

Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

Prelude:

Still, Still, Still, arr. David Cherwein

Opening Hymn:

O come, all ye faithful,

vs. 1-3 and 6, **Hymn 83**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Let us pray together: "O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen."

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two BCP 355

The Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and

forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Let us pray together 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.

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, vs. 1-2, **Hymn 96**

Collect of The Day

Celebrant: The Lord 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. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from: Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 BCP 725

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; * sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;* he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
 but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; * let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Epistle Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live

lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn:

Infant holy, infant lowly,

page 18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2:1-20

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

Vikki Clayton

All stand as you are able
The Nicene Creed
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

BCP 358

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.

Stand or kneel as you are able

The Prayers of the People

Gracious God, on this night we are reminded that we too, like the story of the shepherds in the field, hasten to see the presence of God's light in the world.

May we always be open to God's love.

We pray for all who work, or watch, or weep, this night. *May they find comfort in your presence.*

We pray for the peace of the world.

For all who strive towards justice and reconciliation.

Tonight we pray for those in any need or trouble, and for those who seek to know you.

May they find strength in your love.

We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

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 those on the Anglican and Diocesan Cycles of Prayer and our Parish Family and Friends

We pray for: Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Michael, Our Presiding Bishop, Mariann Our Bishop and Vikki, our Rector; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. John's Church, Olney

St. John's Episcopal School, Olney

St. John's Church, Zion Parish

St. John's Church, Broad Creek

St. John's Church, Mt. Rainier

For our Parish Family and Friends:

Lydia Brittle, Steve O'Neil, Scott Peterson, Delbert Wemple, Stevie Grimes, Laura Hobbs, Nancy Harding, Frank McMurtray, Janet McMurtray

Carolann Guerette (V. Cross)

Frank and Jerry Cross (V. Cross)

Rebecca Koltun & family (J. Rutherford)

Susan Oliver (J. Shea)

Thomas Cooper and Mrs. Boyd (D. Burton)

Roseann Royle (N. Row)

Bill Royle (N. Row)

Darcy Alt (S. Henderson)

Pam Jagusch (S. Grimes)

Linda Abrahams (V. Clayton)

Jeff Weinberger (S. Henderson)

Nick Vlachos (C. Hendricks)

Janice and Jeff Sands (M. Wemple)

Meghan Bradley (N. Row)

Patty Terry (V. Clayton)

Nancy Willett (J. Rutherford)

The Dodge Family (M. Wemple)

Seth Washington (S. Grimes)

Amy Morris (D. Howard)

Helen Hamlin (N. Row)

Amanda Graham (A. Fitts)

Pamela Koch (J. Peterson)

Raymond Parker (M. Wemple)

Michele Shirron (V. Clayton & N. Row)

Marlowe Leafty (A. Factor)

Alma Bray (L. Bray)

Karen Scott (M. Wemple)

Jerrilyn Frame (M. Wemple)

December Birthdays

Aria Zahid	December 7
Melissa Dalton	December 10
Judith Schneider	December 14
Joyce Hawkins	December 17
Owen Jagusch	December 17
Lonnie Pera	December 18
Vickie Fisher	December 19
Lauren Fisher	December 30

Celebrant:

O Lord our God, accept the prayers of your people, the sheep of your flock. In the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us for you are forever gracious to us. May we, like the shepherds who first saw your light, never hesitate to sing your praises, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Celebrant and People:

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.

Celebrant:

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.**

All stand as you are able

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as offering and sacrifice to God.

The Offertory

All are seated.

Choral Offertory:

I Wonder as I Wander, arr. Dorothy Zerbe

All stand as you are able.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above the Heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer A The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

Celebrant The Lord 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 him 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People Hymn S130
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your

mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant:
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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction
The Celebrant breaks the bread.
(A moment of silence)

Hymn S154

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #154



The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover, #154 from The Hymnal 1982, Service Music — Music: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

Communion Hymn:

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymn 82

Post Communion Prayer Celebrant: Let us pray.

BCP 365

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn by Candlelight:

Silent night page 19; Hymn 111

The Blessing

Closing Hymn:

Joy to the world Hymn 100

The Dismissal

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Go in peace to love and

serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude:

Postlude on "Antioch," arr. Gerald Peterson



Text: 87 87 88 77; Polish carol; tr. by Edith M. Reed, 1885-1933. Music: Polish carol.

Silent Night

Hymn 111



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Serving Today

Lay Reader Sally Hauber

Lay Eucharist Minister Donna Starkweather

Choir Director, Music Director, and Organist

Lauren Fisher

Ushers Jack Hauber and John Kaufmann

Broadcast Technician Ann Fitts

Altar Guild Ann and Bill Fitts

Flower Guild Meredith Smith

Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Vikki Clayton

St. Bartholomew's Choir

Jeff Bergsten, Ann Fitts, Bill Fitts, Charley Hendricks, Judy O'Neil, Maggie Ramey, Jennifer Rutherford, Judith Schneider, Mary Wemple

St. Bartholomew's Sunday School Teachers

Maya Fitts, Lauren Murtiff

St. Bartholomew's Vestry

Senior Warden Nancy Row Junior Warden Jeff Bergsten

Vestry

Victoria Cross, Lauren Fisher, William Fitts, Charles Frederick, Charley Hendricks, Deborah Howard, Lois Leigh, Lauren Murtiff, Robert Palmer

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in thanks for His eternal gift: Jesus Christ! By Meredith Smith

Poinsettia Donations

In Thanksgiving of their grandchildren – Cara Jean, Freddie, Oliver, Arthur, Graham, and Gracie – Scott and Janice Peterson

In Loving Memory of Harry and Mary Lou Graham – Ann and Bill Fitts

In Loving Memory of William and Audrey Fitts – Bill and Ann Fitts

In Loving Memory of Mary and Pat Spera – Kim Bamburak

In Loving Memory of Nicholas Bamburak – Kim Bamburak

In Loving Memory of Joan S. Burton – Dana Burton and Jeff Bergsten

In Loving Memory of Alan Bergsten – Jeff Bergsten and Dana Burton

In Loving Memory of Joanna Bergsten – Jeff Bergsten and Dana Burton

In Loving Memory of Ed and Mary Smith – Meredith Smith

In Loving Memory of Marshall Smith – Meredith Smith In Loving Memory of M. Dean and Ollie Smith – Meredith Smith

In Loving Memory of William and May Davis – Meredith Smith

In Loving Memory of Ellen Cummings – Meredith Smith In Loving Memory of Joan and James Graham – Meredith Smith

In Loving Memory of Ruth Proctor – Meredith Smith In Loving Memory of Meredith Smith's loved ones In Loving Memory of George Leigh – Lois Leigh

We wish you and all your loved ones a very Merry Christmas!

On-Line Giving

There is now the option to contribute to the ministries of St. Bartholomew's by using this QR code:



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 5005, Laytonsville, MD 20882 21611 Laytonsville Rd. Laytonsville, MD 20882 Office: 301-355-7189

Rector - Rev. Victoria Clayton https://www.facebook.com/StBartsofLaytonsville www.saintbartholomews.org