

The Advent Candles are lit as congregation sings.

The Lessons

First Lesson, Zephaniah 3:14-20

Harriet Davis

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Isaiah, *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Anne Jacobs

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Lesson, *Philippians 4:4-7*

Harriet Davis

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector Holy wisdom, holy Word.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn, #68

Rejoice, rejoice believers

The Hymnal 1982

Gospel, *Luke 3:7-18*

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Music

Cantique de Noel

John Perkins, flugelhorn

Affirmation of Faith

Intern 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

Anne Jacobs

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; Charlotte; Larre; and the family and friends of Sandy Maisel.

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, especially Sandy Maisel, long-time friend of Deb Wathen-Finn, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

Silence

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, in our baptisms you have called each of us to serve as your disciples in this world. And, through the power of your Spirit, you have called some to serve the church as Deacons and Priests. Today, we give thanks for the calling you placed on Mary Louise's heart to serve your church as a Deacon and we rejoice in celebrating her ordination anniversary. May you continue to bless her as she is a blessing to those she encounters.

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,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.

People

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, #66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

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 *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 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 (see next page)

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.

Music at Communion, #313 Let thy blood

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, #724

People, look East!

Wonder, Love, & Praise



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.



The Dismissal

Intern

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” by R. Mosen

WORSHIP RESOURCES

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

Old Testament, New Testament and Gospels readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

Affirmation of Faith: Copyright ©2001 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net.

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
Soloist John Perkins
Chalice Bearer Anne Jacobs
Lector Harriet Davis
Ushers Nick Desiderio, Tom Hyndman, Jennifer Willard
Altar Guild Beth LaSalle
Flower Arranger Advent Wreath - Altar Guild
A/V Arthur Woolverton
Bread Baker Susannah White
Counters Pamela Trudo, Marcia Sharp
Snow Removal David Heald
VPOW Peter Sillin
Coffee Hour Imelda Schaefer + Margaret Kimball
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 |
| Pastoral Care Email: | pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org |
| Parish Administrator: | Teri Coviello |
| 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 . . .