

# FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 28, 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@stbartsnewauke.com](mailto:pastor@stbartsnewauke.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@stbartsnewauke.com](mailto:pastor@stbartsnewauke.com)

### Music Director

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

### Parish Administration

Jan Watter  
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### Rector's Assistance

Carol Cohen  
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### Sr. Warden

Hannah Gordon  
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### Jr. Warden

Dave Woods  
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### Treasurer

[mike\\_delmore@yahoo.com](mailto:mike_delmore@yahoo.com)

### Prayer Requests

[prayer@stbartsnewauke.com](mailto:prayer@stbartsnewauke.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.

This summer we are going to sing the hymns that are in the hymnal from the hymnal. All other music will continue to have the lyrics for all other music 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 no page numbers. Look for the hymn by its number, not its name.

## Opening Hymn: Joy to the World

Blue Hymnal 100

*Please stand*

### The Opening Sentence

Officiant: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10,11*

### Confession of Sin *(please stand or kneel as you are able)*

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

**All: 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

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Invitatory *(all stand)*

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

**All:** O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

## Venite

Hymnal S35

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our Salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him  
with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Please be seated and join the musicians in singing the psalm.*

## Psalm 147:13-21

*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.*

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \* praise your God, O Zion;  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \* he has blessed your children within you.  
He has established peace on your borders; \* he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
He sends out his command to the earth, \* and his word runs very swiftly.  
He gives snow like wool; \* he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \* who can stand against his cold?  
He sends forth his word and melts them; \* he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
He declares his word to Jacob, \* his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
He has not done so to any other nation; \* to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

## The Old Testament Lesson *(please remain seated)*

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (61:10-62:3)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

### Canticle 13, A Song of Praise: *Benedictus es, Domine*

Hymnal S236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you. Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you. Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

## **The New Testament Lesson** *(please br seated)*

### **A reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians** (3:23-25; 4:4-7)

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

**Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** (verse 1 before, verse 2 after)

Blue Hymnal 89

## **Gospel Reading** *(please br seated)*

**Officiant:** A reading from the Gospel according to John (1:1-18)

The Word was in the beginning, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. That which came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of humanity. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There came a man sent from God, his name was John. This one came to witness, in order that he might witness about the light, so that everyone may have allegiance through him. This one was not the light, on the contrary he witnesses concerning the light. The true light which gives light to all humanity was coming into the earth. He was among the earth, and the earth came into being through him, and the earth did not know him. He came into his own, and his own did not receive him. But whoever received him, he gave to them authority to become children of God, to those who have allegiance in his name, not from blood nor from the desire of flesh nor from the will of male, but begotten from God. And the Word became [Jewish] flesh and tabernacled among us, we have seen his honor, honor as the only unique one from the Father, full of grace and truth. John witnessed about him and cried out saying, "This is the one whom I said "The one who is coming after me is above

me, because he was before me.” Because from his fullness we all have received grace upon grace; that the Torah was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Yeshua Messiah. No one has ever seen God; the only unique one of God, whom is in the bosom of the Father, that one has made him known.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## Homily

### The Apostle’s Creed

*Officiant and People together, all standing.*

**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.** *(\* means Universal)*

### The Lord’s Prayer

*Together*

**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 Prayers of the People** *(you may remain standing, kneel, or be seated)*

*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.**

*Please stand*

## **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the eternal light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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** *(Prayer Ministers are available to pray for you or with you)*

*God tells us in the Bible, no one should feel pressured about giving (see 2 Corinthians 9:7). Please be at peace about whatever you choose to do or not to do. The most important offering God wants from us is our life and our hearts. The ushers will pass the baskets for your offering or welcome card.*

## The General Thanksgiving

*Officiant and People:*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*Officiant and People:*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

## The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

# 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."

Today, we celebrate the life of:

## HOLY INNOCENTS

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Herod the Great, ruler of the Jews, appointed by the Romans in 40 BCE, kept the peace in Palestine for 37 years. His ruthless control, coupled with genuine ability, has been recorded by the Jewish historian Josephus, who describes him as "a man of great barbarity towards everyone." An Idumaean, married to the daughter of Hyrcanus, the last legal Hasmonean ruler, Herod was continually in fear of losing his throne. It is not surprising that the Magi's report of the birth of an infant King of the Jews (Matthew 2) would have caused him fear and anger. Although the event is not recorded in secular history, the story of the massacre of the Innocents would have been in keeping with what is known of Herod's character.

To protect himself against being supplanted by an infant king, Herod ordered the slaughter of all male children under two years of age in Bethlehem and the surrounding region. From antiquity, the church has consistently honored these innocent children as martyrs, even though they were quite obviously not Christians, because they were killed by one who was seeking to destroy Christ. Augustine of Hippo called them "buds, killed by the frost of persecution the moment they showed themselves."

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We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please scan here to support the mission and ministry of St. Bart's.

We thank you for your generosity.



# **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?**