



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

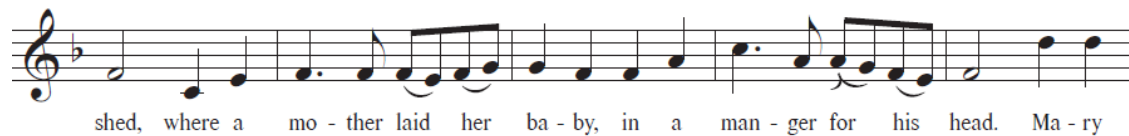
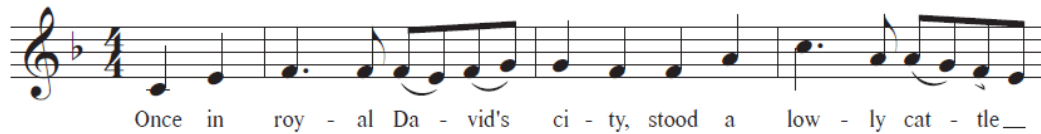
### WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

#### HYMN

*The Hymnal 102, vs 1, 2, 4 & 5*

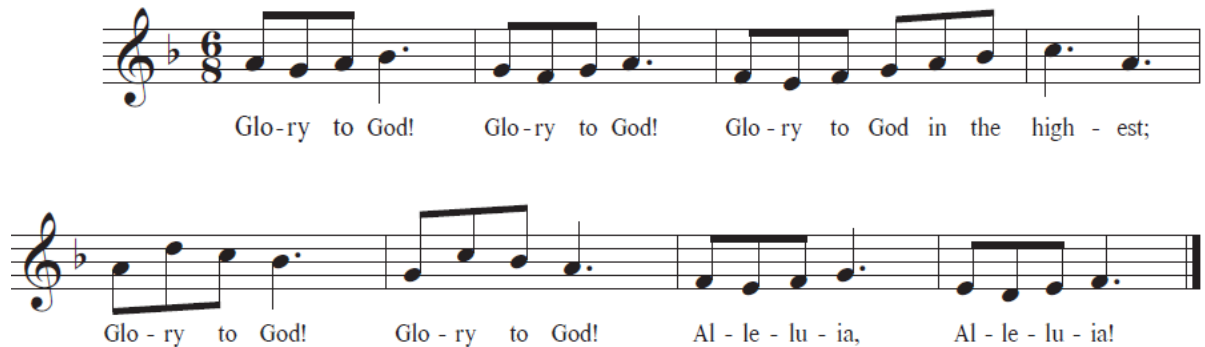


2. He came down to earth from heaven  
    who is God and Lord of all.  
    And his shelter was a stable,  
        and his cradle was a stall;  
    With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,  
        lived on earth our Savior holy.
4. For he is our life-long pattern;  
    daily, when on earth he grew,  
    He was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
        tears and smiles like us he knew.  
    Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
        and he shares in all our gladness.
5. And our eyes at least shall see him,  
    through his own redeeming love;  
    For that child who seemed so helpless  
        is our Lord in heaven above.  
    And he leads his children on  
        to the place where he is gone.

## ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God in the high - est;  
Glo - ry to God! Glo - ry to God! Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiab 61:10-62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Following the Lesson...*

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

PSALM 147: 13-21

**13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;**

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.**

**15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

**16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.**

**17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

**18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?**

**19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

**20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

**21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!**

THE SECOND LESSON

*Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Following the Lesson...*

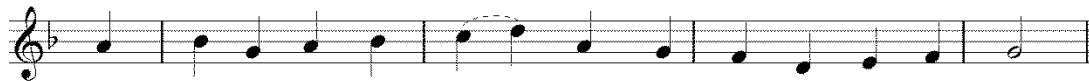
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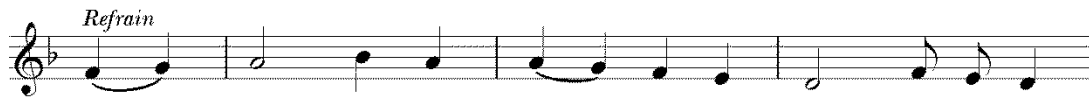
1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



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.



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 Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## THE GOSPEL

*John 1:1-18*

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Following the Gospel...*

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

SERMON

*The Right Reverend Thomas Ely*

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

*The Priest says a concluding Collect*

*The Celebrant bids*

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord 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**

OFFERTORY HYMN

*The Hymnal 82*



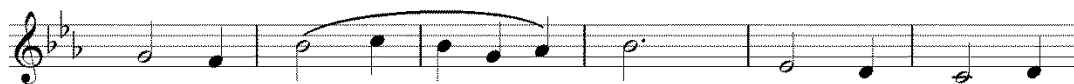
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.  
 Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956), harm. Copyright ©1984, Bruce Neswick.  
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## OFFERING

*We ask you to continue to support St. Michael's during this time. Those in person may leave offering in the offering plate. 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

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Lift up your hearts,

*People*

**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.**

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

*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 Presider recalls and makes present for all Jesus' life and last supper.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

*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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Celebrant:* We who are many are one Body;

*People:* **For we all share one bread.**

*(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

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
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 Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

## HYMN

*The Hymnal 87*



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 - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

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

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

DISMISSAL

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 ONLINE

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:** *Jeanette Landin, Hugo Taggart* and *Susan Ruggles*, Today; *MJ Woodburn, Christine Gauthier* and *Stephanie Diamondstone*, Tuesday; *Annamarie Pluhar and Laurel Harrison*, Thursday.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:** *Bruce & Kerry Capponcelli*, Monday; *George Moore & Margery McCrum*, Thursday.

**JANUARY + FEBRUARY ADULT FORUMS:** These Forums will be on Zoom for January and February, the period of Christmastide. January and February are the cold, dark months when it is hard to get out of the house in normal times! But with a new Covid variant making us all worried and weary and with many people choosing streaming church rather than in-person church, we think Zoom may make it easier for everyone to attend Adult Forums! See you there.

- **Next Sunday, January 2 - Habits, Hopes, and Resolutions.** Hope springs eternal! The annual practice of New Year's resolutions... do you make them? Do you think it's all silly? What is a habit? A routine? How are you looking into the new year? We'll explore all this and more, on Zoom with Annamarie Pluhar who is facilitating.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED THIS WEEK:** The office of St. Michael's will be closed until Tuesday, January 5, but we will check messages left at 802- 254-6048, ext 104 throughout the week. We will also be checking email sent to [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org).

**STEWARDSHIP GOAL SURPASSED:** Yay!!! We have collected 133 pledges for a total of \$286,051. We are so grateful for your generosity and your commitment in supporting the mission and ministry of St. Michael's. May God be praised!

**PLEDGE ENVELOPES DELAYED:** We have had 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.

**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.

## **PARISH INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON ST. MICHAEL'S**

**ROOF/SOLAR/ENERGY PROJECT, JANUARY 9, 2 PM ON ZOOM:** Come and find out more about the building project St. Michael's is planning for 2022-23. This is your opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and give feedback as we discern our call to respond to the climate crisis by being good stewards of our church and of our planet. The topics will include:

- Roof Replacement and Insulation
- Solar
- Total Energy Approach

## **ST. MICHAEL'S CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SUNDAY ON**

**JANUARY 16:** St. Michael's will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday on January 16. Our speaker this year will be the Reverend Doctor Arnold Isidore Thomas, a longtime resident and clergy person in Vermont with incredible depth of experience with social justice work and racial healing.

Reverend Thomas is currently the Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho, Vermont. Ordained as a Pastor in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Thomas served as Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, the first African American denominational leader in Vermont. Rev. Thomas also served as Minister for Education, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations at the Riverside Church in New York City and Adjunct Professor of Religion at New York Theological Seminary for ten years before returning to Vermont.

While Reverend Thomas will not be with us in person because he will be serving his own church, we will listen to his pre-recorded sermon at church and on Zoom on January 16.

**ST. MICHAEL'S INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY** has started a list of volunteers to help embrace and welcome new Afghan-Vermonters. 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 the 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.

The household goods and clothes you already donated through St Michael's and Carry Me Home are enabling us to be ready for "our own" family, whom we expect to arrive around January 3rd. In addition, the **ECDC Multicultural Community Center (MCC)**, our local resettlement agency with whom we are co-sponsoring refugees) has now developed an online sign-up system to collect basic goods for all refugees resettling in southern Vermont. Please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f44aca622a4ffc52-donate> to make a pledge.

The clothing you donate through **Carry Me Home** is also dedicated to fulfill needs for any local refugees and asylum seekers. We encourage you to sign up to give coats and boots via the MCC drive, and/or resume donating items from [this needs list \(bit.ly/2YgK5Xg\)](https://bit.ly/2YgK5Xg) to Carry Me Home, according to your preference.