

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.

ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:14,16

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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 Holy God,
 Holy and Mighty,
 Holy Immortal One,
 Have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

WE PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Following the Lesson...

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

PSALM 80

**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 Lord 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 man of your right hand, *
the son of man 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 Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Following the Lesson...

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13: 24-27

Preceding the Gospel...

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

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

The Reverend Jean Smith

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, we cry out to you,
People: Come, Lord Jesus.

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.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts,
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
<i>People</i>	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.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion below is said by those who do not have the consecrated bread and wine to consume.

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 McKenney***, 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, Monday-Friday

Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: *Liz Vick, Julie Ackerman-Hovis and Cindy Bacigalupo*, Tuesday; *Jonah Siegel*, Thursday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: *Jessica & Chris Mattson*, Today; *Joyce Vining & Brian Morgan*, Saturday.

ADULT FORUM, 9 – 10 AM TODAY:

- **“Advent Among Us Today”** -- This year we have published a second annual Advent Devotional of voices from the congregation. As we read through these reflections together, we will have a chance to share our own journeys with faith, hope, and love in conversation with the writers. Please join us on the 1st Sunday of Advent to explore the theme of “Faith, Hope, and Love in difficult Scripture and difficult times” with adwoa. Join us on the 3rd Sunday of Advent to hear more directly from the voices in the Devotional.

To enter the Forum meeting on Sunday mornings, [click the link in the eNews or on the website.](#)

Meeting ID: 932 0641 6516

Password: theology

OR

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

Password: 679508

ADVENT STORYTIME, Sundays, 11:30 am. All are welcome after church during the Sundays in Advent, to join in listening to Look! A Child's Guide to Advent and Christmas by Laura Alary read by Christy Fritz. We will also sing together and share in brief conversation about the readings. On November 29, we will focus on “LOOK back.” *You are invited to bring a picture of yourself at a younger age. Perhaps you will remember past times in your life, happy or sad, when God has been with you and then be inspired to share your story with us.* The Zoom Link can be found on St. Michael's Website (under Sunday Mornings) or in the eNews or [HERE](#).

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge in support of St. Michael's ministry and mission for 2021. As of November 24, we have received 100 pledge cards for a total of \$232,452. We are well on our way towards our goals for pledges received (135) and total pledged (\$270,000). If you have not had a chance to pledge, we encourage you to do so soon. Pledge cards may be returned in the mail or by pledging online through St. Michael's website (www.stmichaelsvermont.org). Just look under "Give" at the top of the homepage.

If you have not received a pledge card, we can send one to you. Just contact the office at (802) 254-6048, extension 104. Many thanks for your great generosity and support!

BODY PRAYER & MEDITATION WITH MARY LINDQUIST, SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT, TUESDAYS, 5:30–6 PM, BEGINNING DECEMBER 1:

In Advent, we are preparing for the Feast of the Incarnation. Incarnation literally means "in the flesh." Although Christians affirm the goodness of our bodies in remembering that God has become a body in Jesus Christ, we often do not act; we often regard our faith as something mental and not embodied. I hope you will join me in the Season of Advent with a bit of an experiment; we will practice joining gentle movement, breath and body awareness exercises to prayer and scripture, in the hope of experiencing the goodness of the incarnation in our own bodies. Please bring a yoga mat (if you have one) and join me via Zoom on Tuesday afternoons in Advent, beginning December 1, from 5:30-6 pm! All ages and bodies welcome. Zoom links will be provided in your eNews and on St. Michael's website, or you may just click this [ZOOM LINK](#) to join Body Prayer on Tuesdays from 5:30-6pm.

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP, ALL WELCOME, 5:45 – 7:

On **Wednesdays from 5:45 – 7 pm**, we will be reflecting on the Advent appointed scripture on Zoom. Our time will be bracketed with Advent songs and prayer from the Sunday services. No prior biblical knowledge or sign up is required. This is a time for fellowship and shared conversation as we deepen and live our faith together. All are welcome for occasional or ongoing participation. Links can be found in the eNew or St. Michael's *COVID resources page (at the bottom)*, on the website. If you are interested in more information, please contact adwoa at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org or [call her at 254-6048, ext 103](tel:8022546048). [The Zoom links are on the website.](#)

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS, 4 PM, DECEMBER 13 VIA ZOOM: Warm your hearts with the beautiful advent readings and our favorite carols and hymns at 4 pm on Sunday, December 13. Join Susan, Mary, readers, and singers to celebrate and maintain this much loved annual event!

THANKS FOR THE DIAPERS! 3,400+ diapers arrived at Parks Place in Bellows Falls yesterday. Our Toyota was crammed - rear seats and cargo space! Lori Palmer filled her SUV as well with the other 3,400+ for Groundworks. Thank you, St. Michael's, for your loving and caring generous spirit! May every member of our congregation be thankful this week.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BIN ON THE BENCH BY DEC 15: The Volunteer Coordinator at the Southern Vermont Correctional Facility is making gift bags for those men who have no visitors or family support. Needed are toiletries in clear bottles, men's white (only) socks, and bags of individually wrapped candies, such as candy kisses or candy bars. Magazines and used paperbacks are always welcome as well. If you can donate any of these items for the men at SSCF, please deliver the gifts to the bin by Tuesday, December 15. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING NEEDED AT OAK GROVE SCHOOL: The Oak Grove School Council has requested outdoor clothing from toddler sizes through children's size 12 for use by students, as they are

spending much more time in outside classes during this pandemic. Used clothing is fine as long as it is clean, unsoiled, and ready for more use. The Council has also asked for handmade mittens and hats. Perhaps parishioners who knit or crochet would like to take on this project.

Please bring items to the box outside on the porch bench at St. Michael's. We will then deliver the clothing, hats, and mittens to the Recreation Center where the outdoor gear is being sorted for delivery to the school.

DECEMBER 6 ADULT FORUM – “Advent Music!” What makes it so special? Where did our Advent hymns and carols originate? Why are they all so good? Everyone is welcome to join Susan Dedell and guests in diving into this wonderful music and poetry. NO musical skills or knowledge needed — just bring your curiosity, your questions, and your imagination!

TAG SALE CLOTHING DROP OFF POSTPONED TO NEXT YEAR: We are cancelling the tag sale clothing drop off previously scheduled for December 12. Although the drop off has been postponed for now, we expect to start again in the new year. Watch for our notices then.

Thank you for all the clothing that has been donated this fall!

PROJECT FEED THE THOUSANDS: Project Feed helps your neighbors have access to food. Again this year, St. Michael's has joined the project as a site to collect food and money through November and December. Last year St Michael's collected 356 pounds of food and \$1420 through Mission and Outreach and individual donations. Our collections will go directly to Loaves & Fishes. We are especially in need of food to give to those who come to our back door to get a hot meal and bags of food to go. We are also serving people at Dalem's Chalet, a new mission of the Groundworks Collaborative. We need unperishable food such as: boxed mac and cheese, tuna fish, canned chicken, canned soups, peanut butter, boxes of spaghetti, jars of spaghetti sauce, toiletries, dish soap, laundry soap....And of course financial help is always appreciated.

Your contributions can be dropped off at St. Michael's during office hours from 8 am to 12 noon, Tuesday through Friday. Please knock at the door to the offices off Bradley Ave. Please mark your bags or boxes for Project Feed or Loaves & Fishes.

Thanks, *Ruth Tilghman*