

*Season of Advent, Third Sunday
December 17, 2023, 9:30 am*



Waiting for the Revealing, Jan Richardson

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude "Meditation on O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by Harold Stover

Welcome & Announcements *Anne Jacobs*

Opening Hymn, #56 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1-4, 8) *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.

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.**

Lighting the Advent Candles, sung

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

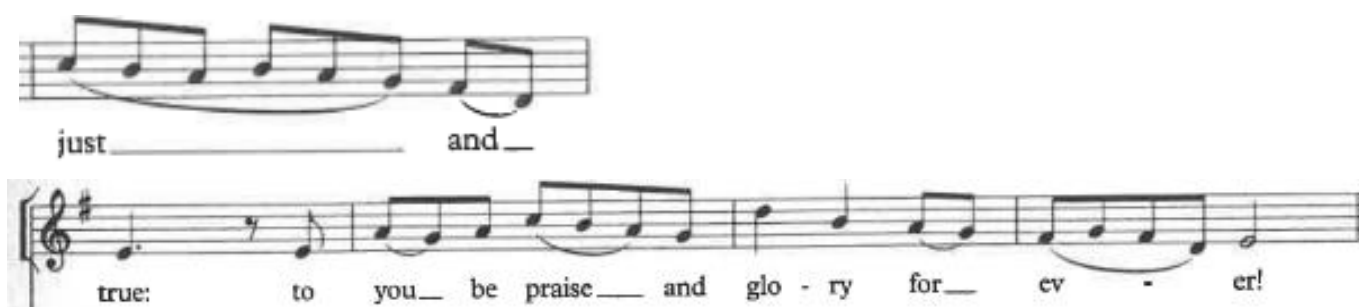
Cantor:



Musical notation for the Cantor's part, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a long horizontal line indicating a sustained note under the word "you".

Bless-ed are you, _____ Sov-reign Lord,

Congregation:

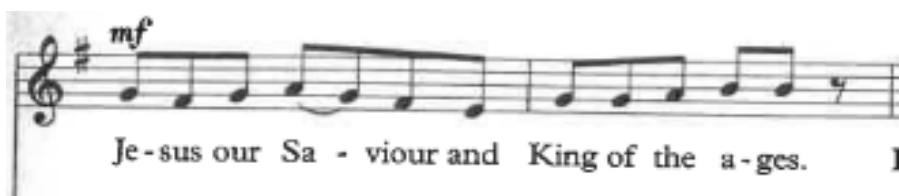


Musical notation for the Congregation's part, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes under the words "just" and "and".

just _____ and _____
true: to you be praise and glo - ry for ev - er!

Cantor:

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
As a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
And so be led to witness to him who is the
Lord of our coming Kingdom.



Musical notation for the Cantor's part, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter rest.

Je - sus our Sa - viour and King of the a - ges. |

Congregation:



Musical notation for the Congregation's part, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes under the words "God" and "for".

Bless-ed be God _____ for _____ ev - er.

The Lessons

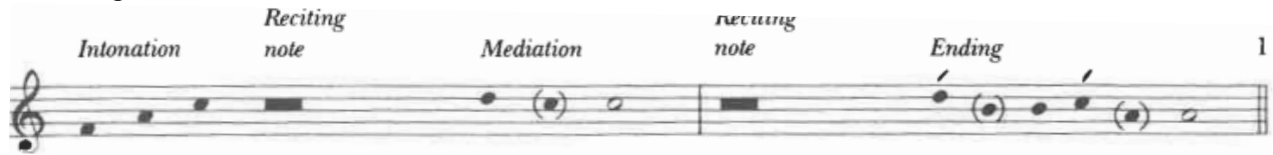
First Lesson, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Mary Curlew

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Magnificat, sung



1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my ' Sa- ' vior; *
for he has looked with ' favor on his ' lowly ' servant.
2. From this day, all generations will call me ' bles- ' sed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and ' Holy ' is his ' Name.
3. He has shown mercy on those who ' fear ' him *
in ' every ' gene- ' ration.
4. He has shown the ' strength of his ' arm, *
he has scattered the ' proud in ' their con- ' ceit.
5. He has cast down the mighty ' from their ' thrones, *
and has ' lifted ' up the ' lowly.
6. He has filled the hungry with ' good ' things, *
and the ' rich he has sent ' empty a- ' way .
7. He has come to the help of his servant ' Isra- ' el, *
for he has remembered his ' promise of ' mercy,
8. The promise he made to our ' fa- ' thers, *
to Abraham ' and his ' children for- ' ever.

Second Lesson, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Mary Curlew

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Deacon The Holy Gospel, according to John.
People **Glory to you, O God.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Hymn, #265

The angel Gabriel

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

Peter Sillin

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 Christians in Palestine and all our Christian siblings 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 remember the people of Ukraine who persist amidst a war with no end in sight. 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, including Omer Wenkert, a family member of Deb Wathen Finn's colleague who is currently being held hostage; and we pray for all Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank who are living under the constant fear, those unjustly imprisoned, and all their loved ones worldwide.

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, 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 Hymn, #71

Hark! The glad sound!

The Hymnal 1982

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

The musical notation is presented in four staves, alternating between 'Celebrant' and 'People' parts. The first staff shows the Celebrant singing 'The Lord be with you.' and the People singing 'And al - so with you.' The second staff shows the Celebrant singing 'Lift up your hearts.' and the People singing 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff shows the Celebrant singing 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff shows the People singing '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

The musical notation is presented in three staves, all in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '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.

Music at Communion

"Meditation on O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by Paul Manz

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, #54

Savior of the nations, come

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

"Savior of the Nations, Come" 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

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Musician	Christina Edelen
Chalice Bearer	Peter Sillin
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Lector	Mary Curlew
Ushers	Nick Desiderio, Tom Hyndman
Altar Guild	Beth LaSalle
Flower Arranger	Advent Wreath-The Hodsdons
A/V	Arthur Woolverton
Bread Baker	Chrystena Hahn
Counters	Pam Hobson, Dennis Fitzgibbons
Snow Removal	David Heald
VPOW	Anne Jacobs
Coffee Hour	Kathy Abernathy + Colin Pope

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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