

The First Sunday of Lent
Refugee Sunday
March 9, 2025, 9:30 am

There are more than 110 million people forcibly displaced in the world today, and of this number, more than 35.3 million are refugees: children and adults forced to flee their home countries to escape persecution and violence. Each one of these 35.3 million is a person with a story, with a name, with hopes, and with dreams. Each is a beloved child of God.

We are living in a time when the political conversation and media messages about refugees and asylum seekers too often veer to the negative and dehumanizing. Into this challenging environment, we are called, as followers of Christ, to share the Good News of God: to be ministers of welcome and bearers of hope. To remind everyone we meet - neighbors near, and neighbors far - of their belovedness as a child of God.

Refugee Sunday is a special observance that honors and celebrates the Church’s ministry of refugee welcome, teaches about refugees and refugee resettlement, and through reading of scripture, prayer, and reflection, inspires church members to act in support of refugees, immigrants, and Episcopal Migration Ministries.

- From Episcopal Migration Ministries

St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude Toccata, by J. P. Sweelinck

Welcome & Announcements *Kevin Gillan*

Opening Hymn, #529 In Christ there is no East or West *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Litany

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation.
People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Intern God is our refuge in times of trouble,
 keeping us steady upon the road,
 watching over us and holding us in grace.
 Where does our help come from?

People **Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!**

Celebrant God is our fortress in times of distress,
wrapping us in safety,
granting peace when our lives are not at ease.
Where does our help come from?

People **Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!**

Intern God is our parent who knows us so well,
wanting only the best for us,
willing always to forgive and to reconcile.
Where does our help come from?

People **Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!**

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Kyrie, S86

The Hymnal 1982

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -
le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

The Confession & Absolution

Celebrant God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us
from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we
may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection

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 As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
People **Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan:
Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you
know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
People **Amen.**

Children's Message

Mary Curlew, Intern

The Lessons

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm, 91:1-2, 9-16 (sung)

Tone by James Frazier



1. He who dwells in the shelter ' of the Most ' High, *
abides under the ' shadow of ' the Al- ' mighty.
2. He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge ' and my ' stronghold, *
my God in ' whom I ' put my ' trust."
9. Because you have made the ' Lord your ' refuge, *
and the Most ' High your ' habi- ' tation,
10. There shall no evil ' happen to ' you, *
neither shall any ' plague come ' near your ' dwelling.
11. For he shall give his angels ' charge over ' you, *
to ' keep you in ' all your ' ways.
12. They shall bear you ' in their ' hands, *
lest you dash your ' foot a- ' gainst a ' stone.
13. You shall tread upon the ' lion and ' adder; *
you shall trample the young lion, and the ' serpent ' under your ' feet.
14. Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will ' I de- ' liver him; *
I will protect him be- ' cause he ' knows my ' name.
15. He shall call upon me, and ' I will ' answer him; *
I am with him in trouble, I will ' rescue him and ' bring him to ' honor.
16. With long life will I ' satis- ' fy him, *
and ' show him ' my sal- ' vation.

Second Lesson: Romans 10:8b-13

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Lector Holy wisdom, holy word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #150

Forty days and forty nights

The Hymnal 1982

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

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

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Anthem

“Teach Me, O Lord” by David Hurd

*Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart.
Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.
Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, which you make to those who fear you.
Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life.*

The Nicene Creed

Intern

Joining the faithful witness of those who have spoken these words for centuries before us, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

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

Mary Curlew

Leader As we witness the widespread refugee crisis in our world, we remember that the stories of our tradition are stories of wandering, of flight, and of forced migration. Our Holy Scriptures tell us of the sojourns of the people of God – of slavery and persecution, of wandering in the wilderness, of exile and loss.

Today, as we pray for the Church and for the world, we remember our own sacred stories and how they call us to live in God's world, to bring forth God's dream of shalom.

With all our heart and all our mind, let us pray to our God, saying, "Lord, hear us."

Silence for reflection

People Sovereign God, may we who are the Body of Christ, the Church, embrace and welcome the immigrant, the refugee, and all who seek shelter from any danger. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

God of protection, whose Son fled violence from his own home with Joseph and Mary and sought refuge in a foreign land, hear the cries of all who suffer because of hatred, war, violence, greed, and famine. Help us to peacefully mend our divisions, that all you have created in this world may be whole. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

God Who makes us One, we pray for our nation and all the nations of the world, that those who govern the people and have authority over them may consider each life to be of value and may serve the people of their nation with equity and fairness, dedicating themselves to peaceful resolution of conflict. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

Gracious God, we pray for our newest neighbors, that those families who have sought refuge from the ravages of war and violence may find not only shelter and sustenance, but also a loving and supportive community in which to create a new beginning with dignity. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

Loving God, there is no one that goes unnoticed in Your eyes. Take into Yourself all who suffer. May Christ the Wounded Healer relieve the pain of hunger, heal the afflicted body, soothe the fears of the mind, bring peace to the soul, and be tender with the broken hearted, that those who have endured unspeakable trials may find themselves restored in Christ. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

Eternal God, may you receive those who have died during times of war and violence into your loving and peaceful arms and may they find rest for their souls. Comfort those who mourn the loss of their friends and loved ones and give them relief from the painful memories they bear, giving assurance of eternal life. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

Almighty and Loving God, you who have crossed the boundaries of Heaven and Earth to be with your people, visit those who must flee their homes because of violence and oppression and lead them to a land of safety. We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

And, most Gracious God, we bring before the cares and concerns on our own hearts. Hear your people gathered here this morning as they pray now, either aloud or silently (*pause for intercessions*). We lift our prayer to You,
Lord, hear us.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Source of All Being, that you hear our intercessions on behalf of ourselves and on behalf of our migrant siblings. We thank you that love swallows fear, that in your compassion we learn to walk with those who suffer, that when we give of ourselves we receive far more, and that when we receive those who stand knocking at our doors, we receive Christ the Beloved One. May all praise, glory and honor be to our God, the Most High.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Jesus said to the disciples: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.' (John 14:27)

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

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

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

Our offerings of bread and wine are brought forward at this time.

Offertory Hymn, #143

The glory of these forty days

The Hymnal 1982

The offering is now brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Intern

Let us pray,

People

All things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee. 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 Savior.

People

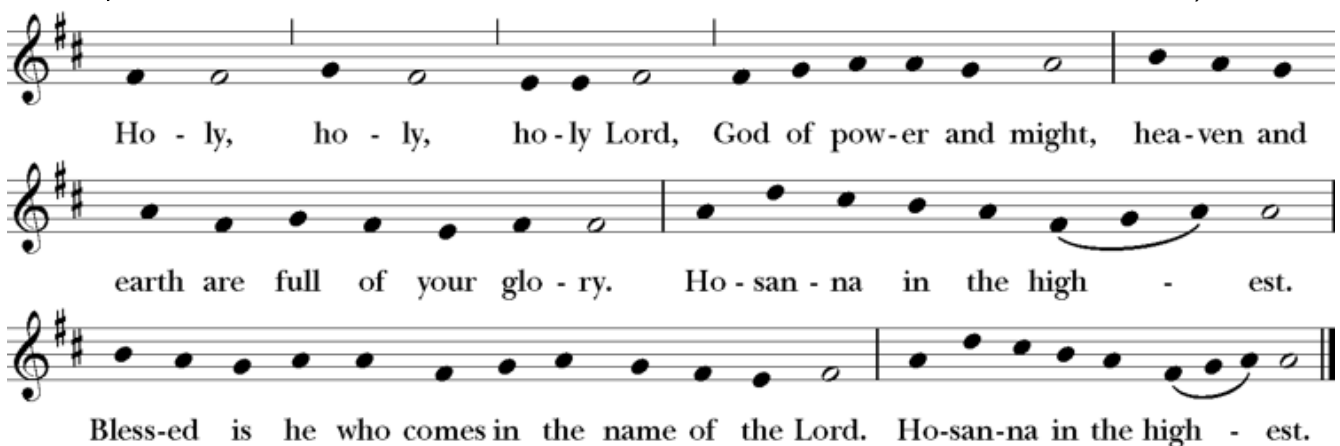
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

Creating God,
we lift our hearts to you
because you made the universe from nothing
and formed human beings in your image
from the dust of the earth.
In Adam and Eve,
you saw your hopes for creation turn to ashes,
and yet in Abraham and Sarah and Moses and his sister Miriam
you called your people out of wilderness and slavery.
You showed your face to your people in exile,
and in Christ you raised your children to new life
out of the ashes of sin and death.
And so, we gladly praise and thank you,
with angels and archangels
and the company of heaven,
singing your unending praise:

Sanctus, S124

The Hymnal 1982



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant

Redeeming God, over forty days you flooded the earth, over forty years you led your people through the wilderness, and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus through the desert. Bless us through the sustenance of this food and drink to profess your Son's death and resurrection.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may come to resemble and follow our crucified and risen Savior, and that this bread and this cup may become for us our everlasting banquet, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Celebrant Great is the mystery of faith.
People **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Sanctifying God, where your children are in the wilderness, lead them to your heart. Where your people are hungry for you, give them practices of fasting and Scripture-reading and alms-giving and repentance and prayer. Where your followers know beatings, imprisonments, hardships, and calamities, visit them with the comforting power of your presence.

People Raise up the glory of your resurrection from the ashes of our pride and sloth and greed, that all your church and the whole creation may celebrate the wonders of your love, until the day when everyone shall perceive you and praise you, you are all in all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God, Mother of us all.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People

Our Father, who art in heaven	as we forgive those
hallowed be thy Name,	who trespass against us.
thy kingdom come,	And lead us not into
thy will be done,	temptation,
on earth as it is in heaven.	but deliver us from evil.
Give us this day our daily	For thine is the kingdom,
bread.	and the power, and the glory,
And forgive us our	for ever and ever.
trespasses,	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.**

The 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 Bearer will follow the Priest with the cup of wine. You are invited to sip from the cup. 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.

Music at Communion, #763 As we gather

Wonder, Love, and Praise

1. As we gath - er at your
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to

Ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word, help us
wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life; send us

know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be
forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is

stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we
strife. Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for -

claim it as our own; teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; may we still be - hold your

ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age in the world you died to save. *to verse 3*

Post Communion Prayer

Intern God of the feast,
we thank you for satisfying us at your table
with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

People In the strength of this meal,
refreshed by your Holy Spirit,
send us into a hungry world

with food and love and Good News to share.
Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant The God of peace,
who gives food to every living creature,
give you your daily bread,
and make you hungry and thirsty for justice.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord Jesus Christ,
who feeds us in this sacrament,
give you strength for work and witness,
and bring you to the wedding banquet of heaven and earth.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant The Spirit of grace,
who nourishes hearts and minds with saving truth,
give you joyful companions at Wisdom's feast,
and send you to feed the hungry and bring good news to the poor.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant And the blessing of God,
holy eternal Majesty,
holy incarnate Word,
holy abiding Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
(see next page)



There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of man's mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;

and we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him as his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

The Dismissal

Celebrant
People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Praeludium, by Georg Bohm

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Preacher	John Hennessy, Public Policy Director, Episcopal Diocese of Maine
Music	Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer	Mary Curlew, Intern
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	Jan Burson
Lector	
Ushers	Pal Covie, Jennifer Willard
Altar Guild	Beth LaSalle
Flowers/Plants	Barbara Barhydt
A/V	Peter Sillin
Bread Baker	Nancy Gunzelman
Counters	Marcia Sharp, Jan Burson
Snow Removal	Joe Michaud
VPOW	Kevin Gillan
Coffee Hour	Michele Johns & Anne Berg

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Liturgy: The Holy Eucharist from *Enriching our Worship 1*

Opening Litany: adapted from ©John Birch

Confession & Absolution: *Sundays and Seasons*, Augsburg Fortress © 2025

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The Psalms are from the Saint Helena Psalter

The Nicene Creed: The phrase “and the Son,” referred to as the *Filioque*, has been omitted in solidarity with the Eastern Orthodox expressions of the Christian Faith

Prayers of the People: By Alyssa Stebbing, Outreach Director, Trinity Episcopal Church, The Woodlands, Episcopal Diocese of Texas for Episcopal Migration Ministries Refugee Sunday Toolkit

Great Thanksgiving/Eucharistic Prayer: *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. Eerdmans 2016

Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing: from The Anglican Church of Australia



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME
A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

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Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Laurie Hyndman
Jr. Warden:	Susan Garrett
Pastoral Care:	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
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