

CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Eucharist
8:30 a.m. page 3
10:30 a.m. page 4

December 14, 2025

Welcome to the Church of St. Bartholomew. We are a Christian church in the Anglican tradition. We are the church in the community and a community in the church. It is a privilege to gather here this morning on what has been a site of worship and storytelling for thousands of years - the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin, who have acted as guardians and stewards of this land and its waterways. As they have passed on their traditions through storytelling and worship, we do so as well.

If you are visiting St. Bartholomew's, we hope you find peace and welcome within these walls. Here generations of the faithful, the seeking and the lost have come to find meaning, holiness, friendship and an encounter with the divine. Your presence adds to the great cloud of witnesses by which we are surrounded. People have often spoken of St. Bartholomew's as a "thin place" - a tradition in Celtic Christian spirituality where the veil between the material world and the spiritual realm diminishes, making it easier to encounter God. We hope this is your experience here too.

If you are new to Anglicanism, or it has been a while since you have been to church, and you are not quite sure what happens and when, do not worry. Anglican worship has a particular structure, and we do love our books! It can seem like a lot of page-turning and book-juggling. There is a rhythm to it, but it can take some getting used to. Don't feel you have to be on the right page all the time. Let the liturgy wash over you. If you would like some help, ask a neighbour - they will be glad to point you in the right direction, but being on the right page isn't necessary. Just let things unfold. Our worship services are found in two different books in your pew racks: The burgundy Book of Common Prayer used at 8:30 a.m.; the green Book of Alternative Services used at 10:30 a.m. Most hymns can be found in the blue Common Praise hymn books, and the hymn numbers in this bulletin reference the hymn numbers in the book

When it comes to "posture", there is a lot of standing up and sitting down! Generally, we stand up to sing and to profess our faith (such as at hymns, the Gospel and the Creed); we sit to hear the word (readings, sermon); we kneel or stand to pray. If you cannot stand or cannot kneel, you can sit.

We do take up a collection of funds at the Offertory - around the middle of the service. Sidespeople will pass an offering plate along the pews and if you are moved to contribute, there are visitor envelopes in the pew racks in which you can put your offering, or you can scan this QR code with your phone to make your donation securely on-line.



When it comes time for Communion, everyone who is baptized, regardless of their denomination, is welcome to receive the bread and the wine. We use the common cup for wine, so if you would prefer not to drink from the cup, simply cross your arms over your chest as the chalice is offered to you. Intinction, or the dipping of the bread into the wine, is not permitted. If you are not baptized, or wish to receive a blessing, you are welcome to come to the Altar rail at the time of Communion, cross your arms as the priest approaches, and the priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available (just let the priest know). And, if the steps leading to the Altar rail are a challenge because you have mobility constraints, let a sidesperson know you would like Communion brought to you in your pew. For questions about baptism, please speak with the priest.

Children are welcome in the church for worship. There are seasonal activity packs on the credenza in the narthex and in the box under the table by the porch door to keep young hands and minds engaged. There is also a children's room in the parish hall with stations of activities where you can take your child during the service if they would prefer to have a bit more room to move. The audio from the service is broadcast into the hall so you can hear the liturgy.

Again, welcome to St. Bartholomew's. We are blessed that you are here.

A reminder: please ensure your mobile phones/devices are turned off or all notifications are set to silent or do not disturb mode.

8:30a.m.

Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer pg. 67

Greeting

Presider The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People And with thy Spirit

Announcements

Collect for Purity p. 67

Summary of the Law p. 69

Collect of the Day See p. 4 of the bulletin

Collect for Advent

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 See p. 4 of the bulletin

Psalm 146:4-9 See p. 5 of the bulletin

Second Reading James 5:7-10 See p. 5 of the bulletin

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 See p. 6 of the bulletin

Sermon

The Creed (*please stand*)

The Offertory p. 71

Generous financial support is our expression of gratitude which along with our time and talents enables us to provide worship at St. Bartholomew's and support God's work in service in our community and beyond. Thank you for your offering.

The Intercession (*please sit or kneel*) p. 75

Confession & Absolution p. 76

The Comfortable Words p. 77

Thanksgiving & Consecration p. 78

The Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Altar rail. After receiving the bread, you may either drink from the cup or cross your arms to indicate your wish to honour it. Taking only the bread is considered a full communion. Dipping the wafer in the wine is not permitted. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who require it – please advise the priest.

The Lord's Prayer p. 85

Prayer after Communion p. 85

Blessing

Presiding Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah
Communion Assistant: Sheila Perry | Sidesperson & Reader: Naomi Francis

Please join us in the parish hall for refreshments after this service.

A reminder: please ensure your mobile phones/devices are turned off or all notifications are set to silent or do not disturb mode.

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services p. 185

Prelude Chorale Fantasia on “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern” Dietrich Buxtehude
Hymn 362 Tell Out, My Soul Woodlands

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting p. 185

Collect for Purity p. 185

Kyrie

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Collect of the Day

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9 *The cantor sings the refrain. All repeat. All repeat the refrain as indicated.*



Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R**

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 109 When the King Shall Come Again

Tempus Adest Floridum

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeler: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Gospeler: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed *(please stand.)*

p. 189

Intercessions

Confession & Absolution

p. 191

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Ascension

Generous financial support is our expression of gratitude which along with our time and talents enables us to provide worship at St. Bartholomew's and support God's work in service in our community and beyond. Thank you for your offering.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer 3

p. 198

Sanctus

All

David Thorne

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might.
Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na,
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho -
san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

p. 211

Breaking of the Bread 5

p. 212

Presider God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
All Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.
All Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

David Thorne

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world. Grant us peace.

The Communion All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Altar rail. After receiving the bread, you may either drink from the cup or cross your arms to indicate your wish to honour it. Dipping the wafer in the wine is not allowed. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who require it. Please advise the priest. If the steps to the rail are a challenge, please advise the sidesperson and communion will be brought to you.

Communion Hymn 113 Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free
Communion Motet This Is the Record of John

Maranatha
Orlando Gibbons

Prayer after Communion

Presider All your works praise you, O Lord.

All And your faithful servants bless you. Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn 103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

Dismissal

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Chorale Prelude on "Von Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her" Johann Pachelbel

Please join us in the parish hall for refreshments after this service

Presiding Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah
Sidespeople: John & Patricia Morris | Readers: Liz Heatherington; Peter Hyde
Intercessor: Chris Burn | Communion Assistants: Ray Perrin; Serge Belet

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEWS

December 24	4:00 p.m.	Family Eucharist & Pop-up Pageant followed by cider & cookies.
Christmas Eve	8:00 p.m.	Festive Sung Eucharist with carols, choir, trumpet & timpani!
	11:00 p.m.	Traditional Candlelight Midnight Mass - quieter & gentle.
December 25		
Christmas Day	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist with carols, followed by festive refreshments.
December 28	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Christmas I	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with carols.
January 1		
Naming of Jesus	12:00 noon	Choral Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral (414 Sparks Street) with annual address from the Primate, followed by a reception.
January 4	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Epiphany	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
(anticipated)	4:00 p.m.	Lessons & Motets for Epiphany with "Chalking of the Doors".

The flowers on the flower stands in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of her 14th anniversary as a parishioner and the 12th anniversary of her confirmation by Susan Revere.

The flowers at the Cross in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frances Anna (Lea) Laverty by her daughters, Mary Ann de Chastelain and Lea Rutherford.

FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS

To make the church especially festive for our Christmas services, you are invited to contribute towards the flowers in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, the special people and/or events in your life. These dedications will be included in the Christmas bulletins. Forms are available at the back of the church and in the parish hall or contact Pamela Mallon. Deadline for receiving requests is Monday, December 15.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Diocese: We pray for Shane, our Primate; Anne, our Metropolitan; our Diocesan partner, The International Women's Network in Canada; our Diocesan Community Ministries (Belong Ottawa - Centre 454, St. Luke's Table, The Well - Centre 105 Cornwall, Cornerstone Housing for Women, the Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry); St. John the Evangelist, Smiths Falls and the Reverend Dr. Thomas Brauer.

We pray also for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to elect a new bishop: for those discerning a call to let their name stand for election; for the candidates; for the Synod Secretaries, Election Committee members and Members of Synod.

Canada: Members of the Governor General's Foot Guards, the CAF and those serving in diplomatic missions and NGOs.

Parish: Robin J, Don, Lauren, Sally, Jane G, Paul, Stephen, Rhondda, Shelagh, Letitia, Richard, Donna, Nancy, Rachel, Kelly, Sonja, Isabel, Erica, Jane, Pam, Ron, John, Natasha, Margareta, Ed, Angeleigha, Susan, Christine, Harriet & Family the residents, staff and volunteers of the Garry J. Armstrong Home, and their Chaplain.

THE CALENDAR

More about the Kingdom

When the gospel writers and St Paul in his epistles wrote about the Kingdom, their consciousness was limited to the connections and relationships between people. These books emphasise that our connections with each other need not be guided by formulae and regulation but by the Holy Spirit. That is the source of faith, hope and love, or *charity* in its former sense, which King James's translators used for the Greek *agapé*, a word used to describe Christian love. It is relatively easy to love those who love us back. Ian McEwan, thinking about the relationship between us and those who cannot love us back, wrote: *We are shaped by our history and biology to frame our plans within the short term, within the scale of a lifetime. Now we are asked to address the well-being of unborn individuals we will never meet, and who, contrary to the usual terms of human interaction, will not be returning the favour.* He was writing about our relationship with the natural environment. For what we have done with plastic, especially, microplastic, we may, at present, claim a defence of ignorance, but in the last twenty-five years for the climate at least, we knew precisely what we were and are doing. The only defence is material prosperity. While this goes on, the Keeling curve, the relation between atmospheric carbon dioxide and time keeps increasing, exponentially. Even the pandemic didn't dent it. In some places, what was climatically unusual thirty years ago is now commonplace.

We count on rational thinking and action to guide most of our public decisions. For the climate, rationality is insufficient. W.H. Auden's Christmas oratorio *For the Time Being* identifies our four faculties that guide the decisions we make and the relationships we are part of: *Intuition, Feeling, Sensation, and Thought*. (Sensation means experience.) All of these sustain and develop our life in the Kingdom. The Kingdom is not purely a rational experience nor is it rights-based, a phrase common today that may remind us of St Paul's struggles with those who thought the Kingdom was bound by the Mosaic Law. A key to the Kingdom is that it was not established but is being established. The laws of the Kingdom are guidelines, to be interpreted through our four faculties. Auden gives Simeon a vision of the Kingdom: *But here and now the Word which is implicit in the Beginning and in the End is become immediately explicit, and that which hitherto we could only passively fear as the incomprehensible I AM, henceforth we may actively love with comprehension that HE IS.* The Kingdom, mysteriously, is inside and outside time, and that is why unborn lives matter.

Submitted by: Chris Burn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS LETTER

The Rector's Christmas letter is available for pick-up today.

ADVENT POETRY GROUP THURSDAYS 7:00 - 9:00 PM UNTIL DECEMBER 18

All are welcome to the Advent poetry series. We will discuss *Wounded I Sing, From Advent to Christmas with George Herbert* by Richard Harries. Contact Robin Dunbar for information.

MINI BAZAAR DECEMBER 14 today until 2:30pm

Just in time for Christmas. The St. Bart's Mini-Bazaar will take place on Dec 14 for some last-minute Christmas shopping.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SONG DECEMBER 14 today at 3:00pm

Enjoy a winter twilight recital featuring Mezzo-soprano Pauline van der Roest, Cellist Joan Harrison and Pianist Frédéric Lacroix. Tickets are \$20 available at the door.

ADVENT QUIET DAY SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 10:00pm - 3:00pm

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to turn off the noise that December can bring, with holiday preparations, shopping, parties and events? Have you ever thought, "I want to go on retreat, but it is just too busy this close to Christmas!"? Then consider taking half a day to engage in a time of silence, spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation. "*Waiting in the Wilderness*" will call us to a time of expectant hope with worship, silence, listening and engaging with the prophecies of Isaiah. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please register (for numbers) through the parish office at stbartsottawa@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS WITH SEVENTEEN VOYCES SUNDAY DECEMBER 21 4:00PM

Celebrate the spirit of the season with the return of Seventeen Voyces' signature blend of traditional and contemporary choral works.

Visit <https://www.seventenvoyces.ca/concerts/> for tickets.

RIDEAU ROCKCLIFFE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE DONATIONS

Please remember the emergency food bank at the RRCRC when shopping for the holidays this year. Food insecurity continues to rise and doesn't take a break at Christmas or afterwards. See the poster on the bulletin board in the link for a complete list of most-needed items, which include: peanut butter; whole wheat pasta; rice; sugar; low-sugar & low-sodium food and snacks; gluten-free products; cooking oil; coffee; tea; toilet paper; laundry detergent; school snacks. Please place items in the mauve totes outside the parish office. Thank you!

THE CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW

125 MacKay Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1M 2B4

Parish Office: (613) 745-7834 ext. 101

email: stbartsottawa@gmail.com website: www.saintbartholomew.ca

Office is open Monday through Friday 9am-1pm except statutory holidays

EVERY WEEK AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

BRIDGE CLUB MONDAYS 2PM-4PM All are invited to come and play bridge. Please contact Mary and Richard Capson at richardcapson.is@rogers.com for further details.

PINT & A PASSAGE MONDAYS 7PM Join the conversation (and the chaos!) at the Clocktower Pub at Beechwood & MacKay to discuss the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. The passage for discussion December 15 is Matthew 1:18-25

WEEKLY MEDITATION THURSDAYS AT 8AM on Zoom. Our meditation group is a member of the WCCM, a global spiritual community united in the practice of meditation in the Christian tradition. Visit (wccm.org) for information about the organization and contact the Parish office for Zoom co-ordinates. We meet in-person at the church and simultaneously on-line the first Thursday of the month.

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS AT 10AM on Zoom Contact the Church Office for details and the Zoom link.

Rector	The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah (613) 745-7834 ext. 103 catherine-ascah@ottawa.anglican.ca
Administrator	Laura Macdonald (613) 745-7834 ext. 101
Organist & Director of Music	Timothy Piper (613) 745-7834 ext. 102
Rector's Warden	Rob Nelson
People's Warden	Gina Watson
Deputy Warden	Sandy Beeman
Deputy Warden	Michèle Corriveau
Altar Guild	Pamela Mallon
Treasurer	Bob Orr
Envelope Secretary	Laura Macdonald