



ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise, welcome, and serve:**

- to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- to **praise** God in all things,
- to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
- to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge and Celebrant

Connie Mayo, Music Director

Advent 3

December 17, 2023

We honor the Indigenous people across the globe, in particular the Wabanaki Nations, acknowledging that the land we now occupy is their ancestral home. We give thanks for their rich heritage. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth; let us remember that we are all members of one great community of life. May we learn from our past mistakes and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, and for all creation. We ask for inspiration that we might be compelled to take action and support our native neighbors as they seek their sovereignty here in Maine.

The Gathering of the Community

The service begins with the ringing of the bell three times

Prelude: *Christe*

André Raison

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell

Leader: Lord, by your presence,

light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness and humility.

Light up the present that we might live in it with love and compassion.

Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope and anticipation.

Congregation: **May we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us.**

Lighting the Advent Candle

Leader: A candle burns, the sign of our faith.

God of the Baptizing One, come to us again this Advent.

Congregation: **May we have a faith that renews our lives. May we live in the light of your promises.**

Opening Hymn 640 *Watchman, tell us of the night (in back of bulletin)*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: May God be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 61: 1-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,

foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;

but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.

Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
 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.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Plainsong Psalter Tone 1.1



When the LORD restored the 'fortunes of 'Zion, | we /were like 'thöse who dream.
Then our mouth was 'filled with 'laughter, | and our /tongue with 'shöuts of joy;
then it was said am-'ong the 'nations, | "The LORD has /done great 'thüings for them."
 The LORD has done 'great things 'for us, | and /we re-'jöiced.
Restore our 'fortunes, 'O LORD, | like the watercourses /in the 'Nëgeb.
 May those who 'sow in 'tëars | reap with /shouts of 'jöy.
Those who 'go out 'weeping, | bearing the /seed for 'söwing,
shall come home with 'shouts of 'jöy, | carry-/ing their 'shëaves.

Second Lesson: First Letter to the 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.
 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 76 *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry (vss. 1-4, in back of bulletin)*

The Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Congregation: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.
Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Elaine Hewes

Silence will be commenced and ended with the sounding of a bell.

Affirmation

**We believe in God, the source of love,
who breathed God's Spirit into all of creation,
who created humanity in God's own image and likeness,
and who calls God's children to be about the work of reconciliation
and justice in the world God so loves.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate,
who was born of a woman,
who modeled for us a way of living on the earth,
and whose passionate love for God's creation
led to his Passion and death on the cross.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who moved over the darkness at the beginning to bring light and life,
and who moves over the darkness still,
opening our hearts to God's incarnate presence in our midst
and calling us to be manifestations of incarnation
in the name and in the way of Jesus.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: In this Advent season, may we remember Joseph, Mary, and Jesus who were homeless in Bethlehem, fled on a perilous journey from Herod's wrath, and were refugees in Egypt.

Congregation: **Fill us with the power of God's love as we seek to walk with all who are torn by conflict without and within.**

Leader: God of all peoples and nations, we pray for our leaders and lawmakers.

Congregation: Grant them wisdom and courage. May they be filled with your love and compassion and work for the common good.

Leader: Gracious Lord, we pray for all who face abuse, oppression, fear or addiction.

Congregation: Help us to provide the comfort and support you have asked us to give.

Leader: God whose love is everywhere, we pray for all traveling a perilous journey in life.

Congregation: Give grace to all whose path leads them into loneliness or danger. May each of their steps take them closer to hope. And may our arms reach out to comfort and to build pathways to safety.

Leader: God of justice, we pray for all incarcerated or held in detention.

Congregation: Be with those seeking freedom and a new life. Inspire us as we work for justice and to seek mercy for all captives.

Leader: God of Compassion, we pray for all who are sick, lonely or in any kind of distress of body or mind.

Congregation: Raise our awareness and our capacity for caring.

Leader: Merciful Lord, we pray for all who have died and for those who mourn.

Congregation: Comfort all those suffering the loss of family or loved ones.

Leader: Please add your own prayers and thanksgivings.

Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

Leader: Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

Leader: Loving God, hear our prayers.

Congregation: Help us to bring love, hope and faith where they are needed. May we do all this in the name and spirit of Jesus.

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: Most Holy God,

in the midst of this season of listening and waiting, we confess:

We have resisted the light of your love;

we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and

we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.

We stand in need of your love.

Holy Father, make us holy.

Holy Jesus, make us holy.

Holy Spirit, make us holy.

Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

Celebrant: Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear this good news.

God's mercy is wider than our transgressions.

God's love is deeper than our fear.

God's longing for our wholeness is stronger than our resistance.
We have been freed by grace to be God's people in the world. Let our lives reflect
the light entrusted to us, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn 73 *The King shall come when morning dawns (in back of bulletin)*

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

Sanctus

2 Sanctus

Words: Liturgical traditional

Music: John L. Bell

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus Do - mi - nus,
Sanc - tus Do - mi - nus,
Sanc - - - tus, sanc - - - tus

De - us Sab - ba - oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth.
De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.
De - us Sab - ba - oth. De - us Sab - ba - oth.
De - - - us, De - - - us.

Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,
Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,
Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,
Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Music © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, UK.

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra , glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri a tu - a.

Ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra, ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

Ple - ni sunt coe - li, ple - ni sunt coe - li,

ple - ni sunt coe - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri - a tu - a.

ple - ni sunt coe - li glo - ri a tu - a.

Celebrant: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Congregation:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant and Congregation:

In union with the faithful gathered at every altar of the Church where the bread and wine are offered, and in union with those who are with us today by the internet, we offer praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. We believe that Jesus is present in the Breaking of the Bread, the Holy Sacrament of Communion and in ways more numerous and mysterious than we can imagine.

We embrace you, Jesus, with all our hearts, souls and minds. Nothing can separate us from you, nor are we separated from one another.

The gifts of God for the people of God ...

Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread.

Celebrant: And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,

**we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**

Now send us forth

**a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

God Incarnate, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God Incarnate, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God Incarnate, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

God Incarnate, the rock we stand upon,
**be the center, the focus of our lives always,
and particularly in this time of Advent.**

May the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW 246 *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *The day is surely drawing near*

Max Reger

Announcements

Dismissal

Opening Sentences adapted from *Advent Candle Ceremonies*, www.ionabooks.com

Affirmation written by Elaine Hewes

Confession from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, p. 15

Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship*

Blessing ©John Birch (Methodist preacher from South Wales), faithandworship.com

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GETTING OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT (GPS) ACTION ITEM

Love in Action

A message from the Outreach Ministry

St Brendan's Outreach Ministry Team dispersed \$11,750 this past year according to the mission of our faith community – to serve the needs of our neighbors here on Deer Isle and the Blue Hill Peninsula, as well as the needs of the wider world. This doesn't include the 1% of the budget the Vestry allocated to Episcopal Relief and Development.

This week we have shared with you in the **Navigator** a list of all the organizations that have received donations from St Brendan so far in 2023. We have included the links to each of these organizations in hopes that you will learn more about the good work they do. **We hope you might consider supporting one or more of them with an individual donation if you have not already done so.**

Throughout the year, our Outreach Ministry Team prayerfully and carefully considers how and to whom to make the donations in your name. We know you are doing the same with your resources, and we thank you!

CALENDAR

All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.

Monday, December 18	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, December 20	10:30 a.m. Bible Study with The Rev. Tim Ensworth 4:00 p.m. Vespers – Reflection by Robin Alden
Sunday, December 24	10:00 a.m. Eucharist with Pastor The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling presiding 4:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols with Pastor Elaine Hewes preaching

Watchman, tell us of the night *The Hymnal 1982, #640*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or that hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry *The Hymnal 1982, #76*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The King shall come when morning dawns *The Hymnal 1982, #73*

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

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Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

MERTON
 87 87

"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!