

# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**February 28, 2021**

## **WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*A time for silent meditation is kept. Please stand when you hear the bell.*

ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the God of our salvation:  
**Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

*The Celebrant says:*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

LITANY OF PENITENCE

*The Celebrant and People together, kneeling or standing, if able.*

**Most holy and merciful Father:**

**We confess to you and to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,**

**that we have sinned by our own fault**

**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, and mind, and strength.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.**

*Celebrant:* Have mercy on us, Lord.

**We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

Have mercy on us, Lord

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**We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy,  
and impatience of our lives,**

We confess to you, Lord.

**Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,**

We confess to you, Lord.

**Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,**

We confess to you, Lord.

**Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,**

We confess to you, Lord.

**Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,**

We confess to you, Lord.

**Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,**

Accept our repentance, Lord.

**For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,**

Accept our repentance, Lord.

**For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,**

Accept our repentance, Lord.

**Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,**

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

**By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,**

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

May the God of all mercy forgive you, draw you forth into life and peace, and make real the hope that we, and all creation, be released from bondage and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## WE PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE FIRST READING

*Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

*Following the lesson...*

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

PSALM 22: 22-30

**22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**

**23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears them.**

**24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**

**25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
"May your heart live for ever!"**

**26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

**27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.**

**28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

**29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

**30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.**

THE EPISTLE

*Romans 4: 13-25*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead

(for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

*Following the lesson...*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**Thanks be to God.**

*Preceding the Gospel...*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Mark 8: 31-38*

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*Following the Gospel...*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

*Adwoa Lewis-Wilson*

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

*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.*

*Intercessor:* Lord, in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

#### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

#### LENTEN PRAYER

#### DISMISSAL

Participants Today

*Steve Gueriero*, Reader and *Joanne Patalano*, Prayer Leader

## 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:** *Leigh Marthe*, Today; *Susan Kochinskas*, Tuesday; *Christine Hart, Kiersten McKenney* and *Callan McDowell*, Wednesday; *Joshua Fritz*, Friday; *Wayne Cook*, Saturday.

**FORUMS ON THE SUNDAYS IN LENT: "Speaking Truth Toward the Future—Voices of our Hebrew Ancestors"** -- We will explore the lives of our Hebrew ancestors as they addressed the central questions of their lives and times. The power of the Scriptures is found as our Hebrew ancestors help us address those same questions in our lives during this time. Join us each Sunday from 9 – 10 am.

TODAY February 28 - **Joseph** led by Craig Hammond  
March 7 – **Amos** led by Janet Cramer  
March 14 – **Jonah** led by Jay Pomponio  
March 21 – **Job** led by Annie Landenberger

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

## LENTEN SERIES 2021

***Voices from the Wilderness: Reflections on a Year of Disruption, Tuesdays, 6-7:20 pm, February 23-March 23:*** March 15 marks the one-year anniversary of our church's time of separation as well as deep and previously unthinkable changes in our lives. During the Lenten series this year, we will take time to reflect on this time and all the changes it has wrought for ourselves, our church, our nation and our world.

The Wilderness is one of the ways we think about Lent. It is the place of Jesus' temptation and fasting; it is the place where the Jews wandered for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land; it is also the place where early Christian monks and nuns chose to live in order to be closer to God. The Wilderness is a place of hardship and danger, but also a place of growth and renewal. In what ways have we been living that paradox in this time?

Some of the voices we will hear from during the Lenten Series include folks from Medical, Educational and Church fields. We will find out what this last year has been like for them.

- **March 2 – "Danger & Security," Voices from the Medical Field, featuring John Daly, Mark Horton, Heather Lesage Horton and Rebecca Olmstead.**
- March 9 – "Confusion & Formation," Voices from the Educational Field
- March 16 – "Temptation & Trust," Voices from the Church
- March 23 – "Leaving the Wilderness," What have we learned? What will we take with us?

### **Schedule – Join us for part or all of the evening!**

5:30-6 – Dinner conversation (We will chat while "sharing" a meal from home)  
6-6:15 – Introduction of theme and speakers  
6:15-6:45 – Panel discussion  
6:45-7 pm – Questions/responses  
7-7:20 – Closing worship

We hope you can join for these important conversations! Zoom links:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88226949380?pwd=RXRUaWl2SXdqNTVTVHRsQ2pZQXZwUT09>

**Phone:** +1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 882 2694 9380, Passcode: 573701

**SHELTER PROGRAM WISH LIST:** Please consider helping to provide these items for Groundworks. To make donation arrangements please contact Laura Chapman 802-490-3935 (call or text) or email. [LChapman@GroundworksVT.org](mailto:LChapman@GroundworksVT.org). *Craig Hammond*

**TOILETRIES:**

- Tampons
- Deodorant

**PHARMACY ITEMS:**

- Benadryl / Antihistamine
- Antibacterial Ointment
- Rubbing Alcohol and/or rubbing alcohol pads
- Cold Medicines
- Pain Relievers (Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Aspirin)
- Sleep Aids (Melatonin)
- Band-Aids - assorted sizes

**KITCHEN:**

- Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Sugar

**CLOTHES:**

- Various sizes and styles of adult underwear - especially men's
- Various size sweatpants
- Experienced Goods gift cards are always appreciated!

**OTHER:**

- \$20 Pre-loaded laundry cards from Bucket of Suds on Putney Road for folks to do their laundry - There is a \$1 fee when purchased. We do support reloading these cards.
- \$20 Gas Cards
- Wired and/or wireless earbuds

**BIN IS BACK ON THE BENCH UNTIL MARCH 3:** The St Michael's Family was very generous with its Day of Giving donations to the Southern State Correctional Facility. Thanks to all you for your continued support of our prison ministry. The need continues and the Bin Is Back on the Bench until this coming Tuesday, March 3.

The SSCF volunteer coordinator writes to say that some of the donations are now being used for contests and prizes for the population, as well as going in the bags when someone leaves. Currently, they don't need clothes for inmates leaving the facility but would especially like body wash, deodorant, and individually wrapped candy or cookies. Thank you all!