A Service of Lessons and Carols
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026

Prelude: Of the Father's Love Begotten, arr. Wilbur Held

Opening Carol:
Once in Royal David's City **Hymn 102, vs. 1-2**

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Officiant: A reading from Isaiah 55:12
You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Bidding Prayer **Rev. Vikki Clayton**

Dear People of God,
In this Season of Advent, it is our responsibility and delight to hear once more the message of our Lord and Savior's birth. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our creation until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child Jesus; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and justice on earth, and for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died. And because God particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as those whose faith is known to God alone.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which has no number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, with Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen**.

Choral Anthem:
The Wexford Carol
Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram
The choirs of St. Luke's and St. Bartholomew's

The Lessons

Lesson 1: Genesis 3:8-15 Reader: Eric Kaufmann

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in
the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and
his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God
among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the
man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' 10 He said, 'I heard the
sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was
naked; and I hid myself.' 11 He said, 'Who told you that you
were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I
commanded you not to eat?' 12 The man said, 'The woman
whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree,
and I ate.' 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is
this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent
tricked me, and I ate.'

Carol: *Creator of the Stars of Night* **Hymn 60 vs. 1-4**

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse, should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Lesson 2: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Reader: Rick Peuser
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Carol:
O Come, O Come Emmanuel **Hymn 56 vs. 1-2**

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lesson 3: Isaiah 40:1-5 Reader: Richard Rutherford
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Carol:
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People, **Hymn 67 vs. 1 and 3**

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

Lesson 4: Luke 1:26-33 Reader: Elisabeth Weakley
In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Carol:
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven **Hymn 265 vs. 1 and 2**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Lesson 5: Luke 2:1-7 Reader: Deborah Howard
In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.
So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Offertory Carol
An offertory collection will be taken during the following carol.

Carol: *Away in a Manger* **Hymn 101 vs. 1-3**

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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Lesson 6: Luke 2:8-14 Reader: Nancy Osgood
And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Carol:
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
Hymn 94 vs. 1-4

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,

The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind."

"To you, in David's town this day is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord: and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."

Lesson 7: Luke 2:15-20 Reader: Lois Leigh
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Carol: *What Child is This?* **Hymn 115 vs. 1 and 2**

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Lesson 8: Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Janie Heppel
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and

presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Carol: *We three kings of Orient are* **Hymn 128 vs. 1-2**

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!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.
O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

Lesson 9: John 1: 1-14 Reader: Rev. Vikki Clayton
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made

through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Choral Anthem:
Light Dawns on a Weary World
William P. Rowan and Mary Louise Bringle
The choirs of St. Luke's and St. Bartholomew's

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

The Collect
Officiant: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing
Officiant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Carol:
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice **Hymn 107**
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light,* J.S. Bach

Serving Today
St. Bartholomew's Choir Director, Music Director, and Organist: Lauren Fisher
St. Luke's Choir Director, Music Director, and Organist: Helen Weems
Usher: Rob Palmer
Broadcast Technician: Victoria Cross
Flower Guild: Nancy Row
Altar Guild: Janet Shea, Lois Leigh
Officiant: The Rev. Vikki Clayton

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

St. Luke's Choir
Peter Borlo, Kate Collier, Cassie Collier, Eileen Crowe, Karen Dugard, Douglas Farquhar, Mike Goodman, David Heppel, Robin Peuser, Jeff Ross, Helen Weems

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 Ann Fitts and Deborah Howard. Next week is birthday cake Sunday, so all you home bakers can take the day off.

The sign up book for 2026 is available, it's on the counter in the undercroft.

Bible Study
Bible study is held on Thursdays at 10:30 am via Zoom. We are studying St. Paul's Letter to the Romans using the book *Paul for Everyone: Romans, Part Two: Chapters 9-16.* Newcomers are always welcome and you don't need the book to participate! Contact Richard Rutherford (richard.rutherford90@gmail.com) for more information, or Victoria (parishadmin@saintbartholomews.org) for the Zoom link.

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.

Labyrinth Gallery
Labyrinth Gallery is pleased to host photographer Ed Angevine, watercolorist Noëlie Angevine, and acrylic painter and printmaker Katarina Öberg, all local artists residing in Germantown, Maryland. They are excited to share "A Labyrinth of Form", their nature inspired art with the community. Their artwork will be on exhibit from January 4th to February 28th, 2026. They will host an opening reception from 2 to 4 PM on January 10th, and a Meet and Greet on Saturday, February 14th, 2026, from 1:00-3:00pm.

Second Saturdays every month are open studio days at Labyrinth Gallery in Temperance Hall from noon to 5 PM. To visit any other time, you can call Jennifer Rutherford at 301-906-6009 to make an appointment. She's lives only five minutes away so if you would like to come see the gallery on short notice, just give her a call.

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

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