



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS DAY 2024

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to St. Bernard's Episcopal Church. Thank you for sharing in worship today, we are blessed by your presence. We also welcome our Zoom worshippers. Restrooms are found in the Parish House next door.



PRELUDE

Please stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL 100

Joy to the World!

- 1 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.
- 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant The Word of God became flesh and dwells among us.
We see Christ's glory, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:14*)
People **O come, let us worship.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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 - CAROL 96 stanza 1

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. **Refrain**

Refrain *Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Tender and precious God, from ancient times the promise of your salvation has sustained your people. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise his holy name. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12

read by Chris Thomas

Lector A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98:1-5 *sung by the soloist with congregational antiphon*

Guimont, BCP pp. 727-728

Antiphon



The Lord has re- vealed to the na - tions his sav - ing pow'r, his sav - ing pow'r.

*Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won vict'ry for him, his holy arm. **Antiphon***

*The Lord has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel. **Antiphon***

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God.
Sing joyful to the Lord, all you lands: break into song; sing praise. **Antiphon***

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

read by lector

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 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. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

POEM: Cradle Hymn

by Isaac Watts, first published 1715

Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber;
 Holy angels guard thy bed;
 Heavenly blessings without number
 Gently falling on thy head.

Sleep, my babe, thy food and raiment,
 How and home, thy friends provide;
 All without thy care, or payment,
 All thy wants are well supplied.

How much better thou'rt attended
 That the Son of God could be.
 When from heaven He descended,
 And became a child like thee!

Soft and easy is thy cradle;
 Coarse and hard thy Savior lay.
 When His birthplace was a stable,
 And His softest bed was hay.

See the kindly shepherds round him,
 Telling wonders from the sky!
 When they sought Him, there they found Him,
 With his Virgin-Mother by.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;
 Lovely infant, how He smiled!
 When He wept, the mother's blessing
 Soothed and hushed the holy child.

Lo, He slumbers in His manger,
 Where the honest oxen fed;
 -- Peace, my darling! here's no danger!
 Here's no ox a-near thy bed!

Mayst thou live to know and fear Him,
 Trust and love Him all thy days;
 Then go dwell forever near Him,
 See His face, and sing His praise!

I could give thee thousand kisses,
 Hoping what I most desire;
 Not a mother's fondest wishes
 Can to greater joys aspire.

Please stand as you are able.

GRADUAL CAROL 84

Love came down at Christmas

Please stand as able and sing.

1 Love came down at Christmas,
 love all lovely, love divine;
 love was born at Christmas:
 star and angels gave the sign.

2 Worship we the Godhead,
 love incarnate, love divine;
 worship we our Jesus,
 but wherewith for sacred sign?

3 Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
 love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of

man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino

NICENE CREED

Please stand as you are able.

BCP pp. 358-359

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 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 *led by Chris Thomas*

Form III, BCP p. 387

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest.

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for all on our Prayer List (*read names*). *Silence. The People may add their own petitions. The Deacon adds a concluding Collect.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Common Worship

Deacon Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the Savior of the world. (*cf Matthew 1:21*)

Deacon God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

During the Offertory Solo an offering is collected for God's mission and ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY SOLO

Away in a Manger

Traditional

AT THE PRESENTATION

The people stand and sing.

Traditional, tune: Gesu Bambino)



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367

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 God 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Traditional, tune: What child is this?

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might;

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

Celebrant God is with us, and so we pray:

**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.

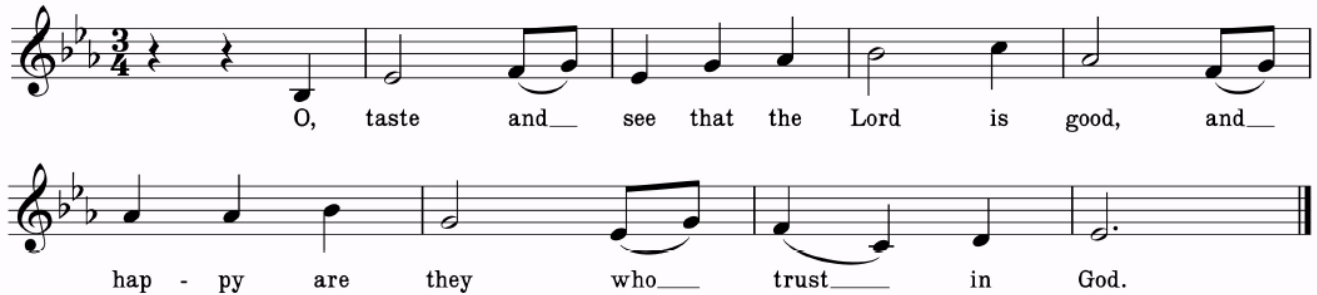
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

Traditional, Tune: Away in a manger



O, taste and see that the Lord is good, and
hap - py are they who trust in God.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come and meet the Risen Christ.

All are welcome to receive the real and living presence of the Body and Blood of Christ, coming forward and kneeling or standing at the altar rail. For those who choose to receive the Blood of Christ, there are two chalices: the pottery chalice is for intincting (dipping), the silver chalice is for those who wish to sip. Gluten-free Communion is available, please request. You may come forward for a blessing in lieu of Communion.

COMMUNION SOLO

The First Nowell

Traditional

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 428

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ our infant savior give you the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds, the peace and hope of the company of angels, and the humility and love of the holy family; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL CAROL 99 stanzas 1-2, 4

Go, tell it on the Mountain

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3. Down in a lowly manger the
humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Deacon Filled with joy and peace, let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

ASSISTING AT OUR SERVICE

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino, *Celebrant & Preacher*
The Rev. Karen Burke Lewis, *Deacon*
Dr. Martin Sedek, *Director of Music*
Samantha Ferrara, *Soloist*
Chris Thomas, *Lector*
Denise Thomas, *Chalicist*

St. Bernard's Episcopal Church Clergy, Staff, Wardens, & Vestry

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino, *Rector*
The Rev. Karen Burke Lewis, *Deacon*
Dr. Martin Sedek, *Director of Music*
Alison Davidson, *Parish Administrator*
Chris Thomas, Paul Edwards, *Wardens*
Michael Myers, *Treasurer*; Linda Engleby, *Clerk*
Vestry: Linda Engleby, Anne Fritts, Pamela Hull, Taylor Hwong,
Meg McKee, Jennifer Moss, Michael Myers

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Christmas Day

WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Evening Prayer, resumes in the New Year, Jan. 8, 5:30 pm via Zoom

Evening Prayer will resume in the new year on Wed. Jan. 8 at 5:30 pm via Zoom and will run on alternate Wednesdays through to Lent. Jan. 8, 22, Feb. 5, 19. All welcome.



JOY! service for families with young children on Sunday, Jan. 5 at St. Bernard's at the new time of 4:30 pm

Monthly service for families with young kids. Followed by a fellowship meal in the Parish Hall. Alternating locations between St. Bernard's and St. John on the Mountain. On Jan. 5 the service will be 4:30 pm at St. Bernard's Church.

Stewardship-Created for Relationship

Thank you to those who have already made their pledge for 2025. Our financial giving estimate is inspired by God's generous heart and this generosity is also evident in the ways we contribute our gifts of time and energy to the parish and community. There is still time to make a pledge Please submit your pledge certificates to our parish office. Your generosity allows us to serve Bernardsville and beyond.

SAINT BERNARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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