

Season of Advent, Second Sunday
December 10, 2023, 9:30 am



Waiting for the Revealing, Jan Richardson

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude "Comfort, Comfort Ye" by J. Pachelbel

Welcome & Announcements *Pal Covie*

Opening Hymn, #65 Prepare the way, O Zion *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Acclamation

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

Celebrant 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!**

Celebrant 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.

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.**

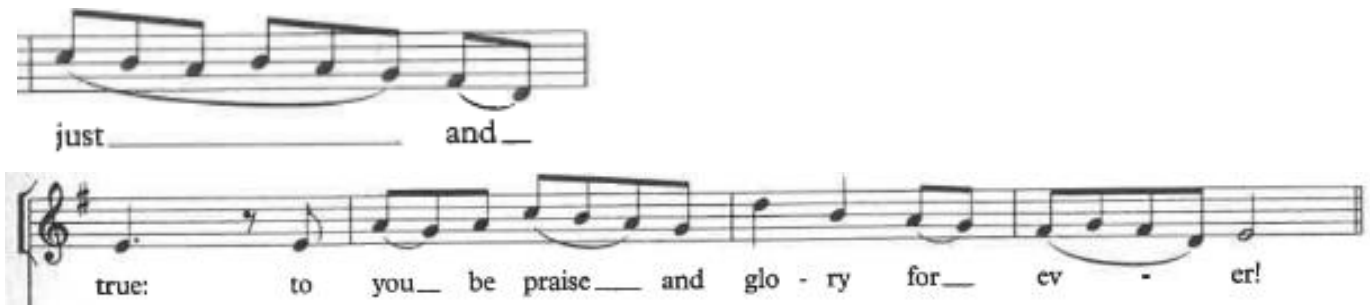
Lighting the Advent Candles, sung

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

Cantor:



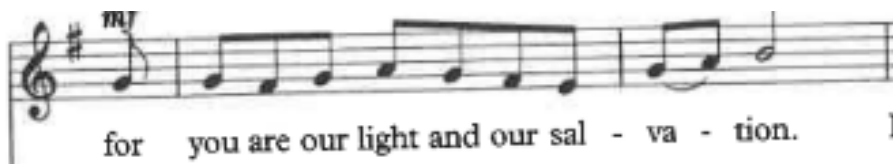
Congregation:



Choir:

Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets
but in our days you speak through your son whom you have appointed
the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light
that we may be found ready and watching when he comes again
in glory and judgement.

Cantor:



Congregation:



The Lessons

First Lesson, Isaiah 40:1-11

Elizabeth Ring

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

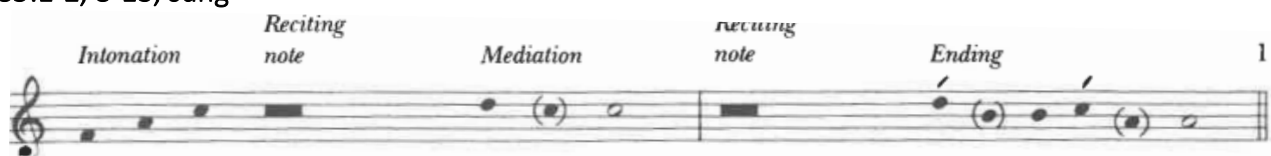
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all people shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
 All people are grass,
 their constancy is like the flower of the field.
 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
 surely the people are grass.
 The grass withers, the flower fades;
 but the word of our God will stand for ever.
 Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good tidings;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
 lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Here is your God!"
 See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, sung



1. You have been gracious to your ' land, O ' Lord, *
 you have re- ' stored the good ' fortune of ' Jacob.

2. You have forgiven the iniquity ' of your ' people *
and ' blotted out ' all their ' sins.

8. I will listen to what the ' Lord God is ' saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to ' those who turn their ' hearts to ' him.

9. Truly, his salvation is very near to ' those who ' fear him, *
that his ' glory may ' dwell in our ' land.

10. Mercy and truth have ' met to- ' gether; *
righteousness and ' peace have ' kissed each ' other.

11. Truth shall spring ' up from the ' earth, *
and ' righteousness shall ' look down from ' heaven.

12. The Lord will in- ' deed grant pros- ' perity, *
and our ' land will ' yield its ' increase.

13. Righteousness shall ' go be- ' fore him, *
and peace shall be a ' pathway ' for his ' feet.

Second Lesson, 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Elizabeth Ring

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

<i>Lector</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's churches.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Sermon

Mary Curlew

Hymn, #67

Comfort, Comfort Ye

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

Mary Curlew

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; Don; and Hazel.

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. 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

"This is the Truth Sent from Above" trad. English, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

*This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.*

*The first thing that I will relate,
That God did man create,
The next thing which to you I tell,
Woman was made with him to dwell.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he'd redeem us by his Son.*

And at this season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear,
And here did live, and here did preach,
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,
People 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.

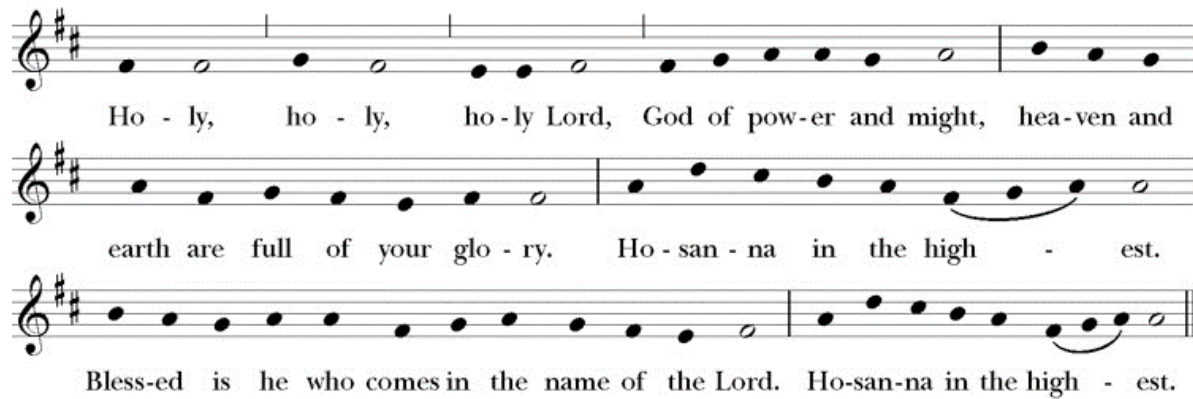
People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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



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

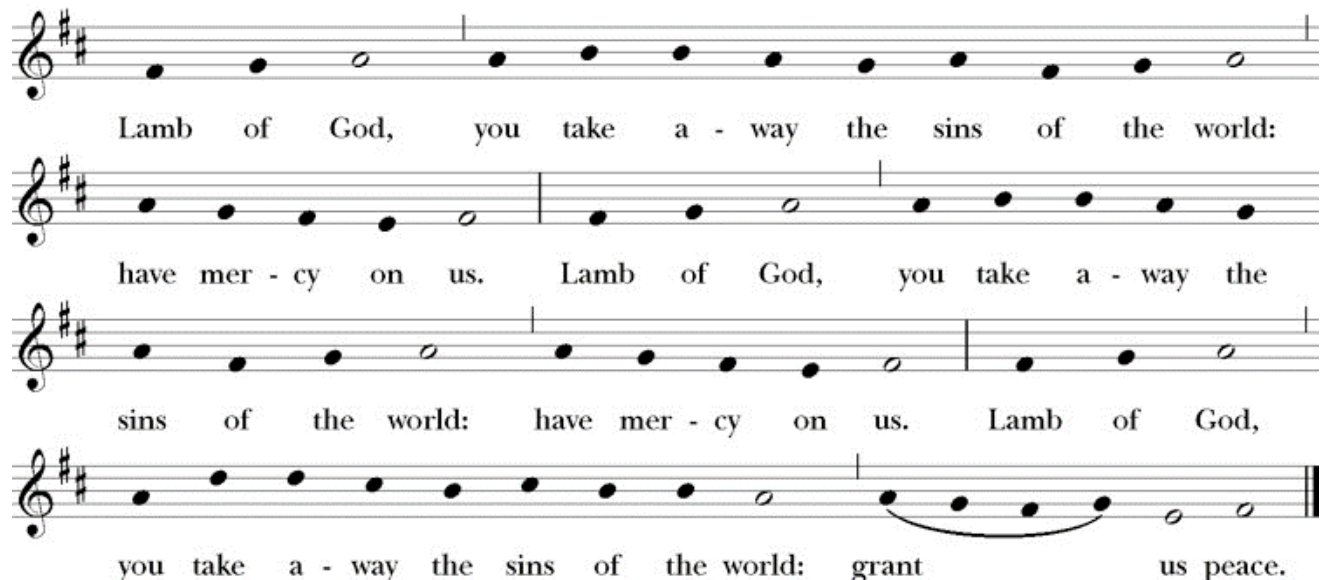
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead 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

"Prepare the way of the Lord" Berthier (can be sung as a round from each of the * marks)

Chords: Eb, Ab, Eb, (chords continue)

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the sal-va-tion of our God.

#69 What is the crying

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, #724

People look east (see next page)

Wonder, Love, and Praise

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Comfort, Comfort Ye" by Jan Bender

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.

W O R S H I P R E S O U R C E S

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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

People Look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour-ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
5. com-ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.



SERVING TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. David Heald
Preaching	Mary Curlew
Music	Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer	Mary Curlew
Lector	Elizabeth Ring
Ushers	Ann Donaghy, Pam Hobson
Altar Guild	Beth LaSalle
Flower Arranger	Advent Wreath-The Hodsdons
A/V	Joe Michaud
Bread Baker	Barbara Barhydt
Counters	Pal Covie, Pamela Trudo
Snow Removal	Ben Redfield
VPOW	Pal Covie
Coffee Hour	Sarah Covie + Nancy Gunzelmann
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	Jan Burson
Nursery Assistant	Pam Waite

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



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Music Director:	Dr. Christina Edelen
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Michele Johns
Jr. Warden:	Laurie Hyndman
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