

# A Season of Advent

The One who is to come is near; have no anxiety,  
but in everything make your requests known to God  
in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. - *Philippians 4:5b-6 (OSH)*



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. - *Isaiah 9:2*

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St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20, 2020 - Service of the Word

## Opening Hymn 438

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*

*The Hymnal 1982*

*John Corrie & The St. Bart's Choir*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

**Opening Acclamation**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.** - Luke 1:46

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

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

*The Fischer Family*

*Leader:* In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. - Luke 1:78,79

*If you are lighting candles at home, light three purple candles and the pink candle.*

*Leader:* The light of Christ is coming into the world.

*Response:* **And darkness will never overcome it.**

**The Collect of the Day**

*The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley*

God be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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 for ever **Amen.**

**The Lessons**

**A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel 67:1-11, 16**

*Elizabeth Ring*

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Here ends the reading.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**A Reading from the Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

*The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hear ends the reading from the Gospel.

**The Sermon**

*The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley*

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The Nicene Creed**

*\*\*This text of the Nicene Creed omits the phrase 'and the Son' in the third paragraph, recovering the original text of the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, 325 and 381CE respectively.*

Let us affirm the faith of the Church, saying 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. \*\*  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Peter Sillin*

Comfort, comfort your people, O God:  
**And hear the prayer of our hearts:**

For the Church:

**May we bear your love to the world.**

For our bishops, Michael and Thomas; our rector, Nina; and the Diocese of Maine.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the congregation of St. John's in Brownville Junction; and for those grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season.

In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mother's Union around the world.

For the reconciliation of this nation:

**May we honor one another and serve the common good.**

For the peace of the world:

**And the wellbeing of all people.**

For this planet, our home:

**May we be healers of creation.**

For the parish community of St. Bart's, and all those we love:

For those in need of our prayers: Steph; Bobby; Charles; Kellan; Pat; Mackenzie; Scott; Marcella; David; Tim; Sam; Kathie; Diane; Arthur; Matthew; Jean; Lee; Sally; Zoe; Samantha; Jenni; Peter; Betty; June & Fred; and Bob and Susie.

For all who wander, who hunger, who suffer:

**May we embody your love and care.**

For those who have died:

*Catherine Peixotto (Bob's mother)*

Receive them into the arms of your mercy.

**May we comfort those who mourn.**

Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace:

**that we may hold fast to your great goodness.**

## **Concluding Collect**

*The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

**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 our Savior 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.**

## **The Absolution**

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

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathering all our prayers into one, we now pray:

**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 Peace**

The Peace of Christ, Emmanuel, be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of peace... while our Vestry Person of the Week shares some announcements.*

**Announcements** *(listed at the end)*

*Susie Soule*

**Concluding Prayer**

Let us pray:

**Holy One,**  
**you hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.**  
**Let the design of your great love**  
**shine on the waste of this world's anger and sorrow;**  
**give peace to your Church,**  
**peace among nations,**  
**peace in our homes,**  
**and peace in our hearts,**  
**in Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*The St. Bart's Blessing*

My friends, life is short  
and we do not have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,  
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.  
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned  
with the promise of our future  
than the mistakes of our past.  
And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Anthem**

*Ave Maria*  
By Franz Biebl

*The St. Bart's Choir*  
*Heather Sylvester and John Corrie, soloists*

## **Thanks to our participants and technical crew for putting together today's service:**

The Rev. Nina R. Pooley, *Rector*

John Corrie, *Choir Director*

St. Bart's Choir

Elizabeth Ring, *Lesson & Psalm*

Peter Sillin, *Prayers of the People*

Susie Soule, *Announcements*

Ken Pooley, *Videography and Editing*

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## **Your Vestry Leadership During Transition**

Even before Nina's announcement, your current vestry recognized that the "unsettled-ness" of 2020 would be bleeding into 2021. Because we have invested much time, thought and prayer navigating to this point, each vestry member agreed to "pause" their term for a year, subject to a vote at our annual meeting, with one shift in officer status; Anne Berg to assume the role of Assistant Treasurer and Susie Peixotto becoming our Secretary. Arthur Woolverton will remain on the vestry as an at-large member. Given our now transition status and our continued remote meeting status, the working relationships that have been established is even more important during the year ahead.

If there are questions or concerns, please contact any vestry member prior to our Annual Meeting!

Your Wardens, Michele and Dennis

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## **Useful Resources During this Pandemic:**

### **Pastoral Care Booklet: Words of Comfort**

Nina and the Pastoral Care Committee have compiled a collection of prayers and psalms into a booklet titled, "Words of Comfort, for Times of Worry, Distress and Grief." The idea for the compilation arose as a means to support the community during the pandemic. As the name implies, it is intended to be a resource for comfort beyond just our current situation. For ease of printing portions of the booklet, we have created a Table of Contents in the Pastoral Care Booklet and we have made the Psalms/Canticles a separate booklet. There is now a Pastoral Care tab on the home page of the St. Bart's website, [www.stbartsyarmouth.org](http://www.stbartsyarmouth.org), with links to the booklets.

### **Pastoral Care: Healing Prayers**

The Pastoral Care Committee is available to offer healing prayers upon request via a phone call or video call. If you would like to arrange such a call, please contact Barbara Barhydt, [jbml@gwi.net](mailto:jbml@gwi.net) or Pam Hobson, [pamhobson46@gmail.com](mailto:pamhobson46@gmail.com) and they will schedule a convenient time with one of the Committee members.

### **Pastoral Care Email**

There is a new e-mail address for the Pastoral Care Committee, which will provide a centralized e-mail for parishioner questions, thoughts, and concerns; [pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org).

**The Maine FrontLine WarmLine is now available to Maine's Educators.** This free, confidential warm line for Front Line healthcare providers and First Responders and their families now includes teachers and all school personnel and their families. A team of trained volunteers is ready to support Front Line callers facing stressors due to COVID-19.

**Those seeking support can call (207) 221-8196, seven days a week, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM to speak confidentially with one of these trained volunteers. To be connected via text to a text "Frontline" to 898-211.**

*Maine Front Line Warm Line is a collaborative effort of the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians, Maine DHHS, The Opportunity Alliance, Maine Department of Public Safety including EMS and Law Enforcement, the Maine Psychological Association and the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.*

Click [Daily Prayer](#) for the Forward Day by Day Daily Meditation.

## Announcements

### Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee hour after the service. Pam Hobson will lead the coffee hour discussion. The topic will be: The strengths and joys, large and small, of St. Bart's. See Nina's News and Notes email for the Zoom invitation.

### Christmas Eve Services

We will offer both the Christmas Pageant and our Traditional Service with hymns on Christmas Eve. The pageant will be available at 4pm and the choral service at 7pm. Please log onto the website, [www.stbartsyarmouth.org](http://www.stbartsyarmouth.org), to access the services or click on the links in Nina's News and Notes/Worship Links e-bulletins.

### Christmas I Service

Join us on Sunday, December 27 for a diocesan-wide service at 9AM. The service will be available on our website, [www.stbartsyarmouth.org](http://www.stbartsyarmouth.org).

### Call for Christmas Photos

Friends, we miss seeing each other's smiling faces - what better way to celebrate on Christmas Eve than sharing photos? Send your family photo, or your selfie to Nina, and we'll include it in the choral service on Christmas Eve. (Deadline: Tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 21) [Nina@stbartsyarmouth.org](mailto:Nina@stbartsyarmouth.org)

### YCHI Update

Thank you to all who generously gave to our Holiday Giving Program. We appreciate you! Families will be thrilled to know that we are thinking of them and wishing them a happy holiday.

During these covid-19 times, YCHI has been supporting YCHI families in isolation or quarantine who do not have access to food or other basic necessities. And, through a new initiative with the Yarmouth Community Covid Task Force, we have been able offer testing to those who are homebound, symptomatic or otherwise unable to access testing. This has brought great relief to the families.

**Action item: If you are able to make contactless deliveries of food or Christmas gifts to YCHI families, please reach out to: Carla Hunt, [musseit@yahoo.com](mailto:musseit@yahoo.com)** Deliveries will be made early this week.

Thanks for your continued support!

### St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry

**NEW Toothbrush Drive** - St. Bart's is collecting toothbrushes to distribute at the Pantry in January and hope you'll help us reach our goal of 200 toothbrushes! We welcome individual toothbrushes and family packs (of 4-5).

**Other In Kind Donations:** We are currently seeking donations of sheets (please label the size with masking tape), tablecloths, cloth napkins, towels, winter hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. We no longer accept clothing.

*Donations can be dropped off in the large blue bins outside of St. Bart's office.*

Or, consider purchasing our high need items listed on our Amazon wishlist: <http://a.co/eV6rZyn>.

**Online:** Learn more about St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center and ways to give at the new website: <https://stelizabethsmaine.org/> and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/StElizabethsJubileeCenter/>.

**FMI:** Contact Linda Draper ([ldraper347@gmail.com](mailto:ldraper347@gmail.com)) or Anne Jacobs ([ajacobs207@gmail.com](mailto:ajacobs207@gmail.com))

### Friendship House - We are currently collecting the following donations:

**\*\*New or used twin sheets**

**\*\*New or used pillowcases**

Men's Winter Clothes

Blankets

Pillows,

Razors, Shaving cream, Shampoo, Toothpaste and Body wash.

Items can be dropped off in the plastic box labeled "Friendship House" below the overhang at the front of the church. Also, financial contributions are welcomed and can be mailed to: Friendship House, 390 Lincoln Street, South Portland, ME 04106.

### Hannaford Gift Card Program Needs You!

Do you shop at Hannaford's or Bow Street Market? If you do you could earn \$5 for St. Bart's with every \$100 you spend buying groceries. Many thanks to folks who are participating! Please contact John Duncan at [johnwduncan29@gmail.com](mailto:johnwduncan29@gmail.com) or 232-6743 if you want to learn more.

### CLYNK Bags are available

We all still need to be recycling our bottle deposits correctly. CLYNK bags are available to help support St Bart's. We have placed a clear plastic container with CLYNK bags under the wooden bench that sits below the overhang at the front of St. Bart's. Thanks for your continued support.

### **Join us for Zoom Handiwork every Monday!!**

All handicrafts - we hope you will join us for our Monday handicrafts gathering on zoom. We have so much fun seeing each other, talking about our knitting, or other projects, and sharing recipes - really, you don't want to miss out! Check Nina's News and Notes for the invitation.

### **Upcoming Lawn/Snow Care Schedule**

DEC 20-26: Gregg Hoerr  
DEC 27-JAN 2: **NEEDED**  
JAN 3-9: Mark Goettel  
JAN 10-16: Peter Chandler  
JAN 17-23: Joe Michaud  
JAN 24-30: Ted Danforth

### **Weekly St. Bart's Children's Homily!**

All interested families and parishioners are invited to check out the weekly Sunday School videos posted to our YouTube page. To locate them, go to the main page of our website, hover over "Our Community," and then click on "Children and Youth." Or you can follow this link directly to our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNo2ud6XfWfIY33SzAxfPLQ?>

All St. Bart's kids are invited to **Children's Virtual Coffee Hour every Sunday at 10:30am!**

Join at this link every week to visit with your Sunday School friends: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/81664389210>

**St. Bart's Youth Instagram page: [stbartsyouth\\_yarmouth](#) !** Encourage your older kids to follow our account and stay connected! Parents are welcome too!

### **BOOK NOTES: Winter 2020/2021 – The Bookstore That Never Closes...**

St. Bart's bookstore is surely unique as bookstores go. For one thing, it's always open for browsing and shopping. If you have the opportunity to be in the church building, take some time to check out the book room upstairs. Most books have been shelved in categories (Pets, Memoir, Fiction, Maine, Cooking etc.), but browsing is definitely worthwhile. In general, hardcover books are \$2 each; paperbacks 50 cents to \$1.00. Cash boxes near the door. It's well worth the trip upstairs, and you can't beat the prices! Any questions, please contact, Margaret Betts ([mmbetts@roadrunner.com](mailto:mmbetts@roadrunner.com)), Linda Draper ([ldraper347@gmail.com](mailto:ldraper347@gmail.com)), or Jan Burson ([janzimsu64@gmail.com](mailto:janzimsu64@gmail.com)).