

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

MARTIN LUTHER KING SUNDAY

January 16, 2022

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept.

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

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

THE CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.
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.**

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

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.
People **Have mercy on us.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may strive to secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; 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

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

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.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;

but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;

for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,

and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Following the Lesson...

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

**5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.**

**6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O Lord.**

**7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.**

**8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

**9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.**

**10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Following the Lesson...

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 2: 1-11

Preceding the Gospel...

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON "The Beloved Community: Its Costs and Joys"

The Rev. Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas

After the sermon a period of silence is kept

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 in the Chat.

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Participants Today

Jay Pomponio, Reader and *Doug Switzer*, Prayer Leader

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP ON LINE OR BY TELEPHONE

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: *David Mattocks*, Tuesday; *Pam Carr*, Wednesday; *Miranda Smith*, Thursday; *Linda Neilson* and *Lily DeLeon*, Friday; *John Carnahan*, Saturday.

TODAY IS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY: Our speaker this year at both services is 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 during our services this morning.

ADULT FORUM, 9 – 10 AM EACH SUNDAY:

- **TODAY: “Exploring Martin Luther King Jr’s relationship with the Church”:** Craig Hammond will lead.
- **JANUARY 23: “How Senior Solutions Helps Seniors in our Community”** -- Senior Solutions has served Southeastern Vermont since 1973. Last year the agency provided services to promote the well-being and dignity of more than 700 older adults in Brattleboro alone, including case management services, nutrition and wellness programs, transportation services, volunteer programs, information and assistance services, and a variety of other activities to support older adults, their caregivers, and their families. Come talk with Mark Boutwell, the new Executive Director of Senior Solutions, and Vicki Mastroianni, the agency’s Home Visitor Program Coordinator, to learn more about the agency’s programs and services.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE, MONDAY, JANUARY 17: The Outreach Committee invites you to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service, with us this January 17th.

Our friends at ECDC have two service opportunities for you on that day:

- with a small group of masked and appropriately vaccinated people, help set up apartments for refugees
- or in your own home and at your convenience, cook meals to be frozen for future use for refugees who are living temporarily on the School for International Training campus without access to full cooking facilities. Recipes will be provided.

Foodworks and Groundworks Shelter (on Royal Road) invite you to help with general outdoor cleanup at their sites, as well as repairing picnic tables at Groundworks Shelter, weather permitting.

Carry Me Home invites you to join them (also a small group, masked and vaccinated) in sorting donated clothes for refugees at Centre Church from 1 pm to 3 pm.

We are again conducting our annual B.O.B. (Bag of Basics) Drive, to supplement our parish’s ongoing food offerings with a special drive for non-food items that are most needed by people with

limited means. We will collect these items from January 9–17, then deliver them to Loaves & Fishes, St. Michael's Prison Ministry, Foodworks, our local refugee and asylum seeker programs (ECDC and CASP), and other partners. Return your offerings from the list below by January 17 to the Undercroft in a reusable or paper bag, **CLEARLY LABELED** on the outside stating what kind of item and how many. We will pass the boxes and bags directly to our partners based on the types of items each requested. Please email Alix Fedoruk alixf@mac.com to learn more about the BOB Drive, and to sign up or learn more about any of the service opportunities.

Suggested items: Manual can openers, Acetaminophen (Tylenol), cold remedies (e.g. Dayquil, Nyquil, Emergen-C, throat lozenges), band-aids, deodorant, diapers, shampoo & conditioner, shaving cream, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes- toothpaste-floss, dish liquid, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, new men's clothing items: white T- shirts, white socks, underwear/boxers, mittens, hats. Toiletries for the Prison Ministry must be in clear containers.

SIGN UP FOR ST. MICHAEL'S COVENANT GROUPS BY THURSDAY DEADLINE!

St. Michael's Covenant Groups are beginning their 11-week pilgrimage on Tuesday, January 25. The deadline for signing up is this Thursday, January 20. ***The Becoming Beloved Community Covenant Groups will be meeting through Lent and there will not be a separate Lenten offering on Tuesday evenings this year.*** So, if you are looking for a way to connect more deeply with God and with your neighbors at St. Michael's, this is it!

What is a Covenant Group? A Covenant Group is a small group of perhaps six to ten people who make a commitment to meet regularly as a safe space with guidelines and facilitators for their time together. Our hope is that each group will develop a sense of closeness and trust over time and that this closeness and trust will enable us to listen, speak and grow in our love of God and our love for one another.

What do the Covenant Groups have to do with Becoming Beloved Community? We are embracing the Covenant Groups as part of our great hope for the culture of mutual support, the Beloved Community, that with God's help we are working to become. In this coming season, the Covenant Groups will focus on the racial healing element of St. Michael's Becoming Beloved Community effort.

What resources will the Covenant Groups be using? The Groups will use *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers and one of Bishop Hopkin's shorter writings as the springboards for our conversations. We will also use scripture, prayer and other relevant resources to help guide our conversations. Participants will be asked to read short pieces in preparation for our gatherings.

How will the time be structured? Covenant Groups will meet on Zoom, from 5:15-6:45 pm every Tuesday evening, January 25 - April 5.

- From 5:15 to 5:35, the Covenant Groups will all meet together to begin with prayer and an introduction to the large group about the topic for the evening.
- From 5:35 to 6:20, each Covenant Group will meet in break-out rooms on Zoom for a time of conversation with two facilitators.
- From 6:20 to 6:45, the Groups come back together for final reflections and a time of prayer.

We will hold this structure loosely and discern what works best for us.

Want to know more? Check out the article in the January Guardian. Or, you may email Mary Lindquist (mary@stmichaelsvermont.org) or Adwoa Lewis-Wilson (adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org) with questions.

How do I sign up? Please email or call Jeanie in the church office to sign up. Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or 802 254-6048, ext 104. Deadline for signing up is January 20.

THURSDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE, 5:30 – 6 PM EACH WEEK: Join this service at <https://www.stmichaels-vt.org/pray/>

DID YOU MISS ST. MICHAEL'S GATHERING ABOUT OUR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT? No problem! You can view the meeting on our Vimeo page. The link for the video is here: <https://vimeo.com/664063450>

MEETING ON PROPOSED BUDGET, NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 9 AM ON ZOOM: Those who would like the opportunity to review St. Michael's budget for 2022 and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited to a budget meeting today beginning at 9 am. The link to the budget and the Zoom link for the meeting will be in the eNews on Thursday.

BUDGET REVIEW MEETINGS, JANUARY 23 at 9 am- Those of you who would like the opportunity to review St. Michael's budget for 2022 and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited to a budget review meeting on Sunday, January 23 at 9 am. This meeting will be on Zoom and we will send out a Zoom link and draft of the budget in next week's eNews.

ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY JANUARY 30, 2 PM ON ZOOM: All members of St. Michael's are invited to attend our Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30 at 2 pm. The Annual Meeting will be on Zoom again this year. We will send out Zoom link information in the eNews prior to the meeting.

At this Annual Meeting we will elect three new members of the Vestry, adopt a budget for 2022, elect delegates to the Diocesan Convention, and receive reports on St. Michael's three initiatives (Refugee Ministry, Becoming Beloved Community & Renewable Energy). In addition, we will view our annual slide show highlighting life at St. Michael's in 2021. The Annual Meeting is an important overview of the past and future of our ministry together. Please make every effort to be present!

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ST. MICHAEL'S INTERFAITH REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT MINISTRY: We encourage you to join our growing list of volunteers to help embrace and welcome our sponsored families. Please sign up to volunteer online at <https://forms.gle/6fRWtWrrVtSmWrVx9>, or fill out the paper form that is available in the Common Room. The form allows you to indicate the types of activities you would like to be notified of, as well as your skills, resources, and availability.

Our work is organized around the following service groups and their respective leaders: 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.

Meanwhile, other Afghan families and individuals have arrived in Vermont too, not all of whom have community sponsors. ECDC has 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. We thank you for the household goods and clothes you already donated or pledged through St. Michael's. We do not need anything more at present.