



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Bernard's Episcopal Church. Thank you for sharing in our Christmas worship tonight. All are welcome to share in Holy Eucharist. Restrooms and changing tables are available in the Parish House next door.



PRELUDE

CHOIR INTROIT Hodie, Christus Natus Est Palestrina

PROCESSIONAL CAROL 83 stanzas 1-3 O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels; *Refrain*

2. God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father;
Refrain

Refrain O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*

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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP by Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org | *adapted from Luke 2:1-14*

Deacon In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child.
The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child,
wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

People **And the angels sang,**
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors."

Deacon Let us worship our with-us God.

People **Let us sing songs of praise!**

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 **Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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. *Antiphon*

From The Portland Psalter, © 2002, Robert A. Hawthorne. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

read by Meg McKee

Lector A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

POEM: The Risk of Birth

read by Meg McKee

by Madeleine L'Engle

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor & truth were trampled to scorn –
Yet here did the Savior make His home.

What is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn –
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

CAROL 79 stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 5

O little town of Bethlehem

Please stand and sing.

1 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.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

5 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

Please remain standing for the Gospel.

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

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

We encourage you to listen to the Gospel. To read along, the Gospel can be found in the pew Bible p. 888.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Please stand as you are able.* by Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org

We believe that on a night like this one, a baby was born and placed in a manger.

We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,

who grew up to love the outcast and change the world.

We believe that Jesus' love was so big and so personal that the world will never be the same.

So despite the mystery of this holy night, we believe that a star shone,

that the shepherds ran, that the angels sang, and that love was born.

Yes, we believe it when the prophets say that unto you, unto us, a savior is born.

Glory to God in the highest heaven! We believe.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *led by Jane Rauen*

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. *Silence*

Deacon By your grace, transform our prayers from words to deeds, that we may live as a holy people in the dawn of your peace, redeemed from all that divides us. **Amen.**

CONFESSION Call to Confession by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Deacon In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?"

Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck.

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 May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* arr. Kurt Nystedt

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS *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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth... 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

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.... 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.... 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

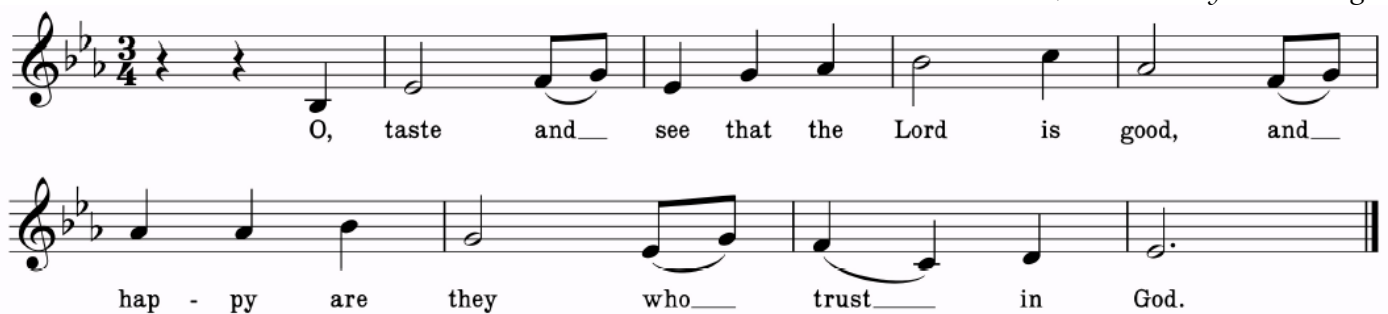
BCP p. 364

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

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 ANTHEM

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

At the conclusion of Holy Communion, all kneel (as able) to sing the carol as the lights are dimmed.

CAROL 111

Silent night

Stille Nacht

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven a-far,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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

Celebrant 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 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

- 3 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

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

The Flowers and Music at Christmas are given to the Glory of God and



In loving memory of Helen H. Schnack, Edward A. Schnack, Cora Corwin Hildebrant

In thanksgiving to God for all God is doing through St. Bernard's and St. John on the Mountain
– *Pastor Beth*

In loving memory of John and Evelyn Cauley, Harry and Olive Van Ness, and Douglas Van Ness
– *John & Valerie Cauley*

In honor and loving memory of family and friends of Greg and Mary Canose – *Greg & Mary Jane Canose*

In loving memory of Sue Smith – *John Smith*

In loving memory of Jack Fritts and loved ones – *Anne Fritts*

In loving memory of the Glazar and Kocsis families – *Katherine Glazar*

In thanksgiving for all the blessings God has given me this year – *Mary Kempen*

In thanksgiving for our family and friends – *Mindy & Ned Kirby*

In thanksgiving for this St. Bernard's House & Family, in memory of Katherine Mueller, Andrew McWilliams, Charlie Ashmun, and Jim Beringer – *Cindy & Sandy McWilliams*

In loving memory of our parents, Joan & Tom Curtin, and Art & Jean Thomas – *the Thomas Family*

In celebration of our families and friends and our Clergy and Congregation
– *Patrick & Sue Constantinides*

In thanksgiving for my nine amazing grandchildren:
Patton, David, Teddy, Bay, Nora, Lou, June, Otis, and Max – *Jane Rauen*

In loving memory of Joseph Martin Byouk and Joseph Robert Byouk – *Phyllis Byouk*

In loving memory of the Fleetwood and Pauls – *Carmen Paul*

In loving memory of and thanksgiving for Jeanne McEntee and Jervis Wiles McEntee – *Valerie McEntee*

In loving memory of Peter & Betty Sayers, Pete Davidson, Charlie, Patrick, and Louie;
in thanksgiving for our children; and much gratitude to this wonderful community and all our friends
who have given us so much love and support through a very difficult time – *Alison & Glenn Davidson*



ASSISTING TONIGHT AT OUR SERVICE

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino, *Celebrant & Preacher*
The Rev. Karen Burke Lewis, *Deacon*
Dr. Martin Sedek, *Director of Music*

St. Bernard's Choir:

Jim Ferrara, Samantha Ferrara, Pamela Hull,
Caitlin Hwong, Taylor Hwong,
Debi Kurisko, Valerie McEntee, Devin McGuire,
Michael Myers, Jason Robinette, John Smith,
Julia Somers, Chris Thomas

Chalicians

Mary Kempen, Pamela Kenworthy

Lectors

Pamela Hull, Meg McKee, Jane Rauen

Ushers

Greg & Mary Jane Canose

Acolytes

Teddy Hwong, Jack Morris, David Sciaino



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*

Christopher Thomas, Paul Edwards, *Wardens*
Michael Myers, *Treasurer*; Linda Engleby, *Clerk*
Linda Engleby, Anne Fritts, Pamela Hull,
Taylor Hwong, Meg McKee,
Jennifer Moss, Michael Myers



Donations to St. Bernard's Church can be made through PayPal using this QR code.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

ANGEL'S CLOSET

Angel's Closet, sponsored by the parishes of St. John on the Mountain and St. Bernard's in Bernardsville, NJ, with your help will support local families in need by collecting donations for a shopping-style distribution event that will take place at Bernards High School twice a year in December and May.

Angel's Closet, which took place on Dec. 8 at Bernard's High School, was a huge success! If you would like to volunteer or be on the committee for future events please contact Kathy Tober: kathleentober@gmail.com

Homework help and assistance is given to children from Bernardsville Middle School on Weds., 3-5pm in St. Bernard's Parish Hall. To volunteer with this fabulous program contact:

Cindy McWilliams: cmcwilli22@gmail.com; or
Priscilla Miller: priscillajmiller@aol.com



Much needed food donations can be donated at any time in the tote situated outside of St. Bernard's Church.

Along with St. John on the Mountain and St. Mark's Church, volunteers tend to God's Giving Garden at Ross Farm, Basking Ridge to produce hundreds of pounds of fresh produce that is distributed to food banks in the community. To volunteer for next year's season contact Cathy Ferrara: cathyhf2@gmail.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Day

10 am at St. Bernard's only and on Zoom,
combined service with soloist



Sunday, Dec. 29, 10 am

Lessons & Carols

at St. John on the Mountain,
One service only on this day,
no service at St. Bernard's.

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.

OUTREACH

Episcopal Community Services of New Jersey (ECS-NJ) new website & mailing address

ECS-NJ - new website: <https://ecs-nj.org/> . ECS-NJ new mailing address: PO Box 86, Bedminster, NJ 07921. To donate to its annual appeal, if you did not receive a letter, please send a check to that address as an alternative to online donating.

SAINT BERNARD'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

88 Claremont Road, Bernardsville, New Jersey 07924
(908) 766-0602 - www.StBernardsNJ.orgz