

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.StBartsPewaukee.com](http://www.StBartsPewaukee.com)

# St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

## ABOUT US

We're so glad you're with us today. We're a **Christian Church**: we believe Jesus is our Lord & Savior and the Bible is God's Word for us. We're an **Episcopal Church** in the Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin which is part of the **Anglican Communion** dating back to the first Christians in England in the 2nd century A.D.

Our Mission is *helping everyone become who God created them to be.*

## WELCOME

If this is your first time here we'd love to **say Thanks or answer any questions**. You can call/text our pastor, **Father Joel** at **(262) 725-2691** or email: **[pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com)**.

## OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

Everything you need today is in this bulletin. Our worship is a "liturgy" with two parts: **THE WORD OF GOD** and **THE HOLY COMMUNION** which all baptized Christians are welcome to receive, including children.

## KIDS

**Children are always welcome** in the Sanctuary for the entire service (we don't mind babies behaving like babies).

**Children's Chapel** is available for kids Pre-K through Elementary. They will follow the Teacher to the classroom in the south hallway at *The Collect of the Day*. They will return at *The Peace*.



## WHO'S WHO

### Pastor / Rector

the Rev'd Joel Allen Prather  
[pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:pastor@stbarts pewaukee.com)

### Music Director

Ethan Tarvin  
[music@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:music@stbarts pewaukee.com)

### Parish Administration

Jan Watter  
[admin@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:admin@stbarts pewaukee.com)

### Rector's Assistance

Carol Cohen  
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### Sr. Warden

Hannah Gordon  
[sunnyaz18@gmail.com](mailto:sunnyaz18@gmail.com)

### Jr. Warden

Dave Woods  
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### Treasurer

Mike Delmore  
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### Prayer Requests

[prayer@stbarts pewaukee.com](mailto:prayer@stbarts pewaukee.com)

## The Hymnal 1982

The blue hymnal found in the pew racks is the collection of hymns, tunes, and service music authorized for use in the Episcopal Church. The Hymnal is a companion for the Book of Common Prayer, supporting the Lectionary and the Calendar. It includes service music and 720 hymns. The Hymnal is strongly founded on congregational singing.

We are singing the hymns that are in the hymnal from the hymnal. All other music will continue to have the lyrics in the printed worship bulletin.

**If you are new to The Hymnal:** hymn numbers are found in bold in the hymnal. The first quarter of the book is service music, such as the Song of Praise and the Sanctus that we sing every Sunday. Service music has an “S” in front of the number. Hymns comprise the rest of the hymnal, bold numbers 1 - 720. There are not page numbers. **Look for the hymn by its number, not its name.**

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emanuel verses 1, 7, 8

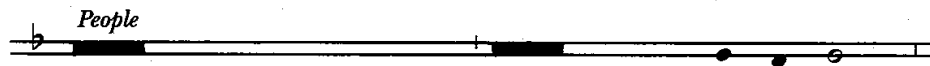
Blue Hymnal 56

### The Opening Acclamation

Blue Hymnal S76



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

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.**

### Holy God - Trisagion

Blue Hymnal S101

### The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*\*A short prayer to unify, or “collect”, our intentions for worship. It typically indicates the theme of the day.*

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.**

## ***Children's Chapel***

*At this time kids Pre-K through Elementary are invited to come to the front for a blessing and then follow the Teacher to Children's Chapel.*

### **The Lessons** *(please be seated)*

#### **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah** (7:10-16)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18**

*The Psalms were originally written to be sung. These poems and prayers have been the foundation of worship for Jews and Christians for 3,000 years, and Jesus prayed and sang the psalms regularly.*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, \* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \* the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; \* give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## **A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans** (1:7-10)

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **The Gradual Hymn\*: Change My Heart O God**

*Please stand as you are able. \*This is a song to prepare us to hear Jesus' words. Its ancient name is from the Latin "gradus", the place it was sung in Church.*

Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You.  
You are the potter. I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me. This is what I pray.  
Change my heart, oh God. Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God. May I be like You

## **The Gospel** (means "Good News")

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel + of our Lord Jesus Christ + according to Matthew + (1:18-25)

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

+ *You may make a small + Cross with your thumb over your mind, lips, and heart.*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne  
a son; and he named him Jesus.

Gospeler:       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

Jesus, oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs

## The Sermon

*Fr. Joel Prather*

### **The Nicene Creed** *(please stand and pray together)*

*The Nicene Creed in this bulletin is slightly different than what you may be used to. This is because the Episcopal Church restored the original language of the Nicene Creed which was shared by all Christians until the 6th Century.*

**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, *(you may bow down here)* was incarnate of  
the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. *(you may rise)*

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, who  
with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic Church. *(\* means universal)*

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.

+ *you may make the Sign of the Cross here to acknowledge the hope that you will be resurrected*

# The Prayers of the People

*The Reader and People pray responsively*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, let us pray to the Lord.

*Here and after every petition the People respond*

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Matthew our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust especially Donald our President, Tony our Governor, Paul our County Executive, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the first inhabitants of Pewaukee: we honor the Potawatomi people, as well as the Oneida people who brought the Episcopal Church to Wisconsin. Help us to be instruments of your peace and justice, we pray to you, O Lord.

Let us pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, prisoners, the unemployed, and those in any need. Remembering especially those on our prayer list...

We also pray for our ministry partners:

- Arlo and Ashtyn's Hope (*Canavan's Disease*)
- Fr. Andrew and Amazing Grace AIDS Ministry (*Malawi*)
- Pastor David and Breaking The Chains Church (*Felmers O. Cheney Correctional Center, Milwaukee*)
- Joe and Family Promise of Waukesha County (*Homelessness*)
- Our Karén Families and their Beautiful Garden
- Dave, Judy, and the Pewaukee Food Pantry
- Bishop Daudi and Olivia in Tanzania
- Bill and our Veterans and Families Groups
- Sharon and our Waukesha County Affordable Housing Coalition

...we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Bartholomew and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

*We will observe an extended moment of silent reflection before proceeding. Please feel free to relax and sit down if you prefer.*

Celebrant: For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Confession of Sin**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

### **The Absolution**

#### **The Peace** *(All stand.)*

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

**People: And also with you.**

*Sharing “peace” with one another is an ancient Christian tradition, not only in the words of Jesus, but also in the practices of the Christian community. As you are comfortable, you are welcome to shake hands when we pass the peace. Please respect those that are not comfortable with hand shaking. A simple nod or the peace sign is also a meaningful way to share the peace of Christ.*

### **Announcements**

*Be sure to sign-up for our eNews using the Welcome! card in your pew rack or at our website. We also encourage you to follow us on our YouTube, Facebook and/or Instagram accounts to stay up-to-date and hit “Share” to let your friends see what’s happening.*



## The Offertory

God tells us in the Bible, no one should feel pressured about giving (2 Corinthians 9:7). Please be at peace about what you choose to do or not to do. The most important offering God wants from us is our life & our hearts. You can place an offering in the basket passed by the ushers or in the wooden box marked Donations near the exit of the Church.

## Offertory Hymn: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven

Blue Hymnal 265

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

It is right to give him 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.

*(The Celebrant reads a Preface of the Lord's Day - a variable portion of the text of our Eucharistic Prayer that plays an important role in aligning our worship with the theme of a particular occasion or season.)*

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:

## Celebrant and People: Sanctus

Blue Hymnal S130

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues:*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

"Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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 Bartholomew and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blue Hymnal S119**

**Fraction Anthem**

**Blue Hymnal S152**

**Agnus Dei**

**Blue Hymnal S164**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Invitation to Spiritual Communion for livestream worshippers** - a personal devotional that anyone can pray to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in circumstances which prevent them from actually receiving communion. The prayer will be displayed on the screen.

### ***About Communion at St. Bartholomew's***

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us, including children. If this doesn't describe where you're at, you are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing which you can indicate by crossing your hands over your heart. Or feel free to stay in your seat to pray or reflect.*

*Please come to the rail in front of the altar to receive the Bread and Wine. We have Gluten free Communion Bread for those who desire it. We use alcoholic wine. Bread will be served to you as you stand or kneel. Small cups of wine will be presented to you. Take a cup of wine. As you leave, place the empty cup in the bowl near the end of the first pew and return to your seat. Thank you.*

*If you need Communion brought to you just let one of our Ushers know.*

*Prayer Ministry is offered confidentially during the Eucharist in the side chapel. Let us pray for all those in need; for yourself, family, or friends. You may also be anointed with oil for healing as the Bible teaches (James 5:14). We do so by making a small sign of the Cross upon one's forehead. All are welcome.*



## Communion Song 1: O Come to the Altar

Are you hurting and broken within?  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin? Jesus is calling.  
Have you come to the end of yourself?  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well? Jesus is calling.

*[Chorus]*

O come to the altar, The Father's arms are open wide.  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes.  
Come today there's no reason to wait. Jesus is calling.  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy.  
From the ashes a new life is born. Jesus is calling.

*[Chorus – sing 2X]*

*[Bridge]*

Oh, what a Savior, isn't He wonderful?  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.  
Bow down before Him, for He is Lord of all;  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen.

*[Chorus - sing 2X]*

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown.  
Tell the world of the treasure you found.

## Communion Song 2: Great Are You Lord

You give life. You are love. You bring light to the darkness.  
You give hope. You restore every heart that is broken  
And great are You, Lord.  
It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise.  
It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You only. *(Repeat)*

And all the earth will shout Your praise.  
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,  
"Great are You, Lord!" *(Repeat)*

It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise.  
It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You only. *(Repeat)*

## Prayers After Communion

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant & People:* **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

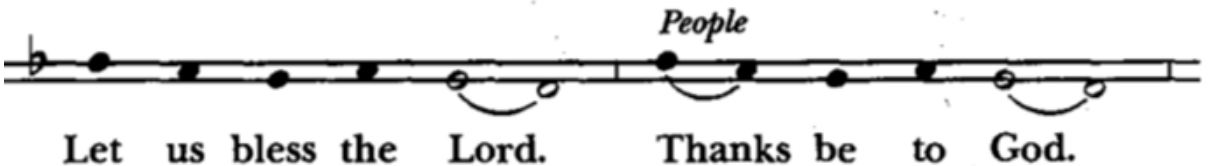
## The Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

Blue Hymnal 57

## The Dismissal



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*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*  
Please join us for coffee and refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Please scan here to support the mission and ministry of St. Bart's.  
We thank you for your generosity.



## **Celebrating the Lives of Saints**

Christians have, since ancient times, honored people whose lives represent heroic commitment to Christ and who have borne witness to their faith even at the cost of their lives. Such witnesses, by the grace of God, live in every age. It should encourage us to realize that the saints, like us, are first and foremost redeemed sinners in whom the risen Christ's words to St. Paul come to fulfillment, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

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Today, we celebrate the life of:

## SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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The Gospel according to John records several incidents in which Thomas appears, and from them we are able to gain some impression of the sort of man he was. When Jesus insisted on going to Judea, to visit his friends at Bethany, Thomas boldly declared, “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11:16). At the Last Supper, he interrupted our Lord’s discourse with the question, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” (John 14:5). And after Christ’s resurrection, Thomas would not accept the account of the women and the other apostles, until Jesus himself appeared before him, showing him his wounds. This drew from him the first explicit acknowledgment of Christ’s divinity, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

Thomas appears to have been a thoughtful if perhaps literal-minded man, inclined to skepticism; but he was a staunch friend when his loyalty was once given. The expression “Doubting Thomas,” which has become established in English usage, is not entirely fair to Thomas. He did not refuse belief: he wanted to believe, but did not dare, without further evidence. Because of his goodwill, Jesus gave him a sign, although Jesus had refused a sign to the Pharisees. His Lord’s rebuke was well deserved: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (John 20:29). The sign did not create faith; it merely released the faith that was in Thomas already.

According to an early tradition mentioned by Eusebius and others, Thomas evangelized the Persians. Syrian Christians of India cherish a tradition that after his mission to Persia, he continued East and brought the Gospel to India. The site of his burial, in present day Chennai, has been a shrine and place of Christian pilgrimage since antiquity.

Thomas’ honest questioning and doubt, and Jesus’ assuring response to him, have given many modern Christians courage to persist in faith, even when they are still doubting and questioning.

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Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

# **BECOMING A MEMBER AT ST. BART'S**

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You can become a Member any Sunday.

## **What does it mean to be a Member of the Church?**

1. Make it official.
2. Participate in worship, in-person and/or online, more often than you don't.
3. Connect with other Members.
4. Serve.
5. Give.

## **Membership Starts With Baptism**

If you, or your children, are not baptized you can do so any Sunday. Simply talk to Father Joel and he'd be glad to answer any questions and help you prepare for Baptism.

## **So How Do I Make It Official?**

- Talk to our pastor Father Joel.
- During Sunday worship you'll be invited up front to...
  - ◊ Renew your Baptismal Promises with two questions.
  - ◊ The congregation will then promise to "do all in their power to support you in your life in Christ."
  - ◊ We'll say a prayer for you.
  - ◊ We'll present you with a gift of Membership and a beautiful watercolor Membership Certificate by our own Dulcie Shupe.
  - ◊ Thunderous applause for you!
  - ◊ That's it...Congratulations!

## **So...Want To Make It Official?**