

*Season of Advent, Third Sunday
December 11, 2022, 9 am*



Waiting for the Revealing by Jan Richardson

“I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43:19

St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude "Savior of the Nations Come" by J.S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements Peter Sillin

Opening Hymn, #68 Rejoice, Rejoice believers! The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant In this Advent of anticipation
draw us together in unity,
People **that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.**

Celebrant In this Advent of anticipation
draw us together in mission,
People **that the hope within
might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.**

Celebrant In this Advent of anticipation
draw us together in service,
People **that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.**

Lighting the Advent Candles

Celebrant People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce the good news.
God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow God's ways.
You are God's children.

People **O Great Mystery, make us one in the peace of Christ
today and for ever.
Amen.**

The Advent Candles are lit as the congregation sings.

Candle-lighting Song "Like a Candle Flame" by G. Kendrick (last two pages of the bulletin)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Mary Curlew

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

Mary Curlew

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Gospel Hymn, #76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

The Hymnal 1982

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, O God.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Anthem

"This is the Record of John" by Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him,
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

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

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.*

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for the church throughout the world, remembering especially our Palestinian siblings, and all who work to build up the body of Christ. We pray for your St. Bart's family gathered here today, that we may live into your mission for us at this time. Come Lord Jesus:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 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:

People **Hear our prayer**

Leader 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, at this time, those on our St. Bart's prayer list:

Bobby, Charles, Kellan, Pat, Marcella, Tim, Sam, Matthew, Antonia, Al, Alex, Virginia & Jamil, Ed, Hannah, Mike, David, Sarah, Erin, Jenny & Matt, Adam, Rich, Nancy & Jonathan, Joan L and Elizabeth, Perry, Jim, Matt & Shannon, Evan and family, Elaine, Peter, Jan, Sasha, Katie, Paige, Dale, Dave K and family, Bob, and Anne, Richard and family, Courtney, Dianne, Diane, Karl, and the Fitzgibbons family.

People Please add your own intercessions, either silently or aloud. Come Lord Jesus:
Hear our prayer.

Leader 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:

People **Hear our prayer**

Leader We pray for those who have died and those who mourn, that they may grow in their knowledge and love of you. We remember especially Jane Olson, mother of Lisa Fitzgibbons. Please add your own intercessions, either silently or aloud:
Come Lord Jesus:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We thank you for all that makes our hearts glad this day: Please add your own thanks, either silently or aloud: Come Lord Jesus:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Concluding Collect

Celebrant 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:

People **Even so, Lord, 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 you,
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you 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 Hymn, #72

Hark a glad sound

The Hymnal 1982

The offering is brought forward.

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,

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

The Great Thanksgiving & Eucharistic Prayer

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 Sovereign.

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

Celebrant It is our joy to bless you, Creator of all, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: #736

Sanctus

Peter Christian Lutkin

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and
earth are full of thy glo-ry: Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. A -

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*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.

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: S163

The Hymnal 1982

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 — with some space between families — 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. At this time, 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 and abstain from sipping. 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, #60 Creator of the stars of night The Hymnal 1982

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray together,
People **God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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 anticipate his coming in love,
in the name of the Holy Trinity.
People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, #54 Savior of the nations come The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

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

Postlude "Savior of the Nations Come" by J.S. Bach

WORSHIP RESOURCES

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

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Prayers of the People from The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Eucharistic Prayer: *Setting Four* from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2015 Augsburg Fortress.

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SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

The St. Bart's Choir

Chalice Bearer: Laurie Hyndman

Lector: Mary Curlew

Ushers: Nancy Gunzelmann, Susie Soule

Altar Guild: Beth LaSalle, Mary Ann Hodsdon

Flower Arranger: Mary Ann Hodsdon

A/V: Peter Sillin

Bread Baker: Barbara Barhydt

Counters: Susie Soule, Dennis Fitzgibbons

Snow Removal: Joe Michaud

VPOW: Peter Sillin

Coffee Hour: Carol Hayes & Nancy Gunzelmann

UPCOMING DUTIES

December 18, 9 am, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

Chalice Bearer: Carla Hunt

Lector: Don Massey

Ushers: Ann Donaghy, Pam Hobson

Altar Guild: Beth LaSalle, Mary Ann Hodsdon

Flower Arranger: Mary Ann Hodsdon

A/V: Pal Covie

Bread Baker: Barbara Barhydt

Counters: Pamela Trudo, Tom Hyndman

Snow Removal: Peter Chandler

VPOW: Ann Donaghy

Coffee Hour: Imelda Schaefer & Susie Soule

December 18, 4 pm Lessons & Carols

Celebrant: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music: Dr. Christina Edelen and the St. Bart's Choir

Readers: Pal Covie, Nancy Gunzelmann, Laurie Hyndman, Andrew Perfetti, Mike Perfetti, Elizabeth Ring, children of the congregation

Ushers: NEEDED

Altar Guild: Beth LaSalle, Mary Ann Hodsdon

Flower Arranger: Mary Ann Hodsdon

A/V: NEEDED

December 24, 4:30 pm, Family Service

Celebrant: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

Chalice Bearer: Michele Johns, Mary Curlew

Lector: Laurie Hyndman

Ushers: Ann Donaghy, Nancy Gunzelmann

Altar Guild: Beth LaSalle, Mary Ann Hodsdon

Flower Arranger: Imelda Schaefer

A/V: Laurie Hyndman

Bread Baker: Mary Ann Hodsdon

Counter: Pamela Trudo

December 24, 9 pm, Candlelight Service

Celebrant: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

Chalice Bearer: Lisa Fitzgibbons

Lector: Harriet Davis

Ushers: Dennis & Lisa Fitzgibbons

Altar Guild: Beth LaSalle, Mary Ann Hodsdon

Flower Arranger: Imelda Schaefer

A/V: Joe Michaud

Bread Baker: Mary Ann Hodsdon

Counter: Pamela Trudo

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Mid-Week Advent Evening Service

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21

Held in partnership with Emmaus Lutheran Church (Falmouth), this service is a time to take a breath and to share in the anticipation of the renewal of the world at Christmas.

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 4:30 pm

This festive, family-oriented service will feature treasured Christmas carols and a special story time for children with Rev. Amanda. Join us for Holy Eucharist and celebrate the warmth of the season.

Lessons and Carols

December 18, 4 pm

The story of Christmas, as told through music, poetry and scripture; a family service for all ages, with the St Bart's Choir, Children's choir, and congregational singing.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 9:00 pm

As night draws near, this candlelit service reminds us of the hope and wonder of that baby born in a manger. Join the St. Bart's choir in singing familiar hymns as we celebrate the Eucharist and cherish the joy of God's love come to earth!



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

Priest-in-Charge:

Priest-in-Charge Email:

Music Director:

Deacon:

Intern:

Sr. Warden:

Jr. Warden:

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral Care Email:

Parish Administrator:

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Office Hours:

Telephone:

Website:

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Dr. Christina Edelen

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

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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

WOMEN God is with us, al - le -

MEN 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!

- 1 Like a candle flame,
flick'ring small in our darkness.
Uncreated light
shines through infant eyes.
MEN *God is with us, alleluia,*
WOMEN *God is with us, alleluia,*
MEN *come to save us, alleluia,*
WOMEN *come to save us,*
ALL *alleluia!*
- 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 . . .
- 3 Yet His light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame
of His holy fire.
God is with us . . .