

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church**  
Poway, California

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition  
for the Season of the Nativity:  
The Gift of Love at Christmastide  
Saturday, December 29, 2018  
5:00 p.m.



**Our Mission:**

We are called to be disciples of Christ,  
revealing His Life, Love and Light to the World.

**Our Vision:**

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church is a radically welcoming,  
inclusive faith family – sharing and teaching the love of Jesus Christ  
through our worship, actions and outreach:  
transforming ourselves and the world.

**Welcome!** We're glad you're here! If you are a newcomer, please introduce yourself, ask questions, and participate fully in today's worship. We invite you to sign the guest book located at the entrance to the church. May this time be filled with blessings for you!

### **Celtic Christianity<sup>1</sup>**

The early Christian tradition in the British Isles developed separately from the rest of Europe. The peoples known as the Celts came to these islands from the continent with their own form of pagan religion and over the first through fifth centuries were converted to Christianity first through Roman conquest of southern England and then through gradual expansion into Scotland and Ireland. As in many places, local pagan practices were assimilated into Christian worship, but the geographic isolation of the islands and the strong and independent monastic presence preserved many distinct traditions for a longer time both in religious observance and through poetry and song even after the official suppression of Celtic ritual in the late seventh century.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a revival of interest in early forms of Christian practice and theology. The Celtic tradition, for one, is distinct for its special attention to the presence of the divine in the physical world. It recognizes the goodness and holiness of all creation, from the human to the material, and also places special emphasis on holy geography, "thin places" in the natural world, where the border between the spiritual and the physical is particularly fine.

Our liturgy draws on texts from different sources infused with this tradition, highlighting the balance in creation between light and darkness, silence and sound, word and song, listening and response. This contemplative service explores prayers and simple music that acknowledge our rootedness in the earth and the inherent goodness of our own creation as well as the Spirit's prophetic voice calling us.

This liturgy has been authorized for use at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Poway, California for Saturday evening worship during the Season of Christmas by the Bishop of San Diego.

*Please silence your mobile phone. Thank you.*

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Elizabeth Lovett Grover, *A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season*. (West Conshohocken, PA: Infinity Publishing, 2013)

## PRELUDE

*Please remain seated during the processional.*

## OPENING WORDS

*Presider* The God of love is with us.

***People*** **The Spirit of love is in us.**

*Presider* Blessed be the one God, who gave us the gift of Jesus.

***People*** **Blessed is the Christ Child, whose birth is the gift of love.**

*Following the Presider's invitation, please stand as able.*

## CEREMONY OF LIGHT<sup>2</sup>

*Presider* Thy Word is a lantern unto my feet,

***People*** **And a light unto my path**

*Presider* At eventide there shall be light.

### *Lighting of the pew torches*

*Reader* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, at your word you bring on the evening twilight. You create day and night, you roll away light before the darkness, and the darkness before the light; you make the day to pass, and the night to approach, and divide the day from the night. Blessed are you, O Lord, for you bring on the evening twilight.

*Presider* Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord, and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Reader* Daylight has ended, night is upon us. Yet unto Thee, sustainer of all things, Darkness and Light, all times and all seasons, all are as one, O Lord of Creation.

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<sup>2</sup> From *A Celtic Primer*, compiled by Brendan O'Malley (London: Morehouse Publishing, 2002), "A Ceremony of Light," pp. 218-220

# PHOS HILARON (O GRACIOUS LIGHT)

*Repeated several times. The Advent Wreath is lit.*

Bm Em<sup>7</sup>/B A Bm/A

Kin - dle a flame to light - en the dark, and

G/A G C<sup>#</sup>m<sup>7</sup>(b<sup>5</sup>) F<sup>#</sup>

take all fear a - way.

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## OPENING PRAYER

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

**L**ord God, who by the incarnation of Jesus cast away the darkness of the world; be near to us as the dark approaches and dispel the gloom of night that we may see your light and that your brightness may shine through us to your glory; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

*People* **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

F Dm Gm C F Bb C F Bb F/C C  
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o,

F Dm Gm C F Bb C F Bb F/C C F  
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

## COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*Please remain standing as able.*

*Presider* Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new 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.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Lesson

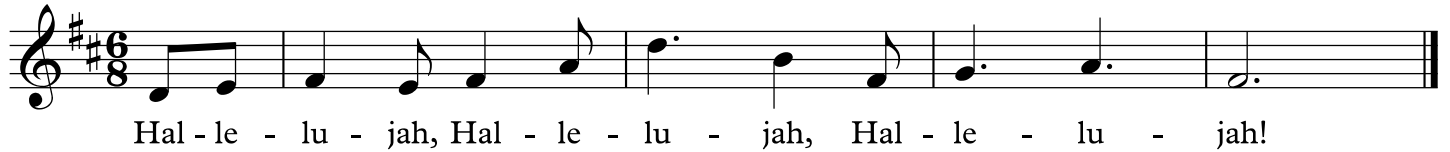
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 148** (*Refrain sung first by cantor, then by all*)



Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!

From *The Portland Psalter* © 2002, by Robert A. Hawthorne. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved.

**The Epistle**

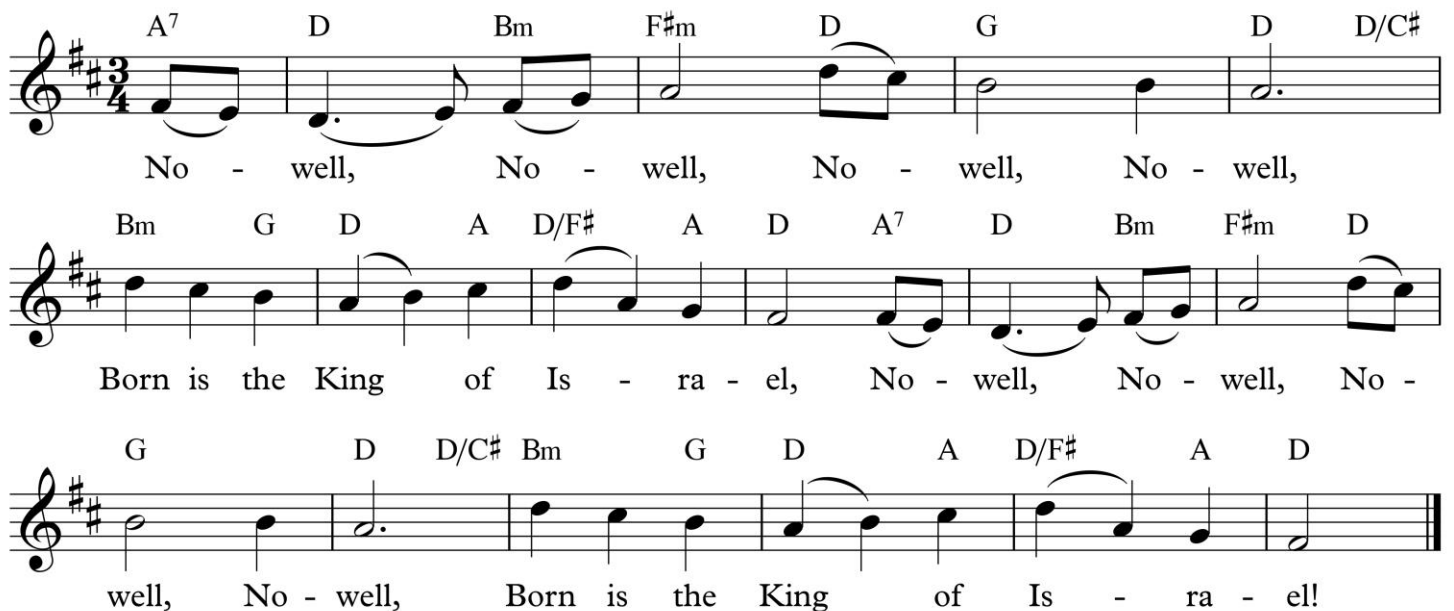
Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

*Please stand as able for the reading of the gospel.*



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,  
 Born is the King of Is - ra - el, No - well, No - well, No -  
 well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

# The Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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

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

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

A<sup>7</sup> D B<sup>m</sup> F<sup>#m</sup> D G D D/C<sup>#</sup>  
No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,  
B<sup>m</sup> G D A D/F<sup>#</sup> A D A<sup>7</sup> D B<sup>m</sup> F<sup>#m</sup> D  
Born is the King of Is - ra - el, No - well, No - well, No -  
G D D/C<sup>#</sup> B<sup>m</sup> G D A D/F<sup>#</sup> A D  
well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

Deacon William Zettinger

*Please stand as able.*

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Presider* Let us join in affirming our faith in God.

*People* **We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ  
the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to take the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please remain standing or kneel as able.*

*Presider* We pray now for the needs of the earth and all its people, remembering that God fulfills our greatest need – the need for love – in the gift of his Son. Let us pray.

*Intercessor* Christ, heralded by the angels, open our eyes to your presence.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* Christ, born of the blessed Virgin, teach us obedience to your Word.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* Christ, born in a stable, give hope to the homeless.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* Christ, visited by the shepherds, strengthen all who work on the land.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* Christ, adored by wise ones, guide all rulers and governments.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* Christ, exiled in Egypt, give comfort to all refugees.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Intercessor* We now pray for our own needs and for those of others, either silently or aloud.

*The congregation is invited to add their own intercessions.*

*Intercessor* May all the sick be blessed by the sound of God's healing word and the strength of our prayers, and may all who have died be blessed by the sound of God welcoming them home.

***People* Graciously hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* Gracious God, you have revealed your love by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into our world. Help us to welcome him with joy, and to make room for him in our lives and homes, that we may abide in him and he in us; through the same Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, O God, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

*Please stand as able.*

*Presider* God makes peace within us.

**People** Let us claim it.

*Presider* God makes peace between us.

**People** Let us share it.

*After sharing the peace with one another, please be seated.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### Offertory Music

*Please stand as able.*

### Doxology:

*Greensleeves*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant king, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider* We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God, whose light enlightens every human being, and whose love offers to all hope for new life. And so with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, with the light of sun and stars, with angels of light, with saints of heaven and of earth, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

### Sanctus

C G C(sus4) C F C

San - to, San - to, San - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra!

F G/F F C C/B Am F G C

My heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

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Holy in the heights of heaven, holy in the depths of earth, O God, your glory knows no bounds, and your love is without end. The Word that was in the beginning, and through whom all things were made, you sent to dwell among us, full of grace and truth, that believing in him we may have springs of life within. We bless you that in love for the world, your Son laid down his life and overcame death's powers to be our hope of life everlasting; that in love he poured out his Spirit to lead us through encircling darkness into all truth; and that in love he returned to the Source of Light to draw all the earth to himself.

To the very end Jesus loved those whom he had been given, and prayed that his love might be in them. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body

which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took wine and, having given thanks for it, poured it out and gave the cup to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you: This is my blood which is poured out for you. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

***People* Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice.**

Hear us now, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be heaven’s food and drink for us, for you are the living bread that comes down from heaven to give life to the world; you are the true vine without whom we can do nothing. We pray in the name of Christ by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **Amen.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Presider* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

***People* 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 Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider* Bread of life, nourish our souls.

***People* Light of the world, shine in our hearts.**

*Following the Presider’s invitation to communion, please be seated.*

Communion Hymn:

“In The Bleak Midwinter”



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2. Our God, heav'n can - not hold him, nor\_\_\_ earth sus - tain;  
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 4. What\_\_\_ can I give him, poor\_\_\_ as I am?



1. Earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 2. Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.  
 3. Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;  
 4. If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



1. Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow\_\_\_ on\_\_\_ snow,  
 2. In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed The  
 3. But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 4. If I were a Wise\_\_\_ Man, I would do my part; Yet



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 2. Lord\_\_\_ God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 3. Wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 4. what I can I give him: give my heart.

Text: Irregular; Christina G. Rossetti, 1830–1894. Music: Gustav T. Holst, 1874–1934.

Prayer after Communion

*Please remain seated or kneel as able.*

*Presider* Let us thank God for this holy meal.

*All* **O God, in love you have called us to be your people, and in love we have shared this bread and this wine. May the Spirit of your Son Jesus, who is love, be born in us this Christmas. May that Spirit drive away fear and anxiety and bring us life and hope; in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSINGS OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**All** Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand as able.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Presider** Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst,

**All** But we will carry the light in our hearts, and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

**Presider** May the Wonderful Counselor guide you, the Mighty God protect you, the Everlasting Father be with you, and the Prince of Peace comfort you. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

**Closing Hymn:**

“Hark! The Herald-Angels Sing”  
(see next page)

**Dismissal**

**Presider** Let us go forth in the world with the love of Christ in our hearts.

**People** Thanks be to God.

*The congregation is invited to remain in prayer during the postlude, or leave in silence.*

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Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,  
2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,  
3. Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye  
2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -  
2. God - head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as  
3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831–1915.

