

Prayers & Carols

December 29, 9:30 am

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, Maine

Welcome & Announcements

Pal Covie

Opening CAROL: Hymn #87 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

The Hymnal 1982

Opening Words

Leader Behold, I bring you good news of great joy: a Savior is born to you. Alleluia.

People **Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.**

Leader There is one Body and one Spirit.

People **There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Leader Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect of the Day

Leader God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Nina Scribner

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Psalm: Psalm 147:13-21

Michele Johns

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

CAROL: Hymn #82

Of the Father's Love Begotten

The Hymnal 1982

The Second Reading: John 1:1-18

Nina Scribner

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Here ends the reading from the Gospel

Reflection: "The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey" (Children's book)

Sarah Covie

CAROL: Hymn #109

The First Nowell

The Hymnal 1982

The Affirmation of Faith- The Apostles Creed

Leader Let us affirm our faith as we say together:

People

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Michele Johns

Leader: Continuing our celebration of Christmas, we bring the needs of our world and of our hearts before the God who in every way shares our humanity.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

People: **May we make our home in you.**

We pray for all those who worship God in every country of our world, and especially for the wide and diverse worshipping communities of the Anglican Communion. We pray for the grace to know and love God more deeply and to hold our fellow human beings in greater love and respect.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

May we make our home in you.

We pray for peace throughout the world this Christmas season, and especially for peace in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan. As we reverence the Prince of Peace, may we follow the road of reconciliation in our homes, our communities, in this nation, and around the world, remembering especially those on the front lines: relief workers, those in the armed services, the leaders of this nation, and all members of the United Nations.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

May we make our home in you.

We pray for all who celebrate Christmas in the warmth of family and friends and we pray for those who are apart from those they love, refugees, the homeless, and those who are alone this day. May each one find that dwelling place in which abides the love and grace of God.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

May we make our home in you.

We pray for those whose lives are tempered with sorrow or fear, hunger or illness. May we resolve this new year to support and care for those in need with whom we come in contact. We especially hold in our prayers those on our parish 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; the extended Fitzgibbons family; and the Chandler family.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

May we make our home in you.

At the beginning of a new year, we give thanks for all those ways in which we have grown in wisdom and faith, for those moments in which the eyes of our hearts have been enlightened, and for new opportunities coming to us in which by our words and our deeds we may make known to others the love of God.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

May we make our home in you.

We also pray for those whose lives are heavy with grief and those on the point of death. As we look forward to the time when all our mourning will be turned to joy, we pray for those who are dying and remember with gratitude the lives of those who have died, especially Reverend Richard Olson, father of Lisa Fitzgibbons, and Peter Lord Chandler.

O Emmanuel, God with us;

May we make our home in you.

Concluding prayer: We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, and the wondrous good news that your Word has become flesh, and we have beheld his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light that no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

People **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 forever. Amen.**

The Peace

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Offering

Offertory sentence:

Leader “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.

CAROL at the Offering: Hymn #96 Angels we have heard on high

The Hymnal 1982

Concluding Collect

People **Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing A Blessing for the new year by Jan Richardson

BLESSING THE THRESHOLD

This blessing
has been waiting for you
for a long time.

While you have been
making your way here,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,

making ready,
biding its time,
praying.

This blessing has been
polishing the door,
oiling the hinges,
sweeping the steps,
lighting candles
in the windows.

This blessing has been
setting the table
as it hums a tune
from an old song
it knows,
something about
a spiraling road
and bread
and grace.

All this time
it has kept an eye
on the horizon,
watching,
keeping vigil,
hardly aware of how
it was leaning itself
in your direction.

And now that
you are here,
this blessing
can hardly believe
its good fortune
that you have finally arrived,
that it can drop everything
at last
to fling its arms wide
to you, crying
welcome,
welcome,
welcome.

The Dismissal

Leader Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever, Amen.

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

S E R V I N G T O D A Y

Worship Leader Mary Curlew

Music & Reflection Sarah Covie

Prayer Leader Michele Johns

Lector Nina Scribner

Ushers Ann Donaghy, Pam Hobson

Altar Guild Beth LaSalle

Flower Arranger Imelda Schaefer

A/V Dan Hudkins

Counters Harriet Davis, Pam Hobson

Snow Removal Joe Michaud

VPOW Pal Covie

Coffee Hour Nancy Gunzelmann + Linda Draper