

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

The tower bell is rung prior to the prelude to indicate time for quiet meditation and preparation for worship.
Before the service, speak to God.
During the service, let the Spirit speak to you.
After the service, speak to one another.

+ 8:00 am * 10:30 am

*Prelude *Savior of the nations, come!* J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life." — John 3:16*

Leader Lord, we thank you for your great gift of love to us. Help us, through Jesus, to love you more.
People **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn, *all standing* *Comfort, comfort ye my people* Hymnal 67 or page 13

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ The Kyrie

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

*The Kyrie Hymnal S-96



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

The Lesson, all seated

Isaiah 40:1-11, read by Michael Haynie at 8:00 am
and by Lex DeVale at 10:30 am

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense

before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13, *all chant*



T = treble (higher) voices L = lower voices

L You have been gracious to your / land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good / fortune of Jacob.

T You have forgiven the iniquity of your / people *
and blotted / out all their sins.

L I will listen to what the LORD God is / saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who / turn their hearts to him.

T Truly, his salvation is very near to those who / fear him, *
that his glory may / dwell in our land.

L Mercy and truth have met to- / gether; *
righteousness and peace have / kissed each other.

T Truth shall spring up from the / earth, *
and righteousness shall look / down from heaven.

L The LORD will indeed grant pro- / sperity, *
and our land will / yield its increase.

T Righteousness shall go be- / fore him, *
and peace shall be a / pathway for his feet.

The Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-15a, *read by Laura Brady at 8:00 am*
and by Albert Fraschetti at 10:30 am

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*The Children's Word

Children who wish to participate in The Children's Word may follow the leaders to the undercroft at this time; they will return at the Peace to rejoin their families. Parents are welcome to come along.

*Sequence Hymn, *all standing*

Savior of the nations, come

Hymnal 54 or page 14

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8, *read by The Reverend Neva Brown*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon, *all seated*

The Reverend Thelma Smullen

Nicene Creed, *all stand*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, *please let us face each other across the aisle*

*Led by Jennifer Stone at 8:00 am
and by Nicete Moodie at 10:30 am*

Intercessor Family in Christ, strive to be found by God at peace, without spot, or blemish. Placing our trust in God, let us pray, "Gather us in your arms; carry us in your heart."
O God, we pray for the Church. May those who have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit live no longer in their sins but lead lives of holiness and godliness.
Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for those who shall choose a new Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for the nations of the world. May your voice be heard in all the earth, your glory revealed in all lands. Rain down righteousness and peace in abundance.

Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for the creation. Continually renew the heavens and the earth by your mercy. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for our community. We long to see truth spring up through the frozen earth and be found in all our hearts and minds.

Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for the sick and the sorrowful. Comfort the suffering with your tenderness. Speak peace to your people. We remember today: ____.

Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we give you thanks for all our blessings, remembering today: ____.

Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor O God, we pray for those who have died, remembering today: _____. Though we mortals fade like the flowers, still you gently lead the dead into your heavenly home to dwell with your saints forever. Gather us in your arms;

People **Carry us in your heart.**

Intercessor Holy God, in your tenderness and compassion, hear our prayers. May they be to you as a precious offering from the treasure of our hearts. We present them to you because you are faithful and your love endures forever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Things to Consider

*After the announcements children may assemble **quietly** in the rear of the church
and prepare to bring food for the hungry to the altar.*

+ Offertory Acclamation

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

*Offertory Anthem, *all seated*

Kyrie eleison, from Mass in B minor

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Kyrie eleison Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Offertory Hymn, *all standing*

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Hymnal 75 or page 15

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, *all standing*

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

+ Sanctus and Benedictus

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 the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Sanctus and Benedictus

S-130

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The first system covers the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and'. The second system covers 'might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the Soprano part generally higher than the Bass part. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding musical staves.

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Bartholomew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer, *contemporary*

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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread, *followed by silence*

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

At 8:00 am:

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive either bread or wine is considered full communion. You may receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer; please indicate to the minister your need. Please assist the Chalicists by holding the base of the chalice (cup) and guiding it to your lips. Intinction is available in a small silver bowl.

If you choose to receive a blessing instead of communion, please place your arm across your chest.

If walking to the altar is difficult or painful, please stay seated during communion.

The ministers of communion will gladly serve you in your pew.

Prayer of Thanksgiving, *all standing*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Commissioning, *please face the open door*

Deacon As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our vision and mission as a congregation:

People **We will, with God's help, be a vibrant faith community that is a blazing beacon of God's transforming love in the world. God is calling us to take righteous risks. We accept this call, and will respond by seeking and serving Christ in ALL people.**

Deacon Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

At 10:30 am:

It took time to develop. The Last Supper eventually became what we know now as Holy Communion.

But it took time to develop. The earliest reference we have is from Justin Martyr around 150 AD.

In the meantime, the early Christian community nevertheless gathered to share an Agape Meal in remembrance of the Last Supper. It was a time for the faithful to break some bread and share some wine to remember Jesus. But it also was a chance to remember the love of God, the love within the faith community and the love to be expressed to the world. Agape is Greek for Love Feast.

At St. B's we offer the sacrament of Holy Communion for those on site as well as the Agape Meal for those off site.

And occasionally we provide a consecrated communion kit for people to enjoy once or twice a month on Zoom. Each meal is unique but each gives us the chance to share a meal and to be "in communion" with Jesus and one another no matter where we are!

For the Agape Meal

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Grant that we who share this food and drink, may receive the sustaining life of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive either bread or wine is considered full communion. You may receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer; please indicate to the minister your need. Please assist the Chalicists by holding the base of the chalice (cup) and guiding it to your lips. Intinction is available in a small silver bowl in the back and at the altar rail.

At the time of the Eucharist, individual prayers for healing and the laying on of hands will be available for anyone in the congregation. Those who wish such prayers should go directly to Trinity Chapel where they will receive prayers and Eucharist.

If you choose to receive a blessing instead of communion, please place your arm across your chest.

If walking to the altar is difficult or painful, please stay seated during communion.

The ministers of communion will gladly serve you in your pew.

Agnus Dei

S-164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Communion Hymn

The great forerunner of the morn

Hymnal 272 or page 16

Prayer of Thanksgiving, *all standing*

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church – wherever that may be, we offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. No matter how we have received you today in our meal of communion, whether by sacrament or otherwise, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us in your grace, Holy Spirit, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us – now and always, wherever we are. Amen.

*Closing Hymn, *all standing*

O day of peace

Hymnal 597 or page 17

The Blessing

Postlude, *please be seated until the procession* *Savior of the nations, come!*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Commissioning, *please face the open door*

Deacon As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our vision and mission as a congregation:

People **We will, with God's help, be a vibrant faith community that is a blazing beacon of God's transforming love in the world. God is calling us to take righteous risks. We accept this call, and will respond by seeking and serving Christ in ALL people.**

Deacon Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Memorials and Thanksgivings

The *candles* are given in thanksgiving for the birthday of Vincent Marsiglia.

The *bread and wine* are given in loving memory of Norman Bowmaker.

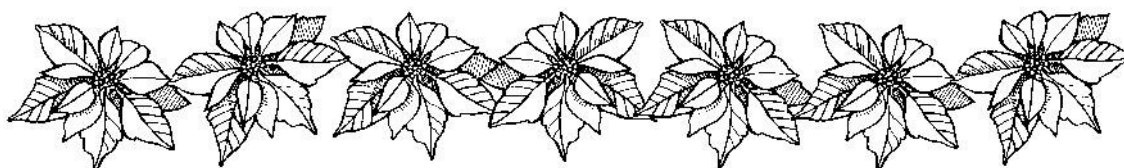
Your prayers are requested for members and friends of St. B's ...

Lucy Marshall; Vince Marsiglia; Shirley Nathan Pulliam; Tijon Cox and family; Zach, Dana, and Zoe Przybyszewski; Mary Lou Fralic; Debbie McClellan; Bryce Kaspar; Eleanor Holland; Helen Langa; Brian; Charles Tucker; Mary Warfield; Pat Shelton; Dorn Wagner; Nancy Wagner; Irene Hardy; Kyren Haynie; Larry Brown; Sandra DeSilva; Sephanie Brooks-Wiggins; Janet Churchill; Lillian Thomas; Michelle Haynie-Madison; Barbara Haughey; Mercedes Hill; Bill Wacker; Debbie Wacker; 40 West Assistance and Referral Center Clients; Heidi; Theresa Thomas; Meg and Shaun; Kathy and Andy; Don and Angel; Nathan; Jean McElroy; Bernice; James Cooper; Kimberly Hayes; Jane Clark; Vivian Morton; Dorris and Ken McElroy; Timothy Harris; Susan Clarke; Mary Luck Stanley; Becky Slater; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; those in our midst who are un- or under-employed & the unhoused; all people touched by war and other forms of violence worldwide.



Christmas Flower Memorials

Please send your names and donations for Christmas flowers to the office no later than Sunday, December 17.





1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

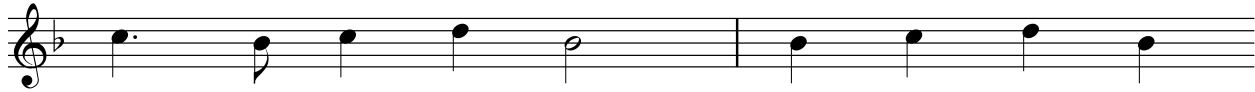


and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
 2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
 feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
 na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
 lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

Unison or harmony


1 The great fore - run - ner of the morn, the
 2 With heaven - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came, that
 *3 John, still un - born, yet gave a - right his
 4 His might - y deeds ex - alt his fame to
 *5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and

1 her - ald of the Word, is born; and faith - ful hearts shall
 2 John should be that her - ald's name, and with pro - phet - ic
 3 wit - ness to the com - ing light; and Christ, the Sun of
 4 great - er than a pro - phet's name; of wo - man born shall
 5 God the Spi - rit, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and


1 nev - er fail with thanks and praise his light to hail.
 2 ut - terance told his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.
 3 all the earth, ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.
 4 nev - er be a great - er pro - phet than was he.
 5 glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: The Venerable Bede (673-735); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *The Truth From Above*, English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.


Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the




hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
 mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -




lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
 cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the



prom - ised reign of peace.
 earth shall know the (Lord.)

Interlude

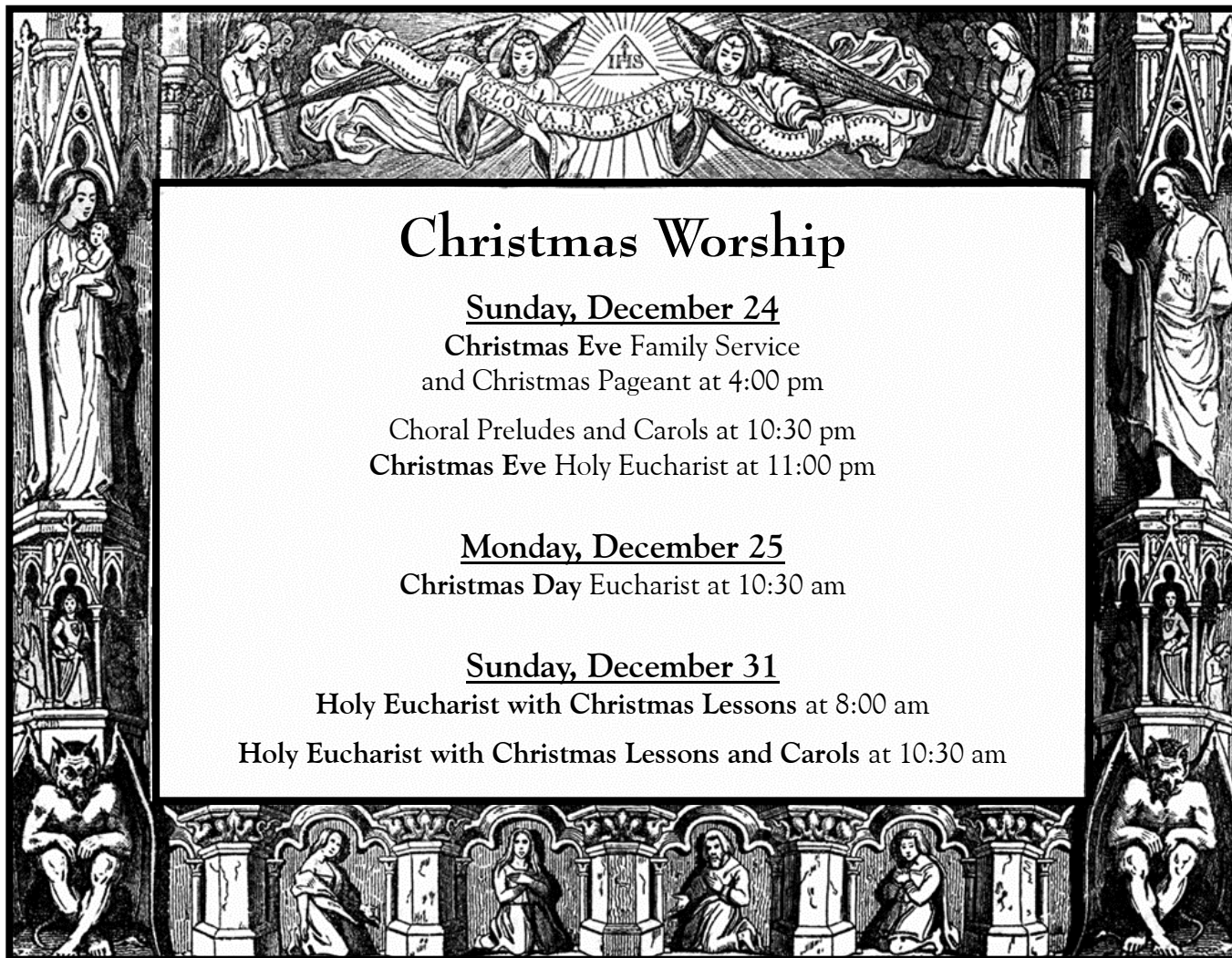


Final Ending



Lord.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Jerusalem*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) arr. Jane Wyatt (b. 1934). Copyright © 1916, 1944, 1977, Robertson Publications. Used by permission.



Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Family Service
and Christmas Pageant at 4:00 pm

Choral Preludes and Carols at 10:30 pm
Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 11:00 pm

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Eucharist at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 31

Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons at 8:00 am
Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10:30 am

Give to St. B's online!

Use this link, or scan the QR code below with your smartphone camera to
make an online donation:

<https://www.osvhub.com/stbs-md>



Join us TODAY for this free concert!

J.S. Bach *Mass in B minor* (The “Missa” portion)

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.

presented by the
St. Bartholomew Choir and friends
with guest soloists and chamber orchestra



One of Bach's most esteemed works, the epic *Mass in B minor* is filled with grandeur and mystery, and has been beloved steadily through the centuries.

Join us as some fifty singers and players join forces to present this monumental musical masterpiece.

No admission will be charged for the concert. Events like this depend on the generosity of supporters from the parish and community. Please join us in supporting the performance of this iconic music as a gift to the community.

An Invitation to a Christmastide Quiet Day

The Margaret Rollo Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King at St. Bartholomew's are sponsoring this Quiet Day 2023 event led by the Rev. Pan Conrad. Our theme will be “Sabbath and Time Travel.” All are invited and welcomed to participate - St. Bartholomew's Church members, neighbors, family and friends.

This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on 2023 and to be open to what can be in 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Glorius Sullivan at chgl@verizon.net or 410-644-8110.

Date: Saturday, December 30, 2023

Time: 9:00 am to 12 Noon

Leader: Interim Rector The Rev. Pan Conrad

Format: In-Person

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. B'S

for the week beginning December 10, 2023



- Sunday** We offer **Holy Eucharist** at 8:00 and 10:30 am. Both services take place in the Church. You can also join us for worship at 10:30 am on [Zoom](#).
Children are invited to stand at the Altar for the Eucharist in celebration of **Children's Sunday**.
D-Group meets from 9:00 to 10:15 in the Youth House.
Child care is available in the Parish House Cribbery for children up to age 5 from 10:00 am through 12:00 pm. Please stop by the Cribbery and meet our wonderful Caregiver, Dona McIntyre.
Please be sure to join us following both services to enjoy **refreshments and fellowship**.
A **free concert** featuring J. S. Bach's Mass in B minor will take place in the Church at 5:00 pm.
- † **Monday through Saturday** at 12:00 noon, we hold a brief service of **Noonday Prayer** (at home). †
If you have specific prayer needs, please send them to Adam Barner (adam@stbs-md.org).
- Monday** The **Ten Hills Garden Club** will meet in in the Parish House at 6:30 pm.
- Tuesday** The **Finance Committee** will meet on Zoom at 6:30 pm.
- Wednesday** January **Apostle** copy deadline - please email submissions to adam@stbs-md.org.
The **Classics** will meet in the Parish House at 11:00 am.
A meeting of **40 West Volunteers** will take place on Zoom at 3:00 pm.
The **Outreach Committee** will meet on Zoom at 7:00 pm.
- Thursday** The **West Baltimore Choir School** continues their weekly classes at 5:30 pm. Young singers in Grades 3-8 are welcome. Enroll at any time; pre-registration recommended. For more information, visit the church web page, or contact Corinne Bowmaker at 410-599-3143 or zencorinne@hotmail.com.
The **Choir** will rehearse at 7:30 pm.
- Saturday** The December **Creation Caretakers Litter Cleanup** will begin at 10:00 am in the parking lot.

Community Notes ...

Please submit all **Christmas flower memorials** by next Sunday, December 17. Forms are found in the Tower Room.

Greening of the Church will take place next Sunday, December 17. Please come and help!

Anyone (individuals or families) who would like to light the **Advent wreath** during the 10:30 Sunday Eucharist should contact Glorius Sullivan.

Please send all photos and articles for the **January Apostle** by this Wednesday, December 13. The Apostle will be assembled and printed the week before Christmas. Please email submissions to adam@stbs-md.org.

The Daughters of the King will be **collecting new mittens and gloves** for the children and youth of 40 West through December 19. The collection basket will be in the tower room and labeled accordingly.

It's Angel Tree Time! The Christmas Tree in the Parish House still has many ornaments representing children of families served by 40 West. Please stop by, choose an ornament, write your information on the sign in sheet, and provide a new gift for that child. Remember to attach the ornament to the gift. Wrapped gifts are due back TODAY. Thank you!

40 West will again be partnering with the Maryland Food Bank to provide **Christmas dinners** to needy families in the community. The Maryland Food Bank will provide complete ready-to-cook dinners to 40 West at a cost of only \$15 per meal. We're asking our St. B's family to cover the cost of ONE family in need – a donation of \$15. Please put your donation in a check made out to 40 West Assistance & Referral Center, Inc. with "Holiday Meal" in the memo line. Donations can be mailed directly to 40 West, Attn. Glorius Sullivan, or given to Glorius on Sunday mornings. All donations are gratefully received!

A **new red light camera** will be installed soon near the corner of Edmondson Avenue and Uplands Parkway.

40 West needs your help to keep our shelves stocked! Currently we need **mayo, mustard, ketchup, small sizes of cooking oil, and dishwashing liquid**. Thank you!

A quick look at events in the coming weeks ...

December 17 Christmas flower name submission deadline

December 25 See the **Christmas worship schedule** on page 18.

December 30 Daughters of the King **Quiet Day**, 9:00 am to 12 Noon

January 26-28 St. B's **Women's Retreat** at Claggett

It is estimated that there are 78 million people in the USA who, due to past experiences or current yearnings, are ready to be welcomed into the life of a local congregation.

So why not invite a friend or neighbor to church this week?

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

from Mark 1:1-8.

Jesus is the good news to share with everyone!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- John the Baptist • Jordan River
- Isaiah • Baptism
- Repentance

People had been predicting the arrival of the Messiah for hundreds of years. Old Testament prophets, such as Isaiah and Malachi, said that a messenger would come before the Messiah to prepare the people. In Mark's gospel, John the Baptist arrives in Judea to announce the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, thus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 234-239

Spark Bible page 1100

Family Prayer

Dear God, Just like John the Baptist was a messenger of Jesus, help us be messengers by spreading the good news and sharing your love with everyone we meet. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

1 Share stories about your baptism. Were you a baby, or older? Did you wear any special clothing when you were baptized? What does it mean to be baptized into the family of God?

2 What does repentance mean? Why do you think repentance is important to have Jesus in your heart?

3 John the Baptist was a strange guy. He wore funny camel's hair clothing with a leather belt and ate weird stuff like locusts and wild honey. What do you think people thought about John when they first met him?

4 Why do you think Mark started his gospel with this story, instead of with a story of Jesus' birth?



Eye Spark

When you see someone being baptized at church, remember John the Baptist's message. He baptized people and prepared them for Jesus' coming!



Ear Spark

When you listen to the pastor's sermons and words about Jesus, remember that John the Baptist was the first one to spread the good news! Remember how we are baptized into God's family with these words.

Lecternary, John the Baptist Prepares the Way Family Page.

Spark™ Sunday School

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make a collage of pictures of each family member's baptism. How was the occasion celebrated? Discuss why and how each family member came to be baptized.

For younger kids

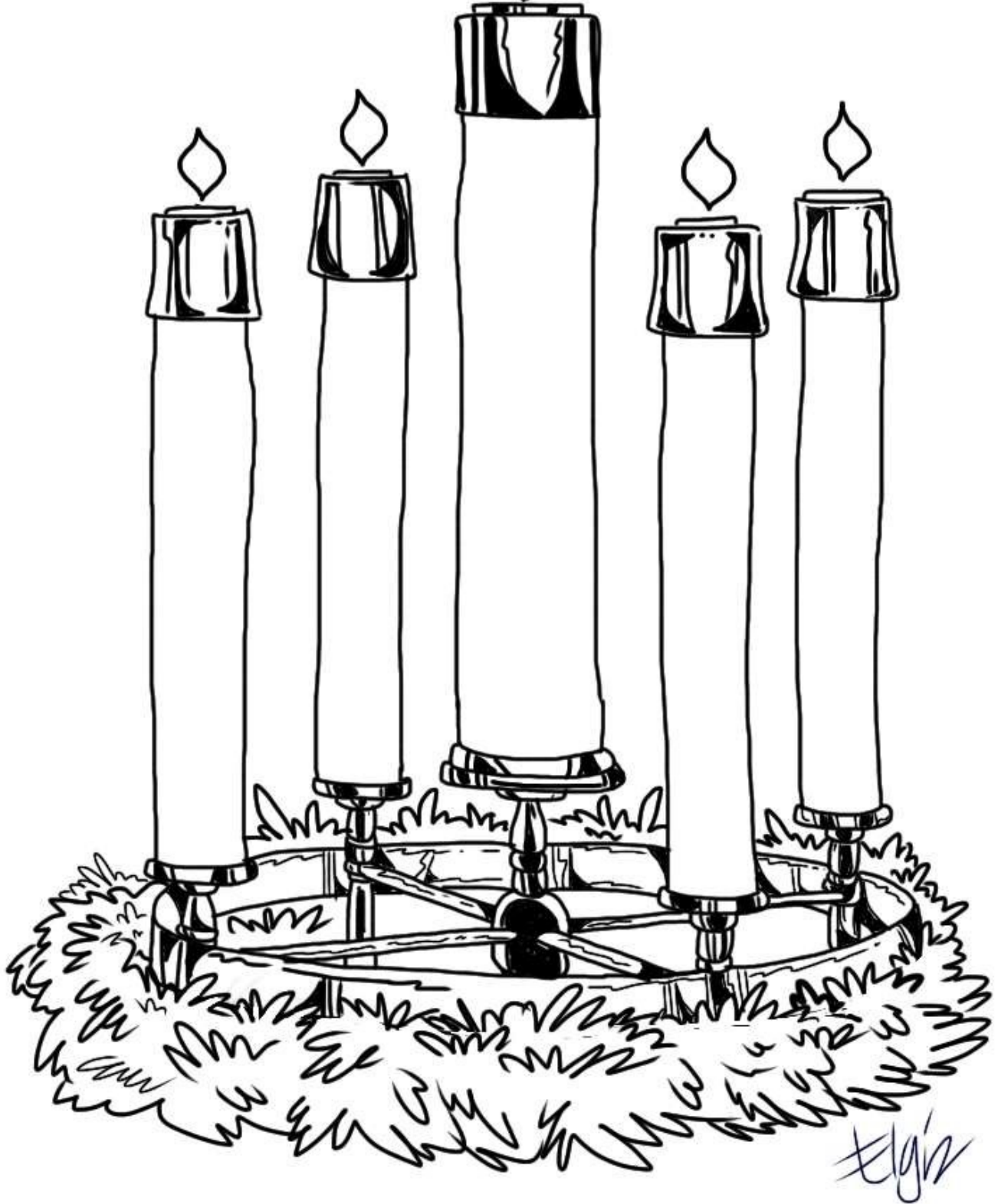
Draw a picture of John the Baptist sharing the good news. Was he an unusual looking man in his camel's hair? How did he share his message with people without frightening them?

For older kids

Go online and research baptism traditions. How do different Christian groups celebrate baptism? Find out why some people are baptized as infants and some are older. What is the difference between "sprinkling" and "immersion" baptisms?



Advent



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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email office@stbs-md.org

web <http://stbs-md.org/>

Service Recordings: <http://stbs-md.org/media>

The Church Office is open M-Th from 9 am to 5 pm and F from 9 am to 1 pm.

STAFF

Pamela G. Conrad, Interim Rector
Adam Barner, Parish Administrator
Corinne Bowmaker, PA, Parish Health Resource
Neva Brown, Deacon
Brian Campbell, Sexton

Ted Davis, Organist and Choirmaster
Dona McIntyre, Cribbery Caregiver
Kathy Schultheis, Bookkeeper
Thelma Smullen, Clergy Associate
Charles Sullivan, Verger

OFFICERS

Michael Sarbanes, Senior Warden
Patricia Williams, Junior Warden
Sarah Chard, Registrar

John Schroeder, Treasurer
John DeVale, Assistant Treasurer

VESTRY

Community Formation

Dana Rose
Margaret Schotto
Patricia Smith

Christian Formation

Ben Barone
Josh Crockett

Commitment to Ministry

Terry Amann

Mission

Amanda Harris
Ayodele House
Bill Kulp

New Members

Laura Brady
Susan Lundin



A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

