

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Blessed be God, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

THE CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

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

SONG OF PRAISE

Celebrant Lord have mercy.
People **Christ have mercy.**
Celebrant Lord have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

WE PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

The Lord teaches Jonah a lesson when the prophet is angry because God is merciful to the repentant pagan city that Jonah has gone to great trouble to denounce.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145: 1-8

**I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.**

**Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.**

**Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.**

**One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.**

**I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.**

**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.**

**They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.**

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul tells the Philippians he would prefer to be with Christ beyond death, but he recognizes that he still has good work to do in his earthly life.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20: 1-16

The story of the laborers in the vineyard, who are all paid the same wage despite their different hours of work.

Preceding the Gospel...

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Mary Lindquist

After the sermon a period of silence is kept

THE NICENE CREED

**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 and the Son,
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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayers are offered for the world, the church, the sick, etc. followed by a period of silence. Congregation members are invited to offer intercessions during the silence, either aloud or silently.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Following the Peace, the Celebrant recites a sentence from Holy Scripture; all prepare for the Holy Eucharist.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts,
People **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.**

The Presider praises God for God's creation and love. Then all sing the Sanctus together:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider recalls and calls forth Jesus' life and last supper.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of Faith

Celebrant and People

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

The Presider asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God's holy food.

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

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,

the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAD IS BROKEN

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

We who are many are one Body;

For we all share one bread and one cup.

Dear God, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into our hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you; never permit us to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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 of your presence

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.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Participants Today

Kate McGinn, Reader and *Kiersten McKinney*, Prayer Leader

At St. Michael's we believe that God's love is unconditional. We welcome all people and we affirm the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a beloved child of God.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP ON LINE OR BY TELEPHONE

Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 am, Monday-Friday
Evening Prayer, 5-5:30 pm, Every day
Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: *Krista Burtis, Ainsley Meyer, Christian Olmstead* and *Laura Panzer*, Today; *Avery Bennett*, Monday; *Anne Montgomery* and *Alix Fedoruk*, Tuesday; *Scott McElhinney*, Friday; *Steve Guerriero*, Saturday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: *Marie & Bruce Lawrence*, Today.

SUNDAY REUNION AT CHRIST CHURCH TODAY; 8 & 10:15 AM: Today there are two worship services on the lawn of Christ Church, Guilford. There are chairs for sitting, but if you are in a family unit, you might want to sit on the lawn together on a picnic blanket. We also have printed bulletins with the readings and hymns and there are masks for those who may have forgotten theirs.

Although we are not allowed to sing, there will be music at the 10:15 services and we will try humming (yes HUMMING!) some hymns. Please note that there are no bathrooms at Christ Church.

ADULT FORUMS:

- **September 20 -- There is no Forum today**
- **September 27 -- "White Privilege Demonstrated"** -- It is one thing to read about white privilege, it is another to observe it. We'll watch an experiment with teenagers. Discussion follows. Led by *Annamarie Plubar*.

To enter the Forum meeting on Sunday morning, [Click this Link](#)

Meeting ID: 932 0641 6516

Password: theology

Call by phone: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 932 0641 6516

Password: 679508

GENTLE YOGA OUTSIDE: On the grass at Christ Church on Wednesday mornings, 9-10 AM. Please bring a yoga mat and wear a mask. Led by parishioner Jean Brodie. You can contact Jean at jmbrodie59@gmail.com with any questions.

GODLY PLAY & HOLY MAYHEM BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT. 27: Godly Play (for kids 3 & up) and Holy Mayhem (5th -8th Grade) will begin on September 27 via Zoom.

- Godly Play will meet weekly on Sundays at 9:15 am.
- Holy Mayhem will meet every other week at 9:15 am.

Zoom links will be provided soon through St. Michael's website and through the eNews. Please mark your calendars!

CALLING ALL ANIMAL LOVERS -- PHOTOS NEEDED BY SEPTEMBER 27: This St. Francis Day, we are making a special photo collage (set to music) of all of the animals that we love in our lives! Whether you own one pet, or just love the birds and wildlife that you see, send us your photos, and we will insert them into our “All Things Bright and Beautiful” montage at the 10:15 service on October 4.

HOW TO DO IT is simple. You can either:

- 1) Take a new (or existing) photo of you and your pet(s) or other animals with your phone, and email them to us; or
- 2) Bring in an existing photo and leave it with Jeanie;

Can't decide which animal to include? Send in more than one pic! If possible, include you and family members in the photo so others can see who belongs to whom. Please do this **BY OR BEFORE SEPT. 27 — the sooner the better.**

Questions? contact either Jeanie in the office at 254-6048 Ext 104 or jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or Susan Dedell at dedellsusan@gmail.com

ST FRANCIS DAY GATHERING FOR KIDS, FAMILIES AND ANIMAL LOVERS; SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 4-5 PM; THE RECTORY LAWN, 18 BRADLEY AVENUE:

Come celebrate St. Francis' Feast Day with a blessing for animals and people. As it seems too difficult to bring real animals this year (who don't understand physical distancing), please bring a photo of the animal you wish to be blessed.

- Please bring a blanket to sit on; blankets will be spaced 10 feet apart to be safe & everyone with masks (except young children).
- We will have a brief service on the lawn, followed by individually wrapped treats.
- Families will be given packets of home prayers and activities for the month of October.
- Pray for sun....No gathering if it rains.
- This is our chance to see each other in person before the weather gets too cold!

KEEPING UP WITH YOUR PLEDGE – Summer can be a slow time for pledges coming in and this year is no different. Please don't forget to send in your pledges or make online payments to support St. Michael's ministry and mission. Thank you for your generosity!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET, 2020: Thank you to everyone who contributed to last year's Advent devotional booklet. For many of us, it was the first time experiencing this kind of joint publication at St. Michael's. Others remember the once upon a time when we did have this kind of collective creativity! Whichever you may be, I hope you will help us build on this tradition again. A collection of reflections, poems, and images from the voices of our parish, the Advent devotional gives us an opportunity to enter the special season of Advent through the precious wisdom of those who walk the road with us.

If you have any interest in participating as a writer, editor, formatter, etc., please contact adwoa at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org. For those who write reflections, Scripture assignments will be made in the middle of October to allow ample time for writing, editing, and publication. Last year we found that a good guideline for written submissions was about 250 words, though some were much shorter and some a bit longer.

Those who wish to write are asked to contact adwoa with their intention by October 4. You can email her at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org or call her at 254-6048, ext 103.

BIN ON THE BENCH: From Cliff Wood, “Last week I made two deliveries to the Southern Vermont Correctional Facility made possible by your generosity .The donation of toiletries, backpacks, paperbacks and magazines were much appreciated. The facility remains Covid-free. The bin is back on the bench until early October. I'll make a delivery to SVCF again in early October. Thanks for your continued support.”

BRATTLEBORO MUSEUM & ART CENTER EVENTS SHOWCASE THE HUMANITY OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- **September 23, Wednesday, 7:30 pm – “Homelessness: The Big Picture,”** Professor Dennis Culhane speaks about the large scale forces contributing to homelessness in the United States.
- **October 7, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, “No Place Like Home: Housing in Windham County,”** This panel discussion considers shortages in affordable, workforce, and market-rate housing in Windham County.

The events are free and will be livestreamed at 7:30 pm. Go to the Museum’s website for the Zoom links.

ST. MICHAEL'S VIMEO CHANNEL - St. Michael's now has a Vimeo channel where you can watch or listen to past sermons, services or adult forums. Here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/channels/1603817>. If you "subscribe," you will receive news in your email inbox when new content is available.