

A Service of Prayers & Carols  
*December 31, 2023, 9:30 am*  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church



Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

*Laurie Hyndman*

Opening Carol: #92 On this day earth shall ring!

*The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Words

Officiant Behold, I bring you good news of great joy: a Savior is born to you. Alleluia.  
People Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.

Officiant There is one Body and one Spirit.  
People There is one hope in God's call to us.

Officiant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect of the Day

Officiant God be with you.  
People And also with you.

Officiant

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**

*Sarah Covie*

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**

*Nancy Gunzelmann*

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, #93**

Angels from the realms of glory

*The Hymnal 1982*

**The Gospel: John 1:1-18**

*The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

A reading from the Gospel of John

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 from Malcolm Guite**

*shared by Sarah Covie*

**Carol, #84**

Love came down at Christmas

*The Hymnal 1982*

## The Affirmation of Faith- The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
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

*Nancy Gunzelmann*

Prayer Leader: 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. Shine forth in our  
lives, O Lord and fill us with your grace and truth.

Abba, Father, you have received us as your children. Make our hearts  
shine ever brighter with the pure light of Christ, that all people might  
receive your all-encompassing love. Pray, beloved, for our witness as your  
body, the church (pause): Shine forth in our lives, O Lord:

**People** **Fill us with your grace and truth.**

Prayer Leader Almighty God, let all the nations witness your glory. Cause righteousness  
and praise to cover the earth. Pray for those in positions of leadership in  
our world (pause): Shine forth in our lives, O Lord:

**People** **Fill us with your grace and truth.**

Prayer Leader God our Creator, you are mighty in power; you have graciously given us  
the resources to thrive on this planet. Give us hearts to care for your  
world (pause): Shine forth in our lives, O Lord:

**People** **Fill us with your grace and truth.**

Prayer Leader Loving God, you are the healer of the brokenhearted; it is you who binds  
up their wounds; you lift up the lowly. Clothe your children with the

garments of health and salvation. I invite your petitions for those in need of healing this day, especially...

**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; Olivia; Sue; Deb; Don; and Hazel.**

Are there others who need our prayer this day? (pause for intercessions):  
Shine forth in our lives, O, Lord:

**People** Fill us with your grace and truth.

Prayer Leader Gracious Lord, your life is the light of your people; even in darkness and death, you lead the way. Pray, beloved, for those who mourn and those who have died. Are there others to commend to God this day? (pause for intercessions): Shine forth in our lives, O, Lord:

**People** Fill us with your grace and truth.

Prayer Leader Holy Lord, from your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. Give us, we pray, thankful and generous hearts. I invite your thanksgivings for the blessings in our lives (pause for thanksgivings): Shine forth in our lives, O, Lord:

**People** Fill us with your grace and truth.

Prayer leader O God, you sent your Son to redeem us from sin and death: draw us closer to your Son Jesus.

**People** Shine forth in our lives, O, Lord and fill us with your grace and truth.  
**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Officiant 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

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

## Offering

### Offertory sentence:

Officiant                    “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, #81      Lo, how a rose

*The Hymnal 1982*

## Concluding Collects

People                        Almighty Father, you give the sun for a light by day, and the moon and the  
stars by night: Graciously receive us, this day and always, into your favor  
and protection, defending us from all harm and governing us with your  
Holy Spirit, that every shadow of ignorance, every failure of faith or  
weakness of heart, every evil or wrong desire may be removed far from  
us; so that we, being justified in our Lord Jesus Christ, may be sanctified by  
your Spirit, and glorified by your infinite mercies in the day of the glorious  
appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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      *The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer*

### 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.

Closing Carol, #100

Joy to the world!

*The Hymnal 1982*

**The Dismissal**

The Deacon will dismiss the congregation, to which we reply:  
**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

<b>Officiant</b>	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
<b>Music</b>	Christina Edelen
<b>Prayers</b>	Nancy Gunzelmann
<b>Lector</b>	Sarah Covie
<b>Ushers</b>	Nick Desiderio, Tom Hyndman
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth LaSalle
<b>Flower Arranger</b>	Imelda Schaefer
<b>A/V</b>	Pal Covie
<b>Counters</b>	Harriet Davis, Pal Covie
<b>Snow Removal</b>	Peter Sillin
<b>VPOW</b>	Laurie Hyndman
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Imelda Schaefer & Susan B. Soule

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## 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

<b>Priest-in-Charge:</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
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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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