Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist
December 21, 2025

Prelude: *My Lord, What a Morning,* arr. Richard Billingham

Processional Hymn
Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes **Hymn 72**

Advent Candle Lighting
Scripture: "John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Celebrant and People: "Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen

The Word of God
Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Advent Collect
Celebrant: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Now let us hear the story of our Savior's birth as told through our Christmas Pageant.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel **Hymn 56**

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Narrator: We will soon hear the Innkeepers Poem about the Birth of Christ. But first, I thought you might be wondering where the Old Testament predicts Jesus' birth. I am glad you asked.

Many hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah predicted his birth in several chapters of the Old Testament. Isaiah was a major Old Testament prophet in Jerusalem. He is known for his powerful visions, poetic writings, and a ministry calling for repentance from idolatry and injustice while offering hope for a future Messiah. Here are some of his prophesies.

- He told us about Jesus' birth; "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and we will call him Immanuel." **(Isaiah 7:14)**
- He told us what we would call Jesus. "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 9:6-7)**
- He told us about Jesus' ancestors: A shoot from the stump of Jesse (David's father) will bring justice and be a rallying point for all people **(Isaiah 11:1-10)**

There are several other Old Testament writings predicting Jesus' birth. These are just a few. Now, let's hear the Innkeeper's poem proving these prophesies came true.

Innkeeper Procession
Away in a Manger **Hymn 101**
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Narrator: Welcome everyone who has come to worship
and hear the story of Baby Jesus whose love we hold dear.
It begins with Mary and Joseph, two tired refugees,
traveling to Bethlehem, as written in God's prophecy.
The story begins with the innkeeper sharing
a story of hope, faith and love, and also God's caring.

Mary and Joseph Procession
O Little Town of Bethlehem **Hymn 79**
O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

Innkeeper: Mary and Joseph standing before me, a pitiful sight,
So tired and dirty, they gave me a fright.
"My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.
There is no room in all Bethlehem," I said.

Mary: But our eyes told a story of hunger and need.
He felt very sorry, so he tried a good deed.
He cleaned up the stable and he cooked up a meal.
He helped all he could, at least, that's how I feel.

Joseph: He noticed that Mary was expecting very soon!
So, he prepared for delivery right under the moon.
The child came so quickly. His face seemed alight.
In this beautiful baby, God's presence shone bright.
I said softly. "It's Jesus, my friend."
God sent him to teach us and let His love in.

The Animals Procession
Hymn: *The Friendly Beasts*
Jesus our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

Innkeeper: My animals were calm, quieter than normal.
They often were noisy, and never too formal.
They always were eating, or else they were sleeping.
The stable required continuous sweeping.

Animal: But on Christmas night, they were strangely in
awe at the sight of the baby and all that they saw.
It's as if they knew that God had just hushed them,
Had fed and watered and carefully brushed them.
They knew, I believe, that God had been able
to work a miracle that night in that stable.

Angels Procession
Angels We Have Heard on High **Hymn 96**
Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Angel: We do not often see God's wondrous angels in flight.
But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.
They appeared to the shepherds saying
"Peace on earth and goodwill to all"

their sweet song to the shepherds as
they gave them their call.

Angel: With a light show that dazzled all who could see,
the angels shouted hallelujah and sang out with glee.
"To Bethlehem, shepherds!" the angels directed.
"To see Jesus the Christ, whom God has perfected."
"Go worship the Lord and follow his ways.
And you'll find Christmas joy for all of your days."

Shepherds Procession
The First Noel **Hymn 109**
The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Shepherd: The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned.
"Too much hard work or too much hot sun!"

Shepherd: That's what they thought; that's how they explained.
Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.
But the angels' song calmed them, and then they believed.
They rejoiced when they knew and were also relieved.
They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord.
Then they left and began to spread the good Word.

Wise Persons and Star Procession
We Three Kings **Hymn 128**
We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,

star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Wise Person: That shone brightly led Wise People at night
To Bethlehem's stable, to the manger's strange light.
They came bearing gifts, in worship and love,
praising God for God's wonders from heaven above.

The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on the straw.
It was the most wonderful of things that ever I saw.
If kings bring him gold and all kinds of treasure,
then maybe we too, can worship with pleasure.

Wise Person: The person of Jesus, who came to us all.
So worthy of praise, for he brings us God's call."

"I am the way, the truth, and the life,
Come to God for healing from strife.
Come unto me, all you who labor,
And I'll give you rest forever to savor."

Baby Jesus Procession
Silent Night **Hymn 111**
Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Narrator T'was the very first Christmas and there in the manger, the Christ-child was born; it could not have been stranger.

Shepherds saw angels;
Wise Men, a star.
They came to see Jesus; they came from afar.

They knew He was special – God's very own Son,
He came to the earth to teach and love everyone.

He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord,
To be worshiped each day, to be loved and adored.

So now at Christmas we all take delight.
In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.

In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give,
Let us never forget, it's in Christ that we live.

Children's Recessional
Joy to the Word **Hymn 100**
Joy to the world!
The Lord is Come:
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

The Peace
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Offertory

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

Offertory Hymn
Come thou long expected Jesus **Hymn 66**

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 **BCP 361**
The Great Thanksgiving
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,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Stand or kneel as you are able.
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.

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,

Celebrant and People:
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)
Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

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 Music
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, arr. John Purifoy

Post Communion Prayer
Celebrant: Let us pray.
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.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding **Hymn 59**

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Postlude
Tell Out My Soul, arr. J. Wayne Kerr

We pray for those on the Anglican and Diocesan Cycles of Prayer and our Parish Family and Friends
We pray for: For Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury Elect, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Mariann our Bishop, Vikki, our Rector; and for Lauren our music and choir director, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
The Anglican Church of Burundi

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
St. John's Church, Broad Creek
St. John's Church, Georgetown
St. John's Church Georgetown Preschool
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
St. John's Church, Mt. Rainier
St. John's Church, Norwood, Chevy Chase
St. John's Church, Olney
St. John's Episcopal School, Olney
St. John's Church, Zion Parish
St. Stephen and the Incarnation /San Esteban y La Encarnación, DC

For our parish family we pray for:
Judy O'Neil, Meredith Smith, Lydia Brittle, Scott Peterson, Stevie Grimes, Janet McMurtray.

For parishioners' family members and friends we pray in the quiet of our hearts:
(A moment of silence.)

Carolann Guerette (V. Cross)
Jerry Cross (V. Cross)
Susan Oliver (J. Shea)
Daniel Oliver (J. Shea)
Thomas Cooper and Mrs. Boyd (D. Burton)
Roseann Royle (N. Row)
Darcy Alt (S. Henderson)
Pam Jagusch (S. Grimes)
Jeff Weinberger (S. Henderson)
Seth Washington (S. Grimes)
Amanda Graham (A. Fitts)
Christine Pearson (V. Cross & J. Rutherford)
Chris Fountas (J. Rutherford)
Edmund Ground (M. Smith)
Allie Ground (M. Smith)
Garry Ground (M. Smith)
Felicia Taylor Popowski (B. Taylor)
Angela McKenzie (S. Henderson)
Mercy Frederick Ozuruonye (C. Frederick)
Anna Kuhlmann (N. Row)
Deanna Wheeler (Deborah Howard)
Nicole Pappano (J. Kaufmann)
David Umsheid (J. McMurtray)
Barb and Scott McDonald (V. Cross)
Carolyn Cross (M. Wemple)
Joyce Oehmler (V. Cross)
Dave Maxham (J. & S. Hauber)
Yannick Goedde-Bosch (A. Fitts)
Nicole Bowie (N. Row)
Jim Bond (S. Bond)
Shari Champagne (V. Cross)

Donny Cooper (J. McMurtray)
Patricia DeVol (J. McMurtray)
Nancy Loy (J. Rutherford)

Serving Today
Lay Eucharist Minister Victoria Cross
Choir Director, Music Director, and Organist Lauren Fisher
Usher Janet Shea
Broadcast Technicians Randy and Evan Beans
Altar Guild Ann and Bill Fitts
Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Vikki Clayton

St. Bartholomew's Choir
Jeff Bergsten, Bill Fitts, Charley Hendricks, Judy O'Neil, Maggie Ramey, Jennifer Rutherford, Judith Schneider

St. Bartholomew's Vestry

Senior Warden	Lois Leigh
Junior Warden	Jeff Bergsten

Vestry:
Lauren Fisher, William Fitts, Charles Frederick, John Kaufmann, David Landrith, Judith Schneider, Donna Starkweather

Coffee Hour
Coffee hour today is hosted by Lois Leigh. Next week is hosted by the birthday girl, Lauren Fisher.

Bible Study
Bible study is on hiatus until January 8, 2026.

Food Giving Basket
There is a food giving basket for Olney Help in the entry way of the church with a "wish list" of items. Please bring the items in a bag. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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