

**THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW**  
DIOCESE OF OTTAWA | ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA  
THE GUARDS' CHAPEL



**Christmas Eve**

**Festive Sung Eucharist**

**December 24, 2025 | 8:00 P.M.**

Merry Christmas! 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 afternoon 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.

We do take up a collection of funds at the Offertory - around the middle of the service - which supports St. Bartholomew's ministries. 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 here. There are activity packages at the church entrance and on the table behind the organist's bench. 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.

*\*Please - out of respect for those who have gathered, turn off cell phones or set them to silent/do not disturb mode. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.*

# SUNG EUCHARIST

**Prelude**                      Pastoral Symphony (Messiah)                      G. F. Handel

**Choral Introit**              Glory to God (Messiah)                      G. F. Handel

**Hymn**                      Once in Royal David's City                      CP 126/Irby

*Solo: 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 and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood, he would honour and obey.  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by.  
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

**All** And also with you.

**Celebrant** Almighty God,

**All** to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are  
hidden: 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.

Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us, when the seraph bright  
Greeted you with wondrous tiding, what you saw and heard that night.  
*Refrain: Glō—ria in excelsis Deo! Glō-ria in excelsis Deo!*

Bergers, pour qui cette fête? Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?  
Quel vainqueur, quelle conquête mérite ces cris triomphants? *Refrain*

Choristers on high were singing Jesus and his virgin birth,  
Heavenly bells the while a-ringing, "Peace, goodwill to all on earth." *Refrain*

Les anges dans nos campagnes ont entonné l'hymne des cieux;  
Et l'écho de nos montagnes redit ce chant mélodieux: *Refrain*

### Collect of the Day

O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### First Reading

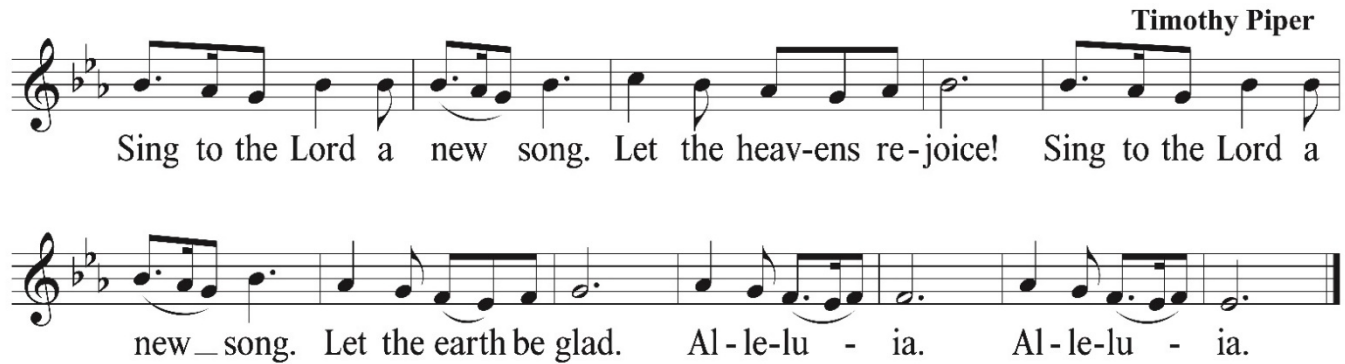
Isaiah 9:2-7

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader      Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
All          Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 96** *The cantor sings the refrain. All repeat it.*

*All repeat the refrain as indicated.*



*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name; proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day. Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations and the wonders of God among all peoples. **R***

*For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; more to be feared than all gods. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is you, O Lord who made the heavens. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence! Oh, the power and the splendour of your sanctuary! **R***

*Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and power. Ascribe to the Lord the honour due the divine name; bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before God. **R***

*Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord reigns! The Lord who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity." 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. **R***

*Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord who is coming, who is coming to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with truth. **R***

## **Second Reading**

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn Joy to the World

CP 154/Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns: let us glad songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as our sin is found, far as our sin is found,  
far as, far as our sin is found.

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.

## **Holy Gospel**

Luke 2:1-14

**Gospeller** The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

**Gospeller** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

**Gospeller** The Gospel of Christ.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Sermon**

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers of the People *(please sit or kneel)*

To the phrase: "In your mercy", please respond with "Hear our prayer"

## The Peace *(please stand)*

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

**People** And also with you.

*People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.*

## The Offertory

*Thank you for your donation which enables us to provide worship at St. Bartholomew's and support God's work through service in the community and beyond. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more.*

## Offertory Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful

CP 118 / Adestes Fideles

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

Peuple fidèle, le Seigneur t'appelle:  
c'est fête sur terre, le Christ est né.  
Viens à la crèche voir le Roi du monde.  
En lui viens reconnaître, en lui viens reconnaître,  
en lui viens reconnaître ton Dieu, ton Sauveur.

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Verbe, lumière et splendeur du Père,  
il naît d'une femme, petit et pauvre.  
Dieu véritable, le Seigneur des anges.  
En lui viens reconnaître, en lui viens reconnaître,  
en lui viens reconnaître ton Dieu, ton Sauveur.

See how the shepherds, summoned to this cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; glory to God in the highest:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### Prayer over the gifts

#### Great Thanksgiving

**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 our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant** Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

### 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.



**Celebrant** We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death a death he freely accepted, 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**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, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All** 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

**Celebrant** We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All** God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

**Celebrant** The gifts of God are for the people of God.

**All** Thanks be to God.

### **Communion**

*All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, 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 you wish to honour it. Dipping the wafer in the wine is not allowed. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms in an "x" across your chest. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who require it - please advise the priest. If the steps to the rail are a challenge, please let the sidesperson know and Communion will be brought to you.*

Communion Motets I Saw a Maiden  
Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Old Basque Noël  
Charles Wood

Communion Hymn Silent Night

CP 119 /Stille Nacht

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.

O nuit de paix, sainte nuit, dans le ciel, l'astre luit,  
dans les champs tout repose en paix,  
mais soudain dans l'air pur et frais,  
le brillant chœur des anges, aux bergers apparaît.

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.

Prayer after Communion (*please stand*)

Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God

All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or  
imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in  
Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CP 138/Mendelssohn

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate deity,  
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain.*

Dismissal

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

Choral Postlude   Hallelujah Chorus (Messiah) G. F. Handel

Presiding Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah  
Readers: Claire Schofield; Olivier Cappon | Intercessor: Robin Dunbar  
Communion Assistants: Serge Belet; Alain Lanoix | Sidespeople: Martine Cappon; Mary Capson

Please note the church office will be closed December 25-26 & January 1, and operating with “flex hours” between December 29-January 2. Regular office hours resume Monday, January 5. A reminder that offerings must be received/postmarked or made electronically by December 31 for a 2025 tax receipt.

**CHRISTMASTIDE LITURGIES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S**

December 24 Christmas Eve	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight Midnight Mass
December 25 Christmas Day	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Carols
December 28 Christmas I	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
January 1 Naming of Jesus	12:00 noon	Choral Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral (414 Sparks St.) with address by the Primate followed by a reception.
January 4 Epiphany (antic.)	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	4:00 p.m.	Lessons & Motets for Epiphany and “Chalking” of the Doors

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	

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

*The flowers are given to the glory of God & in thanksgiving, or in memory of loved ones.*

The children of Ukraine who have died in the last year through invasion and abduction	by Paul & Martine Cappon
Assad/Butcher Family for their love and support	by Linda Assad-Butcher
Mary Ward Raymont, Col. R.L. Raymont, John Raymont, Cynthia & David Heatherington, Margaret Latham, LindaLee Tracey, Mary & Stuart Robertson, Caroline Lillas Massey	by R. Scott Heatherington & Elizabeth Raymont Heatherington
Pennie Younger	by David Younger
George & Daisy Avery and Edward & Alice Doherty	by Brian & Pamela Mallon
Ismene & Bill McKenzie Wood, in loving and grateful memory	by Alexandra Wood and family
George & Margaret Millson, Crompton & Doris Lewis, and Peter Lewis & Jill Puesta	by Nancy & Doug Millson and family
Katharina & Max Mittner, Ken & Renee Robinson, and Linda Joss	by Andrew & Regina Robinson
Bert & Tony Butler	by Don & Rosalyn Butler
Ross & Edie Moffett	by Gaye Moffett & Rosalyn Butler
Our Parents	by Jim & Meriel Bradford
Ron Price, William & Catherine Curfoot-Mollington, John & Anne Gidlow, and Jack Gidlow	by Mark Curfoot-Mollington
Margaret Jean MacIsaac	by Meiping MacIsaac
Nigel Hopkins and Sally Coates-Hopkins	by their goddaughter Meiping MacIsaac and their family
Celebrating family, friends and faith	by Sheila Perry
Bob & Isabel Burn and Harry & Patricia Ramsay Burn	by Chris Burn & Joan Ramsay
Dr. Steven Aung - teacher, healer, friend	by David Esdaile

## THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW

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

Office open 9am - 1pm Monday through Friday except statutory holidays or when indicated.

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