



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Christmas Day, 2020

## WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

HYMN 87

*Hark, the herald angels sing*

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - ell!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - cous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

## ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

## HYMN 81

*Lo, how a Rose, v 1 + 2*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
\* 3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the air,  
Of Jes-se's lin-age com-ing as seers of old have sung,  
with Ma-ry we be-hold it, the Vir-gin Mo-ther kind,  
dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev-ery-where;  
It came, a blos-som bright, a-mid the  
To show God's love a-right, she bore to  
true man, yet ve-ry God, from sin and  
cold of win-ter, when half spent was the night.  
us a Sa-vior, when half spent was the night.  
death now save us, and share our ev-ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Keath Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940* © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Lo in ein Ros*, melody from *Alle Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,

who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

*Following the Lesson...*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 98

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

## A READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

*Hebrews 1: 1-4*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Following the Lesson...*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## HYMN 107

*Good Christian friends*

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Preceding the Gospel...*

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1: 1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Following the Gospel...*

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

## SERMON

*Adwoa Lewis-Wilson*

# **WE PRAY FOR GOD'S CREATION, FOR THE WORLD, AND FOR THE CHURCH**

*The Leader bids us to pray for the sick and suffering, for those who have asked for our prayer, for those who rejoice in life events and for those who have died.*

*Stand or kneel if able*

Intercessor: Prince of Peace.  
People: **Reveal to us your glory.**  
*Silence*

*The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.*

## THE PEACE

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

# **WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER**

## INVITATION

## OFFERING

*We ask you to continue to support St. Michael's during this time of physical separation. Please send your pledges or donations through the mail or online on our website, [www.stmichaelsvermont.org](http://www.stmichaelsvermont.org), pressing the "Donate now" button on the top right hand corner. Our ministry at St. Michael's depends on your generosity.*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan.  
 2 Our God, heaven 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?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise— man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord— God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodor Helst (1874-1934)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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.

*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 people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and 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, one cup.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED**

### **BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED**

*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)



# WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,  
for you have visited and redeemed  
your people, coming to us in Jesus.  
With this meal and your love  
you have set us free to live in the light of a manger.  
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 savior. Amen.

## BLESSING

May God, who sent God's child to take our nature, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness, and brighten your heart with light.

*People*            **Amen**

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel.

*People*            **Amen**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor.

*People*            **Amen**

And the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*People*            **Amen**

HYMN 105

*God rest you merry*

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

*Refrain*

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and

joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

*Keyborad and guitar should not sound together.*

Words: London carol. 18th cent.; Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. Music: *God Rest You Merry*; melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*. ca. 1850; harm. Charles Windred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## DISMISSAL

*Presider* Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*People* Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!