



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021

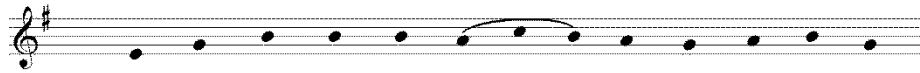
WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.

HYMN

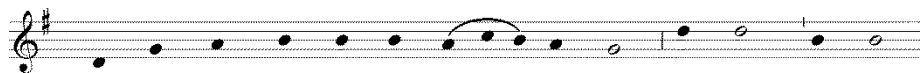
The Hymnal 56, v 1, 6, 7, 8



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou King of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

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

Musical notation for the Song of Praise, Kyrie-e elei-son. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-6, the second staff contains measures 7-12, and the third staff contains measures 13-18. The lyrics are: Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

WE PROCLAIM AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

An ancient prophesy which foresees the day when a new ruler shall come forth for Israel out of David's city of Bethlehem in Ephrathah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

and he shall be the one of peace.

Following the lesson...

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

CANTICLE 15

The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.**

**He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Hebrews 10:5-10

The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world—to make an offering in his body for our sanctification.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Following the lesson...

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

HYMN

The Hymnal 265

Hymn is printed on the next page

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943) Copyright ©1961, B. Feldman and Co. Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd., (London). All rights reserved. Used with permission.

GOSPEL

Luke 1: 39-45

Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth, and this humble woman's song of thanksgiving to the savior God who has called her to be the mother of the Lord.

Preceding the Gospel...

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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.

Intercessor

Christ, be our light

People

Shine in our hearts.

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 60, v 1, 3, 5, 6

Hymn is printed on the next page

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
 * 6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956) Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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, 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.

We praise you and we bless you:

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,

and we pray to you, Lord our God.

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 57

Hymn printed on the next page

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Helmsley*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

DISMISSAL

Participants Today

Greg Lesch, Lay Assistant; **Laura Andrews** and **William Stearns**, Readers; **Cary Gaunt**, Intercessor; **Judith & Alan McBean**, Ushers; **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: *Merribelle Coles* and *Annabel Horton*, Monday; *Susan Avery*, *Ann Bonneville*, and *Daniel Dobson*, Wednesday; *Jean Smith*, Thursday; *Joyce Vining Morgan*, Saturday.

ADULT FORUM TODAY: “Reflecting on the Readings in the Devotional” – We are continuing our reflections on these readings at our Adult Forums during the Sundays in Advent. Please join Mary and Adwoa in the Meeting Room this morning.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Many thanks to everyone who has pledged towards St. Michael's mission and ministry. Currently we have collected 128 pledges for a total of \$281,551! Our goal for 2022 is to collect 130 pledges for a total of \$280,000, so we have already achieved one of our goals! If you have not had a chance to pledge yet, you can do so online [HERE](#) or grab a pledge card on Sunday. Thank you for your great generosity and helping us embrace the present moment with courage, hope and faith.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TO BE FILMED TODAY: Our plan is to pre-film the Christmas Pageant today at 12 noon. We will film outside (weather permitting) and inside (with masks). All children and youth are welcome to participate in the pageant!

THE LONGEST NIGHT: A SERVICE OF HOPE FOR ALL WHO CARRY SORROW OF ANY KIND, TODAY, DECEMBER 19, 4:00 PM: The holiday season magnifies whatever is going on in our lives, the joyful and the hurting places. It can be the hardest time of the year. Carrying sadness, pain or loss is an added struggle when joy and celebration are expected. With candles, readings, music of the cello and chants we look for hope and connection as we head into the Christmas holidays.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Longest Night Service, 4 pm
<https://vimeo.com/event/1613502>

Friday, December 24

Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist, 4:00 pm
<https://vimeo.com/event/1613527>

Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
with Holy Eucharist, 8:00 p.m.
<https://vimeo.com/event/1613554>

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

Simple Christmas Day Service, 10:00 am

Sunday, December 26

Christmas Lessons and Carols (no Eucharist), 10:15 a.m.
No 8 am Service.

ST. MICHAEL'S INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATES, DECEMBER 15: St. Michael's Interfaith Refugee Ministry is building a list of volunteers to help embrace and welcome the families who start arriving in January. We have formed seven “service groups” around the types of support we will offer. Please sign up to volunteer online at <https://forms.gle/6fRWtWrrVtsmWrVx9>, or fill out a paper form that is available in the Common Room. Examples of each service group’s types of activities are given in the form. You will have the chance to identify some of your skills and resources, your availability, and which service group(s) you are interested in. The service groups and their leaders are: Housing and Welcome: Christopher Wesolowski; Transportation: Brian Morgan; Health: Jean Smith; Education: Joyce Vining Morgan; Cultural Adjustment: Joyce Vining Morgan; Jobs and Finance: Jeff Lewis; Volunteer Organization: Alix Fedoruk.

We thank you for your most generous donations of household goods, and ask that you hold back further donations for the time being. We expect to ask for more items in a few weeks as we get more information about who is coming to Brattleboro. Thank you!

PLEDGE ENVELOPES DELAYED: We have had a few inquiries about your pledge envelopes. We now know that they will be delayed until sometime in the second half of January due to supply issues. As soon as the envelopes arrive, we will let you know that they are ready to pick up.

CARRY ME HOME CONTINUES COLLECTION: Thank you all for your generous donations to this local nonprofit run by St. Michael’s parishioners Alix and Julia Fedoruk with a mission to help refugees and people fleeing conflict by providing them with clothes and other basic items. They continue to coordinate closely with St. Michael’s Refugee Resettlement Ministry. Through December 19th, please only donate winter jackets, footwear, and new underwear, placing them in the box in the Common Room. After December 19th, they will temporarily close collections until January 2nd. The list of items they accept can always be seen at <https://bit.ly/2YgKSXg> and is also available in the Common Room.

Carry Me Home are in need of volunteers for sorting! Email carrymehomecampaign@gmail.com to find out more. Monetary donations (checks) may be placed in the manila envelope in the collection box in St. Michael’s Common Room or mailed to Carry Me Home, % Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St., Brattleboro VT 05301.

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.