



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*A Christ-Centered Community of Practice Awaking to the Abiding Presence of God*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

### WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.*

#### HYMN

*The Hymnal 66*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Szatigari*, melody from *Psalmody Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

#### 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

The musical notation is for a song in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major (three flats). It consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 6, with lyrics 'Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei -'. The second staff starts at measure 7 with a whole rest, then continues with 'son. Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son,'. The third staff starts at measure 13 with 'Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.' and ends with a double bar line.

#### 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

##### READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

*Lord's promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah is reaffirmed, foreseeing the arrival of a messianic figure, a righteous branch who will execute justice and save the people.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

*Following the lesson...*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25: 1-9

**1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

**3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.**

**4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

**5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.**

**6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

**7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

**8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

**9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

*The apostle Paul expresses gratitude to God for his disciples in Thessalonica and tells these followers of his prayers for them.*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

*Following the lesson...*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**Thanks be to God.**

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free and  
 2. With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call, the  
 3. My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way, to

rais - es up new hope for us; a Branch from Da - vid's tree. So  
 oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all; that  
 tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then

have the pro - phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm God  
 we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise, in  
 shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease, to

would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.  
 ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
 drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

## GOSPEL

Luke 21: 25-36

*Jesus tells his disciples of the awe-inspiring crisis to come, which they may recognize as the beginning of the time of their redemption.*

*Preceding the Gospel...*

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not

pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

. *Following the Gospel...*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

*The Reverend Mary Lindquist*

*After the sermon a period of silence is kept*

## **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.*

<i>Intercessor</i>	Christ, be our light
<i>People</i>	<b>Shine in our hearts.</b>

*The Celebrant bids*

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ 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 SHARE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER**

ANTHEM

OFFERTORY HYMN

*The Hymnal 324*

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man -  
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -  
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood  
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,  
 he will give to all the faith - ful  
 that the powers of hell may va - nish  
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 his own self for heaven - ly food.  
 as the dark - ness clears a way.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## OFFERING

*We ask you to continue to support St. Michael's through your offering, in person or remote. There is an offering plate at the back of the church or you may 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.*

## 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.

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

Ho-ly, — Ho-ly, — Ho-ly Lord, God of po-wer and might, Heav-en and earth - are

7 full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he - who

13 comes-in the - name - of the Lord, - Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*The Celebrant recalls (and makes present for all) Jesus' life and last supper.*

*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,

*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, but 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.*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

6 Je-sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, Re-

12 deem - er, Re - deem-er of the world, do-na no - bis pa - cem,

18 do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis — pa - - - cem.

*(For those not gathered, the Prayer of Spiritual Communion is below)*

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)

## PRAYER

God of abundance,  
you have fed us  
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us  
with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth  
in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

### ADVENT BLESSING

#### HYMN

*The Hymnal 497*

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873), after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)  
 Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## DISMISSAL

### Participants Today

**Adwoa Lewis-Wilson**, Lay Assistant; **Joyce Vining Morgan** and **Greg Lesch**, Readers; **Carol Hesselbach**, Intercessor; **Ricky Davidson** and **Betsy Bates**, Ushers; **Rebecca Olmstead**, **Zadie Olmstead** and **Jane Sbardella**, Altar Guild. The greens on the altar during Advent are given by **Laura Lewis in memory of George Lewis**.

**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**

Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 am, Monday – Friday  
Wednesday Eucharist, 12 noon  
Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:** *Laurie Chipfield* and *John Laamanen*, Today; *Liz Vick* and *Cindy Bacigalupo*, Wednesday; *Jonah Siegel*, Friday.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:** *Jessica & Chris Mattson*, Monday.

**THE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AVAILABLE NOW:** This year's Advent Devotional, created by our seminarian adwoa, is a collection of poetry, prose and prayers intended to open us spiritually to the work that lies ahead in this season. You may pick up your Devotional at church today or during the week from 8 am–1 pm, Tuesday-Friday. If you live at a distance, we would be happy to send you a Devotional. Please just let us know by contacting the Church office at [Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org) or 802-254-6048, ext 104.

**ADULT FORUM TODAY: “Reflecting on the Readings in the Devotional”** -- The Devotional is meant for your personal use, but we will also be reflecting on these readings at our Adult Forums during the first three Sundays in Advent on Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. Please join Mary and Adwoa in the Meeting Room this morning.

### **ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS**

Dear St. Michael's families,

Good news! Susan and Paul Dedell have volunteered to help write and direct the Christmas Pageant. Yay!

**Our plan is to pre-film the Christmas Pageant on December 19th after church.** We will film outside (weather permitting) and inside (with masks). Galen Robinson, who works for BCTV and is one of our Sunday camera people, will do the filming and the editing. Once we get a sense of which kids want to be involved, we will set up a rehearsal sometime during December.

We still plan to have a hybrid service (in-person and Livestreamed) on Christmas Eve at 4 pm. We will show the film at the service on Christmas Eve, as well as have it available on the Livestream. This will give families and kids the flexibility of coming to the Christmas Eve service in person or watching from home.

**Please let me know ASAP if your child is interested in participating,** [marydail7@gmail.com](mailto:marydail7@gmail.com) Or, if you have questions about the pageant, email Susan at [dedellsusan@gmail.com](mailto:dedellsusan@gmail.com). There are lots of roles for little ones and for older ones, whether they want to help narrate or be one of the characters. Once we have a cast list, we will attempt to set up a rehearsal before Dec. 19.

Many blessings, Mary

**ST. NICHOLAS DAY, DECEMBER 5, AFTER 10:15 SERVICE:** Next Sunday we will offer Advent Swag Making in the Undercroft with a visit from St. Nicholas and food and treats outside on the Playground. With one craft activity rather than the many of past years, we will be able to spread out in the spacious Undercroft. Eating and drinking will be outside only! We invite the congregation to bring edible treats, such as cookies, to be shared.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH, SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 9 AM:** St. Michael's sanctuary is in its glory when dressed in greens! We will meet on Saturday morning to decorate the church. Probably we will have fewer greens this year, but it will still be beautiful. All are welcome to help with the decoration

**LESSONS & CAROLS, SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 4 PM:** St. Michael's choir is preparing for this wonderful event of song and word. We will be livestreaming this event, so you can come and enjoy it in-person or from the comfort and safety of your home.

**STM INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATES, NOVEMBER 24, 2021:** The outpouring of interest in the Refugee Ministry has been humbling. There are offers of help and questions about how each of us can help. We are blessed with the necessary passion and commitment around this humanitarian project. Thanks to all for your contributions to date.

As of today, November 23:

- We are anticipating our first family(s) somewhere between December 13 and the end of the year 2021 so we are deep into the process of preparing. The Federal Government has halted further regular refugee placement until the Afghans, still in "Safe Harbor" military bases here in this country, are placed. (There are still approximately 50,000 needing placement.) Thus, the family(s) we receive for the next 3-6 months will most likely be our Afghan brothers and sisters.
- Two upcoming very strategic events in our preparation phase are:
  - Household Goods Sorting Party; Sunday, November 28, at 3PM-5PM, in the Undercroft.
  - Core Group Training with ECDC, Saturday, December 4; time and place TBD.

We are going to need all the support our great congregation can deliver. You have asked how you can help. The Refugee Ministry Team has heard this loud and clear. We are thankful for your interest and energy.

Immediate Opportunities to Participate and Assist:

1. The St Michael's Refugee Co-Sponsorship Core Group is in need of some younger helpers to move furniture and other heavier and larger objects around as we prepare for the arrival of our new Vermonters. It's a bonus if you have the use of a truck. We will need help now through the end of the year and, on most occasions, we will phone you the day before, asking whether you're available for an hour or two. Please contact Christopher Wesolowski at [cmwvt65@gmail.com](mailto:cmwvt65@gmail.com) or 802-380-1474 if you're willing to be on call for this.
2. In-Kind Needs List; As we gather clothing and furnishing for our Afghan family, we continue to have items in short supply. Please find in the Common Room an In-Kind Needs List and sign up anywhere you feel you could make a contribution, even if it is only a single item. More on this in the next eNews and Bulletin the week of Sunday, November 28. Or, check our In-Kind Needs List at <http://bit.ly/3FGPhmy> and email Christopher if you're able to donate items on the list.

*Please Join Us.* Questions may be forwarded to me ([dbdrunner@dobsongroupinc.com](mailto:dbdrunner@dobsongroupinc.com); 425-785-8262) or Jeff Lewis ([Jeffrey.m.lewis@comcast.net](mailto:Jeffrey.m.lewis@comcast.net); 802-579-3877) *Daniel Dobson* – St. Michael's Interfaith Refugee Ministry

**THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE EXTENDS ITS SINCERE THANKS** to our fellow St. Michael's parishioners for their unstinting generosity, especially at this time of Thanksgiving, in the form of 4,250 diapers. Half were delivered to Foodworks in Brattleboro, and the other half to Park Place in Bellows Falls. Both organizations extend their deep gratitude to St. Michael's.

**CARRY ME HOME IS COLLECTING DONATIONS!** This local nonprofit run by St. Michael's parishioners Alix and Julia Fedoruk has a mission to help refugees and people fleeing conflict by providing them with clothes and other basic items. They are coordinating closely with St. Michael's initiative to obtain Refugee Resettlement Co-sponsorship status. You can donate new or gently used items from the list at <https://bit.ly/2YgKSXg> and the list in the Common Room. You may place items in the box in the Common Room. You can leave monetary donations in the manila envelope in the collection box in St. Michael's Common Room or mail them to Carry Me Home, % Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St., Brattleboro VT 05301. Email [carryhomecampaign@gmail.com](mailto:carryhomecampaign@gmail.com) to find out more or to volunteer to work with the Carry Me Home group.

**PROJECT FEED GOES THROUGH DECEMBER 31:** Project Feed the 'Thousands is unique in that EVERYONE can participate in some way. Whether you choose to make a cash contribution, pick up an extra non-perishable food item every time you go grocery shopping, or order from Amazon, you are helping your friends and neighbors fill a critical gap – the need for the most basic of human needs – food!! There is a bin in the Common Room for dropping off items at church.

Loaves and Fishes specifically needs:

- Canned goods, especially with pop top lids: baked beans, beans, canned chicken, tuna fish, deviled ham, hash, fruits, and vegetables, spaghetti sauce;
- Dry goods: crackers, individual packets of rice and mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, pasta meals;
- And of course, cash donations made out to Loaves and Fishes with Project Feed in the memo.