

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 ✕ 10 am

Welcome to St. Bede's Episcopal Church

St. Bede's is a sacred place where God and the human pilgrimage meet. It is a welcoming community, characteristic of the God we serve as followers of Christ—welcoming and affirming people of every race, age, sexuality, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, education, economic circumstances, family configuration, and ability. We believe Jesus the Christ to be the incarnation of God's love—the God who is reconciling and offering hospitality to the whole world.

Holy Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Word

Voluntary *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

Welcome

Processional Hymn *Savior of the nations, come (Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland)* **Hymnal 54**

Opening Acclamation

One Blessed are you, holy and living One.

Many You come to your people and set them free.

Collect for Purity *(said together)*

Almighty God, 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.

Kyrie eleison *Missa Conditor alme siderum*

Enriching our Music 2 (Boles)

Children ages 3–5th grade may move at this time to a special gathering for children's formation.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in B-flat major (two flats). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is marked 'Cantor' and 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' followed by a repeat sign and 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' The second staff is marked 'Cantor' and contains 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' followed by a repeat sign and 'Chri - ste e - le - i - son.' The third staff is marked 'All' and contains 'Chri - ste e - le - i - son.' followed by a repeat sign and 'Chri - ste e - le - i - son.' The fourth staff contains 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' followed by a repeat sign and 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' The fifth staff contains 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.' and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes.

Collect of the Day

A New Zealand Prayer Book (1989)

One God be with you.

Many And also with you.

One Together, let us pray.

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, so that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lesson 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.”

One Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Many Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–18

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, ***
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O God of hosts, ***
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, ***
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

¹⁶ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, ***
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁷ And so will we never turn away from you, *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

¹⁸ **Restore us, O God of hosts; ***
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Sequence Hymn Come now and praise (*Talis’ Ordinal*)

Hymnal 260

Gospel Matthew 1:18–25

One The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Many Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

Many Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon The Rev’d Lynnsay A. Buehler

A period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed (*said by all*)

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
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.

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.

The Prayers of the People

from *Intercessions for the Christian People*

The Deacon bids the prayers.

God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, saying: O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Intercessor

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and the nations shall cease to learn war any more. O God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world. O God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, that we may be enlightened through our service of others in the name of Christ. O God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love. O God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the love of Christ Jesus and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world. O God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have asked for our prayers that we may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives. O God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Let us welcome into this space our own prayers of celebration and hope ...

Let us welcome in prayers for healing and wholeness ...

Let us welcome in prayers for the Church and for the World ...

Let us welcome in prayers for those who have died and for those who mourn ...

The one presiding adds a concluding collect

Confession & Absolution

The deacon bids the confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silence is kept

All pray together

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The Peace

Please gently exchange the peace, perhaps with a wave or bow, as a courtesy to others.

One The peace of Christ be always with you.
Many And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excell:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

words: Anon., collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784

music: Scottish folk tune; arr. K. Lee Scott

Presentation Hymn Come, thou long-expected Jesus (*Stuttgart*)

Hymnal 66

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979), alt.

One God be with you.
Many And also with you.
One Lift up your hearts.
Many We lift them to the Lord.
One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The one presiding continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when Christ shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

Cantor *All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of po - wer and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Cantor
 Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
All
 Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
 - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: Frank W. Boles © 2002 Frank W. Boles based on *Conditor alme siderum*.
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The one presiding 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from Blessed Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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, Jesus 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All pray together

We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory.

The one presiding continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Blessed Mary, Blessed Julian, Blessed Bede, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

One And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All pray 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 one presiding breaks the bread.

Fraction Anthem Be known to us (*Missa Conditor alme siderum*)

setting by Frank Boles

antiphon; cantor, then all

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break-ing of the bread.

Choir: The bread which we break [Alleluia] is the communion of the
body of Christ. **[Antiphon]**

Choir: One body are we [Alleluia] for though many we share one bread. **[Antiphon]**

The one presiding extends the following invitation to share in communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn To the Name of our salvation (*Grafton*)

Hymnal 249

Announcements

Post-Communion Prayer

All pray together

Merciful God,
may this Eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birth of our Savior.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
the one who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

Blessing

The one presiding pronounces God's blessing.

Processional Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel (*Veni Emmanuel*)

Hymnal 56

Dismissal

One Our worship has concluded and now our service begins.
Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Many **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary *Veni Emmanuel*

St. Bede's Prayer List

In our St. Bede's community, prayer has recently been requested for:

Larry Channell	Raz Schreiber
Jim Helms	Suzanne Shapiro
Carlin Lutz	Doug Weaver
Rebecca Pope and family	

Prayer has been requested on a more long-term basis for:

Helen Loeb	David Boyd	Aree Bancroft
Margie Klein	Debhani Hernandez	Nancy Waring
Michele Heller	Al and Regina Studwell	Frances Bowen
Lynn Williams	Sarah Jane and Jim Ohl	Ann Foote
Jim Handsfield	Mary Rodriguez	Sue Ellen Lampros
Barbie Olsen	Helen Abraham	
Dixie Snider	Cameron Maddox	

Prayer has also been requested for these in our wider community:

Sue Engsberg, *mother/mother-in-law of Mark and Rebecca Engsberg*
John Sommers, *brother-in-law of Barbara Helms*
Robin Herring, *friend of Larry Bing*
Laura DeMars, *friend of Toni Graney*
Issy Weaver, *mother of Doug Weaver*
James Smythe, *great nephew of Molly Graves*
Larry Sullivan, *friend of Joan Greer*
John Borden, *friend of Joan Greer*
Kayt Hoch, *daughter-in-law of Martha and David West*
Reagan Koski, *friend of Beth Cannon*
Bill Edgar, *father of Beth Cannon*
Carol Guthrie, *sister of Ann Foote*
Andy Matia, *friend of Ann Foote*
Mary Robert, *sister of Martha Robert*
Wright Coleman, *son of Jennie Couture*
Fay Key, *friend of the St. Bede's community*
Eleanor Pearlman, *granddaughter of Gwen Heaton*
Anne Jones, *sister of Claiborne Jones*

We pray for those who have died:

Rufus Williamson, *father of Kay Entrekin*
"Honey" Philomena Cesaro, *friend of Connie Coralli*
Fred Pope, *brother of Rebecca Pope*
Linda Byrne, *mother of Alexis Carter*
Teresa Powell Spires, *mother of Drew Spires and grandmother of James, Caroline, & Savannah*

We give thanks for those serving our country in the military:

Josh Bowers
Jonathan

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week

12/24 Larry Bing	12/27 Roger Warlick
12/24 Lois Shingler	

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St. Bede's Staff

The Very Rev'd S. Chadwick Vaughn, *Rector*
The Rev'd Lynnsay A. Buehler, *Priest Associate*
 & *Director, The Julian of Norwich Center*
The Rev'd Raymond Walker III, *Priest Associate*
The Rev'd E. Claiborne Jones, *Priest Associate*
The Rev'd Iñaki Guevara, *Deacon*
John J. Whitt, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Beth Cannon, *Director of Youth*
 & *Family Ministries*
Molly Graves, *Director of Children*
 & *Family Ministries*
Laura Pittman, *Parish Administrator*
Ellen Hopkins, *Bookkeeper*
Jerry Simmons, *Sexton*

St. Bede's Vestry

Connie Coralli, *Senior Warden*
Jim Handsfield, *Junior Warden*
Gwen Heaton, *Junior Warden*
Shane Hunziker
Paul Martin
Miriam Needham
Barb Pettitt
Martha Robert
Loretta Vail
Jelani Valdez

Nigel Poland, *Treasurer*
George Shingler, *Chancellor*
Cathe Echterhoff, *Clerk*



We invite and welcome *all* to worship, serve, and grow together
as we engage the story of the living Christ.

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