

*The Nativity of Our Lord*  
*December 24, 2022, 9:00pm*



The Adoration of the Shepherds, Catena (Vincenzo di Biagio)

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church    Yarmouth, Maine**

Prelude(s) "Sussex Carol"

**Call to Worship**

*Deacon* Joy to the world!  
*People* **The Lord has come!**

*all stand and join in singing*

**Opening Carol, #83** O Come All Ye Faithful (vs. 1,2,3,6 only) *The Hymnal 1982*

**Opening Words**

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one holy and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**Opening Acclamation**

*Celebrant* Shout for joy the whole earth,  
and everything within rejoice!  
*People* **For hope has come into the world!**

*Celebrant* The mountains sing, the seas resound  
to the praise of your name.  
*People* **Salvation is here on earth!**

*Celebrant* The angels' song rings in the air,  
a child has been born!  
*People* **Hallelujah! The Savior of the world is here!**

**Gloria, #96** Angels we have heard on high (vs. 1 and 4 only) *The Hymnal 1982*

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

*Harriet Davis*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Carol

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

1. See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears, Promis'd from eternal years:

***Refrain: Hail, thou ever blessed morn; Hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

2. Lo, within a manger lies, He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim:

***Refrain***

3. Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee, In thy sweet humility:

***Refrain***

## Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

*The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Homily

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

Anthem

“In the Bleak Midwinter” by Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Affirmation of Faith

*Celebrant  
People*

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe in God,  
the creator and giver of life,  
who brought all creation to birth,  
who loves us like a parent,  
protecting, nurturing,  
and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ:  
God born among us as a fragile baby,  
embodying both love and the need for love,  
and calling us to rest in God  
as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
breathed into us at our birth,  
always drawing us on to be born again,  
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,  
nourishing our growth  
and inspiring our living.**

We believe in the reconciliation  
of the world to God, through Christ.  
Hunted at birth  
and humiliated at death,  
Christ entered our fearful brokenness  
so that we might enter his glorious wholeness  
and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child  
is a glimpse of the face of God,  
a sign of the life to come,  
and a call to live in peace  
and celebrate living together.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Amen.

#### Prayers of the People

*Leader* Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil. God of mercy,

*People* **Grant us your peace.**

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation. God of hope,  
**Grant us your peace.**

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you. God of joy,  
**Grant us your peace.**

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence. God of possibility,  
**Grant us your peace.**

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely. God of healing,  
**Grant us your peace.**

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. God of grace,  
**Grant us your peace.**

## Concluding Collect

*Celebrant* God our Savior: Meet us in this time and place; focus our hearts on your love, feed the hungry places of our souls, release us from all that resists your grace, and renew our bodies to serve your world.

*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.*

## The Holy Communion

### 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 Carol, #97

Dost thou in a manger lie?

*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. Amen.**

### 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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for your Word has become flesh among us. Though the world did not know him, he bears the imprint of your very being.

Though his own people turned him away,  
in him we have seen your glory, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us,  
With earth, sea and sky,  
With the angels and archangels,  
With all the saints before us and beside us,  
we sing the hymn of unending praise:

*People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

*Celebrant*

Holy God, creator and giver of all life,  
from the beginning of time your Spirit breathed over the cosmos.  
You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains  
You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life.  
You made humankind in your image, and loved us in our weakness,  
promising to stay with us wherever we go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary offering your Spirit to  
make creation whole. You gave her a child, Jesus, your beloved son to turn the  
broken world upside down.

Jesus stayed with us, healing the sick and feeding the hungry unbinding prisoners  
and raising the dead. He ate with strangers, showed mercy to sinners, and taught  
us to follow him in love without fear.

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,  
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 for 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.**

Therefore, Eternal One, of all the things that are yours we offer you these, which  
are yours especially. We offer them gladly, as he told us, remembering his death  
and resurrection, his birth in Bethlehem, and rest in the manger.



Now pour out your Spirit on this bread and wine to make them the body and blood of Christ for your waiting people. Come among us and abide with us that we may be the body of Christ for the world you love.

Shine upon us tonight as you shone upon your servant Mary, as you shine upon your people in the most troubling times and places that, lit by your love, we may raise our voices with saints and angels in a living song of praise.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever 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,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Fraction**

*Celebrant*

People

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **The Invitation**

*Celebrant*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Holy Communion**

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward down the center aisle to the bread station. The Priest has both bread and gluten-free bread: presenting your hands facing upward indicates you'd like bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. Once you receive the bread, you may proceed to the Chalice station on your side. You are invited to sip from the chalice but not to dip. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive a blessing. 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

“Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor”

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becomes poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

#115, What child is this?

*The Hymnal 1982*

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray. God of abundance,  
*People* **with this bread of life and cup of salvation  
you have united us with Christ,  
making us one with all your people.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever  
in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Ushers will assist in lighting candles.*

## Post Communion Carol, #111 Silent Night

*The Hymnal 1982*

## The Blessing

*Celebrant* The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

*People*

**Amen.**

**Closing Carol, #87**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*The Hymnal 1982*

**The Dismissal**

*Deacon*

Arise, shine, for our Savior has come! Alleluia, alleluia!

*People*

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Postlude**

“Noel Etranger” by Louis-Claude Daquin

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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Celebrant: The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

The St. Bart's Choir

Chalice Bearer: Lisa Fitzgibbons

Lector: Harriet Davis

Ushers: Dennis & Lisa Fitzgibbons

Altar Guild: Jan Burson

Flower Arranger: Imelda Schaefer

A/V: Joe Michaud

Bread Baker: Mary Ann Hodsdon

Counter: Pamela Trudo

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

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Affirmation of Faith: Written by Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our lives" by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138.

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**There will be no Sunday morning services on December 25 and January 1.**

**The next Sunday morning service will be January 8.**

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

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