

*St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church*

*December 24, 2020*



*Christmas Eve*

**Prelude** A Christmas Carol Sequence .....Jerry Van Der POL

**Welcome** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalm 122:1*

**Opening Hymn** #78-O Little Town of Bethlehem. Verse 1

**Clergy** Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People** **And blessed be his kingdom, You come to your people and set them free**

**Clergy** Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
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 your Son 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.**

### **Clergy**

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

*Lord, have mercy.*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Lord, have mercy*

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

## **Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

## **Psalms 96:1-9**

**<sup>1</sup>O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

**<sup>2</sup>Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

**<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.**

**<sup>4</sup>For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

**<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.**

**<sup>6</sup>Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

**<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

**<sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.**

## **Hebrews 1:1-6**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

## **The Gospel According to Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with

Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**The Sermon**

**Rev. Cathie**

**Reflection Music**

**Gloria .....French carol**

**Soon Yeon Chung**

### **The Nicene Creed**

**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**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

#### ***Silence***

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Carlye our Bishop; and  
for all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

#### ***Reading of St. Bartholomew's Prayer List***

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

#### ***Silence***

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray for Travis.

***Silence***

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

Let us pray for the whole human family.

**O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP pg. 815)**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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.

**Prayer for St. Bartholomew's**

Dear Triune God, our Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We thank you for the love that you give to your children and your constant presence in our lives. We thank you for the gifts and talents that you have given to each of us.

We believe that because of God's love for us he sent Jesus to be the ultimate sacrifice for our sins so that we may have eternal life. We know that we are called to be the light of Christ to those in need.

We ask for wisdom as we move forward seeking to know your will for our church family. We ask for courage so that we can boldly share the good news, loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Keep us united as a family. Please guide, protect, and equip us to do your will each and every day. And in the name of your son Jesus Christ, we promise to use our gifts and talents to bring honor and glory to you all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Day of Discernment-September 29, 2018

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

*Advent Blessing (from The Book of Occasional Services 2018).*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

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**Dismissal** Go in peace to Love and Serve the Lord

**Thanks be to God ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

**Closing Hymn #79 O Little Town of Bethlehem Verse 3**

**Celebrant-**Rev. Cathie Sklenar-Studwell

**Music Director--**Soon Yeon Chung

**Lector-** Fred Karl

**Video Director-**Kathy Gabrielle

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**Hymn #79 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark street shineth The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.  
  
How silently, how silently, The wondrous Gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

## *Prayer List-December 24, 2020*

*Kindly keep the following parishioners and friends  
in your prayers this week:*

Sherri, Susie, Jeana, Michelle, Virginia, Joan, Allan, Audrey, Margaret, Allen, Peter, Peggy, Choi, Mason, Jody, Fred, Ron, Jim, Evelyn, Jimmy, Sherry, Meaghan, Larry, Donna, Dic, Rich, Lisa, Ted, Lesli, Jonathon, Grace, Becky, MaryEllen, Jeffrey, Vern, Joan, John, Gloria, Kathy, Joan, Rakesh, Pam, Danielle, Alison, Pasquale, Rosa, Rocky, Dave, Mary, Phil

For our nation that we may heal and join together.

For our President and our President-Elect.

For all families suffering from the loss of a loved one.

Prayers for those who are grieving the loss of over a million people globally, and over three hundred and twenty thousand Americans who have perished due to COVID19.

For Wounded Warriors, All Medical Professionals, First Responders,  
Grocery Store Workers, Delivery People, and Everyone working to help our country.

Our Wardens, Vestry, Journey Forward Team, All Ministry Teams  
all Parish members needing prayer.

*Please remember in your prayers the friends and families of our parishioners and neighbors who are serving in the military:*

**Bobby, USA   Jennifer, USA,   Nicholas, USMC,   Anthony, USA**

# St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Whether In-Person or On-Line  
You Are Welcome Here...Come and See  
**Worship Schedule**

**In accordance with Bishop Hughes direction and out of an abundance of caution, our schedule will be reviewed and updated every few weeks.**

[December 24](#)-Christmas Eve 4:00-On-Line via Zoom

[December 24](#)-Christmas Eve 9:00-On Line via Zoom and FB

[December 25](#)-Christmas Day 10:00-On Line via Zoom and FB

[December 27](#)-On Line via Zoom and FB

[January 3](#)-On Line via Zoom and FB

Due to the increased positivity rates in New Jersey, our Bishop has made the decision for all churches in our diocese to suspend any in-person gatherings until the rates drop and it is safe for us to gather together.