

Morning Prayer & Healing Service
October 29, 2023, 9:30 am



Photo by Dapo Oni on Unsplash

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

A note about St. Bart's Healing Service

Throughout scripture, we read stories of healing and restoration. From Genesis to Revelation, individuals with afflictions of body, mind, and spirit and communities torn apart by greed and hatred are healed by prayer or, in one instance, by Jesus' spit and a little bit of mud (John 9:6). The ministry of healing is one of the oldest offerings of our Judeo-Christian faith and one of the most essential.

In church settings, when we hear the word "healing" we may think of the miracles of Jesus, whereby a touch or a word Jesus was able to renew sight to the blind, agility to the lame, and life to the dead. Certainly, there are times when we all pray for miracles – for God to drastically intervene and make whole or make well a loved one.

Most often, however, "healing" is not just one experience of becoming well after being sick. It is a myriad of experiences of wholeness and being held, known, and loved just as we are. It is a sense of being buoyed when the waters of life are rough. It's a deep sense of embodiment when life is swirling around us. It's a cry for justice in a world still so deeply oppressed. It's knowing we do not journey through life alone but with God and God's people by our side.

St. Bart's Healing Services are times when we center this ministry of our tradition and make space for all of these aspirations for healing. Our prayers, our songs, our silence turn our attention to our healing as individuals and as a community. Lighting candles – the flames of hope, endurance, love, and peace – and anointing – oils that bless the living and those close to death – are centuries-old practices that connect us to God's healing ministry in our midst.

We invite you, this morning, into this space of healing – for you, for those you love, and for our community.

Prelude "Sarabande" from Partita #1 by JS Bach

Welcome & Announcements *Mike Perfetti*

Opening Hymn, #450 All hail the power of Jesus' name *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Acclamation

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

Susie Peixotto

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

People **Thanks be to God**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*Barbara Barhydt*

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

People **Thanks be to God**

Hymn, #679

Surely it is God who saves me

*The Hymnal 1982***Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46***The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

Deacon The holy gospel according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ!**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ!**

Sermon*The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be;
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.*

*Like a mother you enfold me,
hold my life within your own.
Feed me with your very body,
form me of your flesh and bone.*

*Like a father you protect me.
Teach me the discerning eye.
Hoist me up upon your shoulder,
let me see the world from high.*

*Friend and lover in your closeness
I am known and held and blest:
in your promise is my comfort,
in your presence I may rest.*

*Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
you have chosen me to be;
you have drawn me to your wonder,
you have set your sign on me.*

-Shirley Erena Murray

Healing Liturgy

Officiant The worship service on the 5th Sundays in our calendar year is set apart as focused on the theme of healing. As we move into prayers for the healing of our loved ones, our world and ourselves, let us take a moment to collect our thoughts and prayers.

Silence

A Litany of Healing

Pam Hobson

Leader God the Parent, your will for all people is health and salvation;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Leader God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Leader God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Leader Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Leader God, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or in need, that they may be made whole; Christ, our healer,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless physicians, nurses, first responders and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We remember those who have called upon us for prayer:

Charles; Pat; Marcella; Tim; Matthew; Antonia; Al; Alex; Virginia & Jamil; Ed; Hannah; Mike; David; Sarah; Jenny & Matt; Rich, Nancy & Jonathan; Perry; Jim; Elaine; Sasha; Paige; Anne & Richard; Courtney; Diane; Karl; Sudon; Aunt Niki; Ron; Nathaniel; Terry; Will; Tom & Laurel; Nancy A.; Dennis; Robert & Mary; Karen; Marshall; Samantha; Dianne; Meghan; Hutch; Debra; Pat; and Haskell.

Leader We remember in prayer all those who are suffering in Israel and Palestine, especially Omer Wenkert, a family member of Deb Wathen Finn's colleague who is currently being held hostage by Hamas.

Are there others we wish to commend to God at this time? Please offer your prayers, either silently or aloud... *Pause for offered prayers*

Leader Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved. We pray for those in our community who have recently died. We pray especially for those who perished in the mass shooting in Lewiston this week, and we remember them now with a chime tolling for each person who died. *Pause as the chime tolls.*

I invite your prayers, either silently or aloud, for those you would like to remember... *Pause for offered prayers*

Leader Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Our orange candle is lit as a vigil each week in remembrance of victims of gun violence. God of Justice, help us, your church, to find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun

violence. Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done, and grant us the conviction to advocate for change.

Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for our fragile earth, that we may be good stewards of your creation:

Christ, our healer,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader You are the God who does wonders:

People **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Leader With you, O God, is the well of life:

People **And by your illumination we perceive.**

Leader Hear us, O God of life:

People **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Officiant At this time, we will bless prayer shawls that have been prepared by our St. Bart's knitters and which will be given to members of our community who would like to be wrapped in prayer.

We invite the congregation to say the following Prayer of Blessing together:

People **May God's grace be upon these shawls...
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.
May this mantle be a safe haven...
a sacred place of security and well-being...
sustaining and embracing
in good times as well as difficult ones.
May the one who receives these shawls
be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace,
and wrapped in love.**

After the above prayer is said, the shawls will be placed on the table. As you come forward to light a candle, you are invited to add your own blessing to the shawls through touch or silent prayer.

Officiant At this time, we move into a time of quiet reflection. During this time, you are invited to light a candle or to go to the chapel for healing prayer with a member of our Pastoral Care Committee as a symbol of Christ's light and healing presence for the concerns of your heart.

The congregation is invited forward to light a candle as a symbol of the healing light of Christ illuminating our path. Healing prayers will be offered in the Chapel by a member of the Pastoral Care Committee. During this time of reflection, you are invited to sing...

A

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

B

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Once everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues.

Officiant Let us pray

People Open us to your healing power, O God. We entrust ourselves to your care, knowing that you are doing for us and for all the world far better things than we can ask or imagine. With you as our Shepherd and guide, strengthen us to hope for all that is good and to fear no evil. For your love is stronger than death, and your faithfulness reaches to the heavens. To you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and to the ages of ages. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us 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.**

Leader Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People **And grant us your salvation.**

Pam Hobson

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life (said together)

People O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Grace

Officiant Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor

be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Guidance (said together)

People **Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer for Mission (Officiant)

Officiant Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant Let us show to each other a sign of Christ's Peace.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people are seated after sharing a sign of peace with one another.

Offertory Sentence

Officiant "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 ushers will collect the offering.

Offertory Hymn, #517 How lovely is thy dwelling place

The Hymnal 1982

The Doxology, sung

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Sing praise all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Officiant All things come of thee, O God;
People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

All Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and
loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our
common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved
Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the
midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us;
granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life
everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Romans 15:13)

Testimony of Gratitude

John Rush

Closing Hymn, #609

Where cross the crowded ways of life

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve Christ in our world this week.

People **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

“Praeludium” from Partita #1 by JS Bach

Need Hearing Assistance?

We have earpieces that receive audio from the sound system. You can find them in charging stations in the entryway. Simply slip the earpiece over your ear, turn it on with the volume switch, and adjust volume. Please return to the charging stations when you are done.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Officiant	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Music	Sarah Covie
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Candles	*John Perkins
Prayer Leader	*Pam Hobson
Lectors	*Susie Peixotto, Barbara Barhydt
Prayers in the Chapel	*Mary Curlew
Ushers	Jay & Basil Souder
Altar Guild	Jamie Michaud, Paule French
Flower Arranger	Susannah White
A/V	Laurie Hyndman
Counters	Dennis Fitzgibbons, Pal Covie
Lawn Care	David Heald
VPOW	Laurie Hyndman
Coffee Hour	Carol Hayes + Michele Johns

*indicates members of the Pastoral Care Team

ST BART'S VISION STATEMENT

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Yarmouth, Maine is a place to explore and deepen one's faith through worship, music, education, and open dialogue to help each of us and our community faithfully navigate today's ever-changing world. We are an open, inclusive, creative, and welcoming community. Building on the vision of those who established St. Bart's 50 years ago, we continue to strengthen and grow our community by grounding our ministries in the love of Jesus Christ, telling our story joyfully, and caring for the needs of our congregation and the greater Yarmouth and surrounding communities. St. Bart's is a great landing place for those seeking a welcoming and inclusive faith experience.



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

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Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Michele Johns
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