

# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

*February 06, 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.**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

#### 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.**

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 and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; 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

*Malachi 3:1-4*

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Following the Lesson...*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84

**1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

**2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.**

**3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.**

**4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

**5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

**6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

## THE SECOND READING

*Hebrews 2:14-18*

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Following the Lesson...*

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2: 22-40*

*Preceding the Gospel...*

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Following the Gospel...*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

SERMON

*Advoa Lewis-Wilson*

*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

*Kate McGinn*, Reader and *Steve Guerriero*, 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:** *Chris Landin* and *Doug Lilly*, Monday; *Emma Allen*, Tuesday; *Richard Burtis* and *Susan Wilson*, Wednesday; *Alan McBean* and *Jayne Fritz*, Friday; *Robert Anderson*, Saturday.

**IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICES TO BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY, FEB 13!** It's happening! **We are returning to in-person services on Sunday morning** beginning next Sunday, February 13. We will still offer a hybrid option (in-person and online) for the 10:15 am service for those who would like to attend remotely.

**ADULT FORUMS, 9 – 10 AM:** In February, we will be focusing on some of the Hebrew prophets for our Adult Forum time.

- **Today -- “The Prophets: Amos, Hosea, Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah:”** Who are these ‘strange folk’ in the Bible who stood up to kings and powerbroker telling them hard truths when the world around was falling apart .... and.... at the same time held up the hope of a new way of living with each other? Where are the prophets today, when we need them more than ever? Phillip Wilson leads this introduction to and discussion of The Prophets.

Here is the Zoom Link for Adult Forums:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952120142?pwd=U0NGSm8zcEdMbUdCclgxbC8zbjc2dz09>

**STATEMENTS OF GIVING TO ST. MICHAEL'S IN 2021:** Statements have been sent via email or usps mail. If you have not received yours or have any questions, please contact the Church office at [jcanic@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jcanic@stmichaelsvermont.org) or call 802-254-6048, ext 104. Thank you for your generous contributions!

**STORY TELLING AND THE BELOVED COMMUNITY BEGINS FEB 13, NEXT SUNDAY:** For one hour on three Sunday late afternoons, from 5 pm to 6 pm, we are invited to gather on Zoom and listen to different members of the parish tell personal stories of racial awareness. Stories might include messages of race they learned growing up, experiences of privilege and non-privilege, experiences of racial healing and what it took, ways they have confronted the “demon” and more.....

We will gather at 5 pm on Zoom and begin with a prayer. We will invite selected storytellers to share their experiences, leaving us with questions to ponder. After each story, we will keep some silence and then hear the next person. We will end again with a prayer that invites the spirit of healing and reconciliation. It is our belief that one way God speaks to us is through the stories we share from deep within us.

Dates: Sunday Feb. 13, Sunday March 13 and Sunday April 3

Time: 5 pm to 6 pm

Gather: Via Zoom. LINK will be available in eNews and on St. Michael's website.

Organizers: Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Rosie Wojcik and Phillip Wilson

**THURSDAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE, 5:30 – 6 PM EACH WEEK:** We will return to in-person Contemplative Service in the chapel on Thursday, February 10. We will also keep our

Zoom option for attendance. You can find the link on St. Michael's website, <https://www.stmichaels-vt.org/pray/>

**SEEKING DONATIONS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY ONLINE AUCTION:** You may have read in the St. Michael's eNews on Tuesday, Feb.1, that an online auction, hosted by the St. Michael's Tag Sale Ministry and to benefit the St. Michael's Interfaith Refugee Ministry, is being set up right now. Its purpose is to raise funds to help support the two families -- altogether 5 adults and 6 children -- from Afghanistan that St. Michael's is co-sponsoring while they begin to put down roots in Brattleboro.

This entire auction process -- start to finish -- will take place during the month of February. Right now, we have started collecting donated goods, services, art and experiences to bid on, both from the St. Michael's community and from local businesses. We hope you are interested in helping out by donating something or by participating in the bidding for some great items! Bidding will take place from Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> until the 27<sup>th</sup>.

To make a donation of goods, services, art or experiences, you can go directly to a donation form at: <https://forms.gle/USaeQDpF5PvLYRyX8> . If you would like some general information about donations, or if you have any questions about a particular item you are thinking about donating, please email us at [stmichaelsepiscopalbrattleboro@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsepiscopalbrattleboro@gmail.com) (Note- NOT the office email!) and a volunteer will be in touch to give you more information and answer your questions.

Please join us in this fundraiser for a great cause! Thank you!

**UPDATE FROM THE INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY:** The St. Michael's Interfaith Refugee Ministry will welcome its second family, the Noori's, on Tuesday. This is a family of a father, 3 children and a woman whose age we don't yet know—maybe the grandmother, may be the mother. We have formed a second Circle of Support team for them led by Rev. Lisa Sparrow, who worships with us. We are in the early stages of forming a third team from a group referred to us by ECDC. They would allow us to host a third family. We are exploring this because there are 20 families expected and so far, only 12 co-sponsor slots.

We have seen even from the first family, the Mohammadi's, that having an active co-sponsor team makes a great difference in welcoming, orienting, and helping people feel 'at home' here. The Nimble team, our Circle of Support for the Mohamadi's, is fully engaged. On Monday of this week a member drove Hadiyah, age 8, to school where she was welcomed by her ESL teacher. He reported it as a heartwarming experience to see her walk into school for the first time.

At the same time, they are concerned in preparing Zakirah for high school with appropriate clothes so she feels comfortable and ready. This may involve helping her mother, Zakiah, who is a talented seamstress, get access to a sewing machine and the fabric she wants.

The general activity level is very high with 15 people a week arriving at SIT and so far very few leaving for permanent housing. Job market orientation started last week which will be very helpful to the men who want to get to work soon in order to contribute to family still in Afghanistan.

**CARRY ME HOME:** The clothing and footwear you donate through Carry Me Home is dedicated to fulfill needs for any local refugees and asylum seekers. Information about volunteering to sort donations and staff the free store is at <https://bit.ly/3tC88w7>, and the Needs List is at [bit.ly/2YgKSXg](https://bit.ly/2YgKSXg). Donations may be left in the designated box in the Common Room.