.
God th'in-vis-i - ble ap - pears; God, the blest, the great I AM,
So - journals in this vale of tears, And Je - sus is His name.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Children's Greeting

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

The Lessons

First Lesson, Isaiah 60:1-6

Michele Johns

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People **Thanks be to God**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Second Lesson, Ephesians 3:1-12

Michele Johns

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches
People **Thanks be to God**

Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Celebrant The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, O God.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Anthem

"Alleluia, song of gladness" (Hymn #122)

The Hymnal 1982

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant Joining with the faithful of all generations, let us confess our faith:
People **We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

John Perkins

Leader

As people of old were led to worship before the Christ child, we also come,
offering all that we are and all that we possess, praying for seekers of the light
and for all who walk in darkness.
Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

We pray for the church, that it may be drawn ever towards you. Direct its leaders
and give us the courage to follow where you lead us.
Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Communion, especially the
Church in Wales, and for the Diocese of Maine, especially St. Margaret's, Belfast,
and St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry in Portland, and for all of us in our vocations
and ministries.
Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

We pray for the community of nations as we begin a new year. We are
particularly mindful of the people who live with the threat of violence every
day. We pray that during this year there may be a rebuilding of trust and
cooperation among all nations and peoples.
Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

We pray for our families and ask that our homes be places where Christ abides and is always welcome. We especially pray for those who begin this new year uncertain of their employment, anxious about the stability of their marriages or families, or worried about their health.

Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

Support, O God, with the spirit of courage and comfort, the people who are struggling to find their way, all who are in pain, sorrow, or confusion. We remember those on our parish prayer list:

Pat; Antonia; Al; Alex; Virginia & Jamil; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Perry; Jim; Elaine; Sasha; Paige; Karl; Nathaniel; Will; Nancy A.; Karen; Debra; Haskell; Sue; Don; Matilda; Gregory; Andy; Ruth; Molly; Wes; Alison; Alice; Patrick, Jessie; Nova; Nate; Richard; Bill; Dave & Judy; Steven; Nina; Jen; Heather; Vance; Cheryl; Peter; Gary; Ernie; Charlotte; Larre; Jennifer; Ted; the Chandler family; and the Hodgkins family.

And we pray for those we name before you now, either aloud or silently...

Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

We pray for those who have come to the end of their earthly journey, for those who have died, and for those who grieve. We remember especially Peter Lord Chandler, and Tucker Hodgkins, close friend of Mark Desiderio, and those we name before you now, aloud or silently...

Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

We offer our thanks for the year that has passed, grateful for opportunities to serve and for experiences of love. And now we offer our thanks for the future. May we live our lives not in fear but in gratitude, not in isolation but in praise.

Jesus, hope of the world, **Guide your people this new year.**

Celebrant O loving God, as the star of old revealed your blessed Son to the nations of the world, lead us to a clearer vision of your presence, that we may work for that more perfect will of God and minister your love and grace. We pray in Christ's name.

People **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Gracious God,
People **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

People **Amen**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with those around them.

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

At this time, the bread and wine are brought forward. The ushers will collect the offering.

Offertory Hymn, # 128

We three kings

The Hymnal 1982

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,
People **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to Christ our Sovereign.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you are the fulfilment of all our searching.

Since the time you created all things
you have had a plan
— hidden in mystery through the ages —
to draw all the world into one body,
and to share with all peoples your promises of glory.

And now the light has risen,
 the mystery is made known:
 your beloved child, Jesus, is revealed to the whole world
 as Savior and Redeemer,
 and as the King who reigns in justice and peace.
 You made him known first
 to the magi from the east,
 who came to pay him homage,
 though they knew of him only what the silent stars could tell.

And now, you draw us again to the feet of Jesus
 — the crucified and risen Christ —
 to offer our gifts of praise to the light of the world.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise
 your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus, S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant

O God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendor and light. You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a boundary to the seas. You have filled the world with your creatures and called all things good.

In these latter days, you leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the animals and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love.

Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts, and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen one is enthroned at God’s right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

So, rejoicing in all God has done for us, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these gifts of bread and wine. Make them to be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth. Shine your grace, brighter than starlight, on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel – God-With-Us.

Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
People **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Invitation

Celebrant Come! For all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.
People **Thanks be to God!**

Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward through the center aisle, individuals and families are invited to stand along the rounded edge of the chancel to receive the bread, hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. The Chalice Bearers will follow the Priest with the chalice of wine. You are invited to sip from the cup but not to dip. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive the blessing of the words. If you would prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.

During Communion, healing prayers will be offered in the Chapel by a member of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Music at Communion 252 Jesus! name of wondrous love
117 Brightest and best

The Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,

People

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

May God give to you and to all those you love
God's comfort and peace,
God's light and joy,
in this world and the next;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always.

People

Amen.

Closing Hymn, #497

How bright appears the morning star

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Deacon

Go forth into the world, sharing the light of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

"Noel of the Three Kings" by A. Guilmant

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Music	Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer	John Perkins
Lector	Michele Johns
Ushers	Tom Hyndman, Kathleen Damon
Altar Guild	Beth LaSalle
Flower Arranger	Jay Souder
A/V	Joe Michaud
Bread Baker	Suki Curtis
Counters	Pamela Trudo, Susie Soule
Snow Removal	John Duncan
VPOW	Kathy Abernathy
Coffee Hour	Jay & Basil Souder
Prayers in the Chapel	Imelda Schaefer

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Old Testament, New Testament and Gospels readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Collects, Psalms, and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979.

Prayers of the People: written by The Rev. Stephen White

Confession & Absolution, Offertory Prayer, Post Communion Prayer: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

Great Thanksgiving: ©2000 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net

Eucharistic Prayer: Episcopal Common Prayer, www.episcopalcommonprayer.org

Blessing: Church of England, Common Worship

The values that guide our Worship & Music Committee's process for creating our liturgies are inclusive, grounded, challenging, and creative. At St. Bart's, we strive to use language and imagery that is both inclusive and expansive for God and humanity.

ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday, 1/26 after worship

The Annual Meeting for St. Bart's will take place on Sunday, January 26th, 2025, following the 9:30 am Service. This meeting will be in-person with an option to participate via Zoom for those not able to make it in-person. An invitation to the meeting, along with the Annual Report and the Zoom link, will be sent out the week of January 20th. Please be sure to attend this important meeting. We will be approving the 2025 budget, voting on the new vestry slate as well as hearing updates from the Wardens.