



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ

24 December 2021, eight o' clock in the evening

WELCOME

After the organ prelude, all stand to sing

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come all ye faithful

Hymnal 83, 1, 2, 3, 6

STATION AT THE MARY ICON

At the conclusion of verse 1, the ministers stand in front of the Mary icon. The presider intones,

The Glory of the Lord has been revealed:

People

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

The icon is honored with incense. The presider intones,

Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

STATION AND BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

At the conclusion of verse 2, the Christ Child is placed in the crèche. The presider intones,

Behold the dwelling of God is with creation

People

Christ will dwell with us and we shall be his people.

The crèche is honored with incense. The presider intones,

Eternal God, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born of a virgin: Bless, we pray, this Crèche that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ Our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The final verses of Hymn 83 are sung.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

Afterwards all sing

HYMN

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal 96

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

The people are seated to hear Holy Scripture.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Remaining seated,

PSALM 96

**1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

**2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

**3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.**

**7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**

**8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

**9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.**

**10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**

**11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.**

**13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1, 2, 3, 5

Hymnal 79

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1- 20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave

birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Adwoa Lewis-Wilson

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

Stand or kneel if able

Intercessor: Prince of Peace.

People: **Reveal to us your glory.**

The Presider adds a concluding Collect, and then bids

THE PEACE

The Ministers and People exchange greetings of Christ's peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

We ask you to continue to support St. Michael's during this time of physical separation. An Offering Plate is stationed at the back of the sanctuary and we appreciate your gifts! If you are attending remotely, please send your pledges or donations through the mail or online on our website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org, pressing the "Give" button on the top right-hand corner. Our ministry at St. Michael's depends on your generosity.

HYMN

What child is this

Hymnal 115

After the hymn the presider and people pray 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.

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 Marty 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:

All sing the Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: 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 Maker 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 God, 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept. Then all sing this hymn

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

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. In our celebration of the Eucharist, there is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. This is the table of a loving God set for all creation through the power of Jesus Christ. You, who are part of that creation, are welcome.

(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)

CANDLELIGHT

Candlelight will be distributed to the congregation.

For those at home, please light a candle where you are (if you have one) and turn down your lights.

HYMN

Silent Night

Hymnal 111

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

We observe a period of 1 - 2 minutes of silence following the hymn.

Still holding candles, all stand to say in unison this

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**

The candles are extinguished.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the world!

Hymnal 100

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

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

Thank You to those of St. Michael's who serve tonight

Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, *Preacher*

The Right Reverend Thomas Ely, *Presider*

Kate McGinn, *Lay Assistant*

Greg Lesch and Kate McGinn, *Lectors*

Ricky Davidson, *Intercessor*

Ricky Davidson and Christine Hart, *Ushers*

Sherry Stimmel, *Altar Guild*

Susan Dedell and the St. Michael's Choir, *Musicians*

Our Staff

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist, *Rector*

Ms. Susan Dedell, *Director of Music*

Ms. Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, *Seminarian*

Ms. Jeanie Crosby, *Parish Administrator*

Ms. Darlene Rutnik, *Financial Administrator*

Mr. John Laamanen, *Sexton*

The Reverend Jean Smith, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Phillip Wilson, *Priest Associate*

ADVENT GREENS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

As a Gift to the Glory of God:

From Janet Cramer

From Laura Lewis

In Thanksgiving for:

Our parish being in-person & Zoom from Christine Hart

Family & Friends from Judy Walker

Ruth Tilghman and the ministry of Loaves & Fishes from Cliff & Wylene Wood

The birth of Calista Good Chapin from Lise Sparrow

In Memory of:

Family from Doug & Ann Switzer

Samuel W. Meek, III from Fr. Nicholas & Dorothy Porter

Nancy & Halsey Hicks from Pamela & Paul Gallagher

Ed McGee, Charles & Evelyn Swift, and Marge Turek from Judy McGee

Leonard and Shirley Ely, Benn and Martha Ely, Benn M. Ely and Scott Ely from Tom & Ann Ely

Samuel W. Meek III from Fr. Nicholas & Dorothy Porter

Peter Davidson from Judy & Jack Davidson

Bruce Hesselbach from Carol Hesselbach

Poppies from his loving family

Madelyn Howard from Judith McBean