

Season of Advent, Second Sunday

December 8, 2024, 9:30 am

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude "Comfort, Comfort Ye my People" by Jan Bender

Welcome & Announcements *Laurie Hyndman*

Opening Hymn, #76 On Jordan's bank *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

People Holy One, as we prepare for the advent of Christ,
Give us your spirit of wisdom.

Intern As we seek to embody your love in the world,
People **Give us your spirit of good counsel.**

Celebrant As we seek to be faithful,
People **Give us your spirit of perseverance.**

Intern May we be instruments of your peace on earth
People **May your good news reign in our hearts for ever more.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Mary Curlew

Lighting the Advent Candles Like a candle flame (verses 1 & 2) *See last two pages of bulletin*

The Advent Candles are lit as congregation sings.

The Lessons

First Lesson, Malachi 3:1-4

Harriet Davis

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16, S248

The Song of Zechariah

The Hymnal 1982

Second Lesson, Philippians 1:3-11

Harriet Davis

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #75

There's a voice in the wilderness calling

The Hymnal 1982

Gospel, Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the

word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Anthem,

"Long Ago, Prophets Knew" setting by Malcolm Archer

*1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.*

Refrain:

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

*2 God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human. [Refrain]*

*3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected, [Refrain]*

*4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.*

*Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!*

*Refrain:
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!*

Affirmation of Faith

Intern

People

Let us affirm our faith as we say together:

**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

John Perkins

Leader Kindred in Christ, may God strengthen our hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray, "O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation."

A brief silence for reflection.

God our hope, increase in us love for one another that we may abound in your love. Keep your Church on the path of love and faithfulness.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the insight to perceive you, the wisdom to prepare for you, and the faith to trust in you.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of this region together in a spirit of love and respect.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. We pray for those whose names have been entrusted to our St. Bart's 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; and Charlotte.

And we pray for those we name before you now, both aloud and silently.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant God, you shape our dreams.
As we put our trust in you
may your hopes and desires be ours,
and we your expectant people.

People **Amen.**

The Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
creator of the stars of night,
companion at our table,
breath over the deep waters.

People **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Have mercy, O God,
People **against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
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 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 Hymn, #67

Comfort, Comfort Ye my people

The Hymnal 1982

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Intern Let us pray,

People God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving, S120, sung

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

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

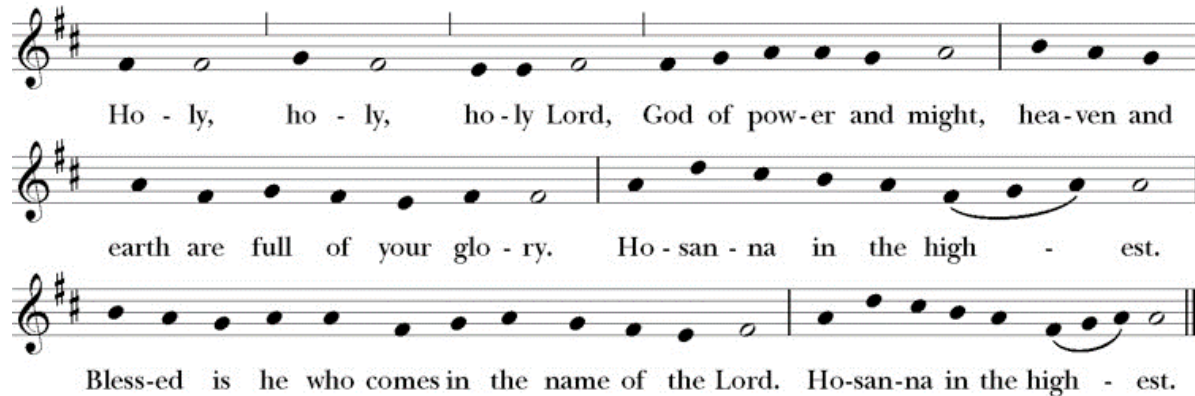
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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 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.

Music at Communion 63 O heavenly word / 332 O God, unseen yet ever near *The Hymnal 1982*

Post Communion Prayer

Intern Let us pray together,
People We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. 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, #65

Prepare the way, O Zion

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Intern
People

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

Postlude

“Comfort, Comfort Ye my People” by Georg Boehm

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Opening Acclamation: adapted from *Daily Prayer for all Seasons*.

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Prayers of the People: Rite Planning

Offertory Prayer, Great Thanksgiving Preface, & Post-Communion Prayer: *All Creation Sings*, Setting Twelve, Augsburg Fortress © 2024

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

Blessing: *Enriching Our 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.

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Pastoral Intern Mary Curlew
Music Christina Edelen
Musicians The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer John Perkins
Lector Harriet Davis
Ushers Jay & Basil Souder, Pam Waite
Altar Guild Beth LaSalle
Flower Arranger Advent Wreath - Altar Guild
A/V Pal Covie
Bread Baker Peter Sillin
Counters Tom Hyndman, Ann Donaghy
Snow Removal John Duncan
VPOW Laurie Hyndman
Coffee Hour Barbara Barhydt + Marcia Sharp
Acolyte Michael Gillan

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 Maine

Rector:	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Rector Email:	amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org
Music Director:	Dr. Christina Edelen
Pastoral Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Laurie Hyndman
Jr. Warden:	Joe Michaud
Pastoral Care:	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
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Office Email:	admin@stbartsyarmouth.org
Office Hours:	Tue-Thur, 9-3
Telephone:	207.846.9244
Website:	www.stbartsyarmouth.org

Like a candle flame

Words and music: Graham Kendrick
 Music arranged: Christopher Norton

Gently

Am Em Am Em F G C

C Em7 F G C Am Dm G E7 F G

Like a can - dle flame, flick - ring small in our dark - ness.

C Em7 F G C Am Dm G C

Un - cre - a - ted light shines through in - fant eyes.

Am Em F Am Em F

HIGH VOICES God is with us, al - le -

LOW VOICES God is with us, al - le - lu - ia,

Am Em F Am Em F G

- lu - ia, come to save us, al - le - lu -

come to save us, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

1.2. C Dm7 G 3. C D. 4. C

- ia! - ia! - ia!

2 Stars and angels sing,
 yet the earth sleeps in the shadows;
 can this tiny spark
 set a world on fire?
God is with us . . .