

*Season of Advent, First Sunday*  
*December 3, 2023, 9:30 am*



*Waiting for the Revealing, Jan Richardson*

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church    Yarmouth, Maine**

## Prelude

"Sleepers Wake" by Paul Manz

## Welcome & Announcements

### Opening Hymn, #57

Lo, He comes with clouds descending

*The Hymnal 1982*

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* In this season of expectation,  
*People* **We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah!**

*Deacon* Into the bustle of our lives  
and the hard to find moments of solitude,  
*People* **We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah!**

*Celebrant* Into our homes and communities  
along with friends and family,  
*People* **We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah!**

*Deacon* Into our hearts, and those often-hidden parts of our lives,  
*People* **We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah!**

*Celebrant* In this season of anticipation,  
*People* **We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, the Messiah!**

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

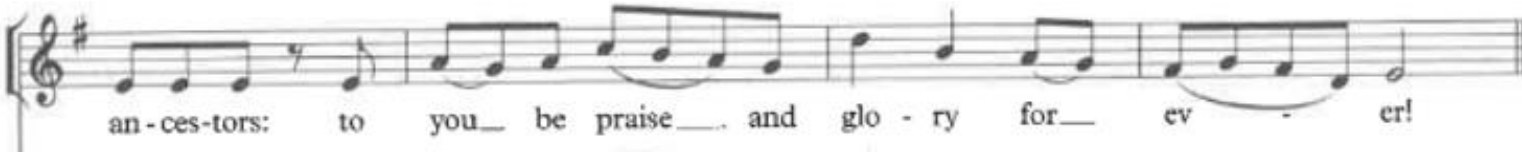
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Lighting the Advent Candles, sung

*The Advent Candles are lit as the Cantor, Congregation and Choir sing.*

**Cantor:** Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord

**Congregation:**



**Choir:** You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.  
May we be obedient to your call and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

**Cantor:** For you are our light and our salvation.

**Congregation:**



Children's Greeting

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

## The Lessons

### First Lesson, Isaiah 64:1-9

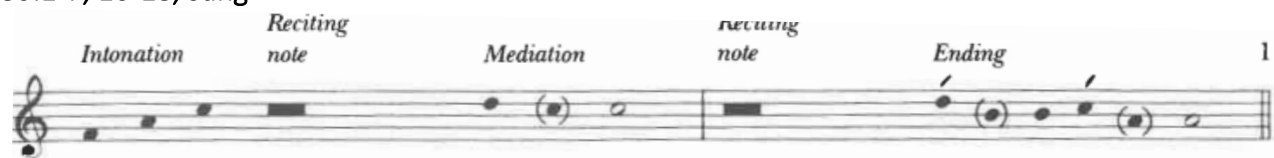
Linda Perkins

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18, sung**



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ' like a ' flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are en- ' throned up- ' on the ' cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ' and Ma- ' nassah, \*  
stir up your ' strength and ' come to ' help us.

3 Restore us, O ' God of ' hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, ' and we ' shall be ' saved.

4 O Lord ' God of ' hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered de- ' spite the ' prayers of your ' people?

5 You have fed them with the ' bread of ' tears; \*  
you have given them ' bowls of ' tears to ' drink.

6 You have made us the derision ' of our ' neighbors, \*  
and our ' enemies ' laugh us to ' scorn.

7 Restore us, O ' God of ' hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, ' and we ' shall be ' saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of ' your right ' hand, \*  
the son of man you have ' made so ' strong for your- ' self.

17 And so will we never turn a- ' way from ' you; \*  
give us life, that we may ' call up-' on your ' Name.

18 Restore us, O ' Lord God of ' hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, ' and we ' shall be ' saved.

## Second Lesson, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*Linda Perkins*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Hymn, #73

The king shall come

*The Hymnal 1982*

## Gospel, Mark 13:24-37

*The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel, according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, O God.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sermon

*Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

Hymn, #64

O heavenly word

*The Hymnal 1982*

Affirmation of Faith

*Celebrant*        Let us affirm our faith as we say together:  
*People*            We believe in God,  
                      creator and lover of the earth,  
                      origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ  
- God coming to us  
in the fragile promise  
of a baby yet unborn -  
who emerges as the herald of hope,  
God's laughter in the face of despair.  
Plunged into death,  
he broke free the captives,  
and is leading the way  
to the land of promise  
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who implants the seed of truth,  
brings us to birth  
as the body of Christ,  
and empowers us  
to confront and transform  
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.  
Announced by the Baptist,  
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,  
and will be consummated  
in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,  
when all who have passed through  
the world's deep sorrow

will be raised from the waters,  
robed in righteousness,  
and gathered into the joyous fulfilment  
of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day,  
we work and pray:  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

## Prayers of the People

*Barbara Barhydt*

*Leader* Siblings in Christ, during this Advent season, we are invited to pay attention, to watch and to prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives and in this world. As we make our prayers, let us join with all in heaven and on earth as we pray: Come Lord Jesus, Hear our prayer.

*A brief silence for reflection.*

We pray for the church throughout the world, remembering especially Palestinian Christians and all those who live under duress and fear. We pray for all who work to build up the body of Christ in all its expressions around the world. And, we pray for our St. Bart's family gathered here today, that we may live into your mission for us at this time. Come Lord Jesus,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation and for all the nations of the world, remembering especially those who are victims of political or social injustice. We pray for those whom we have elected to public office, remembering particularly Joe, our President, Janet, our Governor, and for political leaders everywhere, that they may administer the tasks of government with courage and equity. Come Lord Jesus,  
**Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are hungry, homeless, or struggle with addiction. We pray for the sick, the elderly, and for those who find this time of year painful, remembering, especially, those on our St. Bart's prayer list:

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

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 for whom you would like to pray? ...*silence for intercessions*.  
Come Lord Jesus,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, especially Marshall Souder Lawson, younger sister to Basil and Ann Souder and sister-in-law and dear friend of Jay Souder, and those who mourn, that they may grow in their knowledge and love of you. We remember especially ... I invite you to add your own intercessions, either silently or aloud...*silence for intercessions*. Come Lord Jesus,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this fragile earth. May we be faithful stewards of your gift and administer its bounty with wisdom for the good of all your creation. Come Lord Jesus,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for all that makes our hearts glad this day: Please share your own gratitude, either silently or aloud...*silence for intercessions*. Come Lord Jesus,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We thank you that you have called us to be your people. Give us patience as we await your coming and help us to see your abiding presence already in our midst. Come Lord Jesus,  
**Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come. Amen.**

## The Confession & Absolution

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,  
*People* **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 our Savior 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.**

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

*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*      “O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” (Revelation 4:11)

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 offerings of our community gathered.*

## Offertory Anthem                      “Zion at Thy Shining Gates” 16th c. Bohemian, arr. G. Guest

*Zion at thy shining gates  
Lo, the King of Glory waits,  
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet,  
Strew thy palms before his feet.*

*Christ, for thee their triple light,  
Faith and hope and love unite;  
This the beacon we display  
To proclaim thine advent day.*

*Come and give us peace within,  
Loose us from the bands of sin,  
Take away the galling weight  
Laid on us by Satan's hate.*

*Give us grace thy yoke to wear,  
Give us strength thy cross to bear,  
Make us thine in deed and word,  
Thine in heart and life, O Lord.*

*So, when thou shalt come again,  
Judge of angels and of men,  
We with all thy saints shall sing  
Alleluias to our King.*

*The offering is brought forward.*

## Offertory Prayer

*Celebrant*

*People*

Let us pray,

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving, S120, sung

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in the light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name as we sing,

## Sanctus, S124

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*

All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you;  
all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfillment.  
And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond our sight,  
we especially praise you, whom eternity cannot contain,  
for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.  
For his life which informs our living,  
for his compassion which changes our hearts,  
for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities,  
for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering, his fearless dying,  
his rising to life breathing forgiveness,  
we praise you and bless you.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfills your purpose,  
we fall silent ...  
and remember him who came because words weren't enough.  
Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside,  
emptying our hearts, and bringing nothing in our hands,  
we yearn for the healing, the holding, the accepting,  
the forgiving that Christ alone can offer.

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit  
to settle on this bread and wine,  
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus  
that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ  
and his Blood of the new Covenant.  
And then let that same Spirit rest on us,  
converting us from the patterns of this passing world,  
until we conform to the shape of the one whose food we now share.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*

*People*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,**

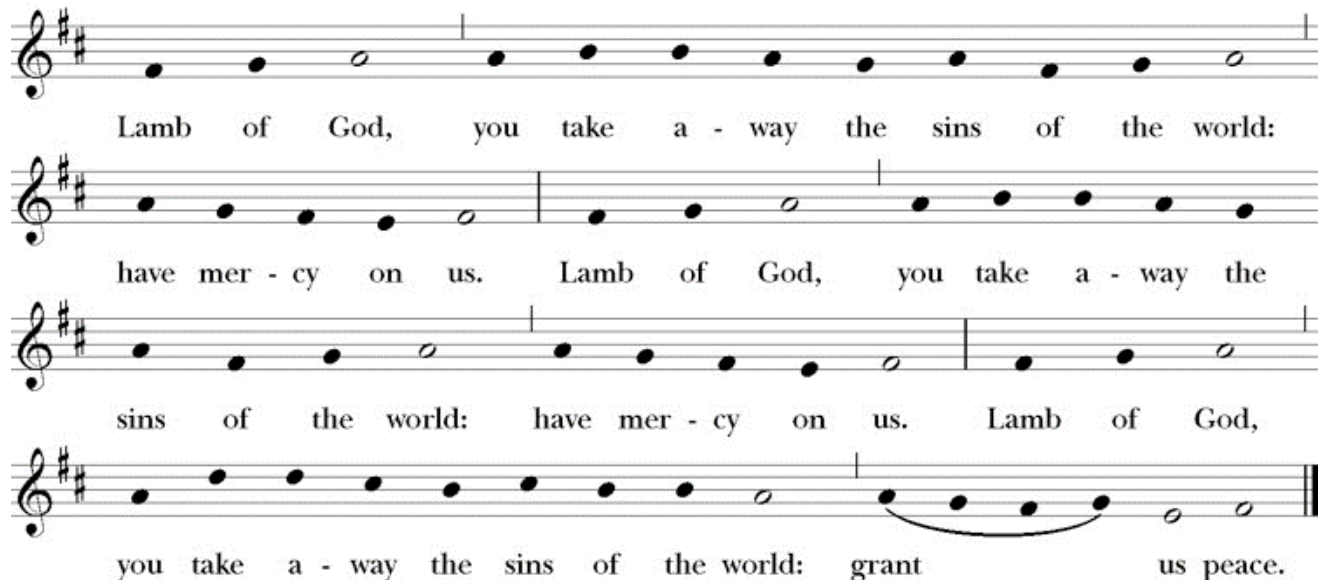
thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power,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

### The Fraction

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

### Agnus Dei, S161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

### The Invitation

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Come! For all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.  
 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, #66**      Come thou long expected Jesus

*The Hymnal 1982*

**Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant*      Let us pray together,  
*People*          God for whom we prepare, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing**

*Celebrant*      The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, as we prepare for his coming in love, in the name of the Holy Trinity.  
*People*          Amen.

**Closing Hymn, #61**

Sleepers Wake!

*The Hymnal 1982*

**The Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

"Sleepers Wake" by J.S. 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.*

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

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Prayers of the People: the Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer.

Offertory Prayer & Post-Communion Prayer: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting Four, Augsburg Fortress © 2023

Eucharistic Prayer: adapted from *A Wee Worship Book*, The Iona Community

Blessing: *Enriching Our Worship*

Cover Image: *Waiting for the Revealing*, Jan Richardson

## SERVING TODAY

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<b>Celebrant</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
<b>Deacon</b>	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
<b>Director of Music</b>	Christina Edelen
<b>Musicians</b>	The St. Bart's Choir
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Barbara Barhydt
<b>Lector</b>	Linda Perkins
<b>Ushers</b>	Jay & Basil Souder
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth LaSalle
<b>Flower Arranger</b>	Advent Wreath-Hodsdons
<b>A/V</b>	Pal Covie
<b>Bread Baker</b>	John Perkins
<b>Counters</b>	Tom Hyndman, Harriet Davis
<b>Snow Removal</b>	John Duncan
<b>VPOW</b>	Harriet Davis
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Pam Waite + Kathleen Damon
<b>Prayers in the Chapel</b>	John Perkins
<b>Sunday School Teacher</b>	Laurie Hyndman
<b>Sunday School Assistant</b>	Michele Johns
<b>Nursery Assistant</b>	Tasha Gerken-Nelson

## ST BART'S VISION STATEMENT

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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 Maine

<b>Priest-in-Charge:</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
<b>Priest-in-Charge Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org">amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Music Director:</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Deacon:</b>	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
<b>Intern:</b>	Mary Curlew
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Michele Johns
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Laurie Hyndman
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
<b>Pastoral Care Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org">pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Teri Coviello
<b>Office Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@stbartsyarmouth.org">admin@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tue-Thur, 9-3
<b>Telephone:</b>	207.846.9244
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stbartsyarmouth.org">www.stbartsyarmouth.org</a>