



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 2022, eight o' clock in the evening

After the organ prelude, all stand to sing

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come all ye faithful

Hymnal 83

STATION AT THE NATIVITY WINDOW

At the conclusion of verse 2, the ministers stand in front of the Nativity window. The presider intones,

The Glory of the Lord has been revealed:
People **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

The window 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 4, 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.

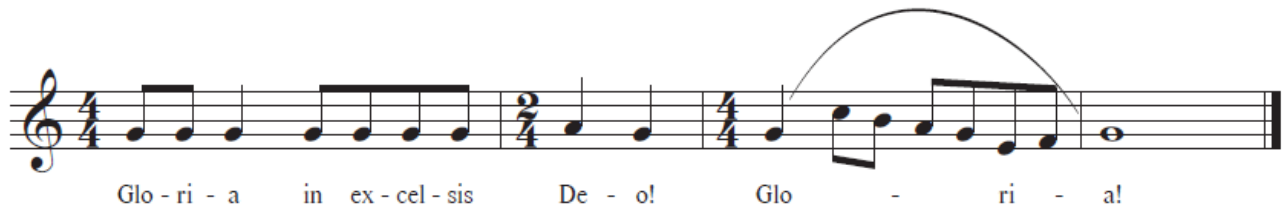
THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2-7

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

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. RESPONSE

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." RESPONSE

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. RESPONSE

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2: 11-14

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

HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1, 3, 5*

Hymnal 78

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

During the hymn, the Gospel is carried in procession. Before the proclamation the Deacon says

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the proclamation, the Presider says

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Mary Lindquist

"Christianity is the religion of faces. Christianity means that God, for us, has become a face that reveals the other as a face. Saint Macarius the Great says that the spiritual person becomes all face and his face all expression. What can a face that is all expression be but a saving breach in the constricting vastness of the world?" - Olivier Clement

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

INVITATION

OFFERING



During the hymn, ushers pass the offering plates. Representatives from the parish bring the people's offerings of food bread and wine for the Eucharist, and money for mission and ministry to the Altar. You may also make a donation online by scanning the QR code to the left or by going to St. Michael's website at www.stmichaelsvermont.org under "Give" & "Give Online" Our ministry at St Michael's depends on your generosity!

ANTHEM

HYMN

What child is this

Hymnal 115

After the hymn the presider and people pray the

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *Celebrant* People *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *Celebrant* People *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant *Celebrant*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *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 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 people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father 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 Father, 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,

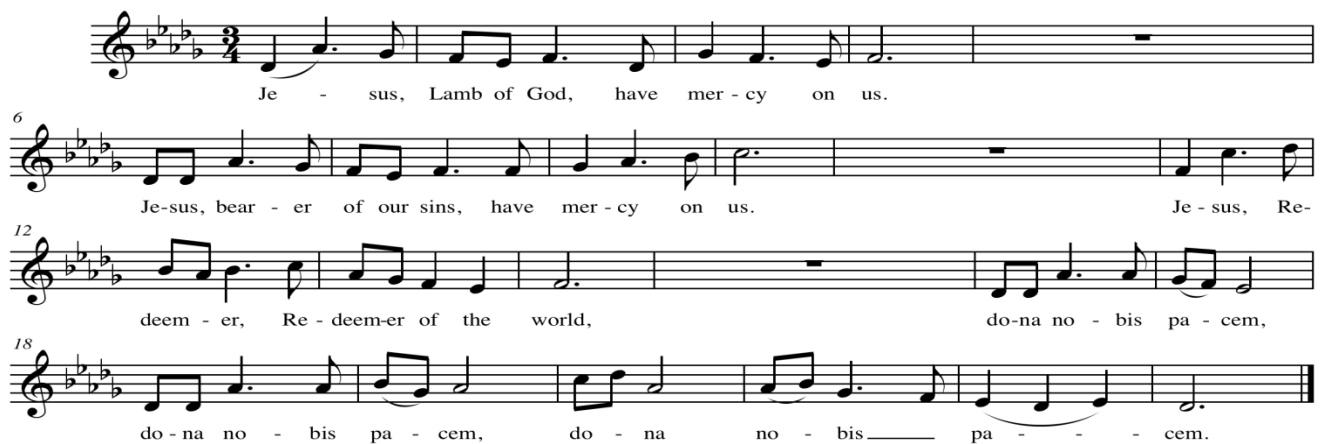
People and Celebrant

**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



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.

BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

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. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. If you would like either, please indicate that preference to the liturgical minister. Receive the Bread in your open palm followed by the Common Cup, taking the cup by its base and guiding it to your lips. You may also receive the Bread only, with arms folded over your chest afterwards. Or if you wish to come to the Altar for a blessing only, please fold your arms over your chest.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Hymnal 81 and Hymnal 105

CANDLE LIGHTING

After all have received communion, the acolytes will pass the candlelight into the congregation.

Once the light is dispersed and silence is kept, all remain seated and sing

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.

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

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

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

Mary Lindquist, *Preacher*

Lucie Barone-Benoit and Marek Barone-Benoit, *Acolytes*

Kate McGinn, *Lay Assistant*

Greg Lesch, *Thurifer*

Ann Ely and Susan Daigneault, *Readers*

Margery McCrum, *Intercessor*

Jay Pomponio, *Chalicer*

Maida McKenna and Ricky Davidson, *Ushers*

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

Rebecca Olmstead, Zadie Olmstead and Charlene Kemp, *Altar Guild*

Our Staff

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist, *Rector*

The Reverend adwoa Wilson, *Assistant Priest*

Ms. Susan Dedell, *Director of Music*

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

TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

From Ian & Liz Harrison

From Laura Lewis

From Sue & Paul Dyer

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Susan & Paul Dedell's music programs at church *from Raquel Moreno*

The music ministry of Susan Dedell *from Cliff & Wylene Wood*

Family and Friends *from Judy Walker*

IN MEMORY OF:

Family *from Ann & Doug Switzer*

Evelyn & Charles Swift, the McGee Family, and Marie Turek *from Judy McGee*

Leonard & Shirley Ely, Martha & Spider Wiggins, and Scott Ely *from Tom & Ann Ely*

My Gram Carmel Parvo *from Susan & Charlie Daigneault*

My Godmother Mary Alice Parvo Russo *from Susan Daigneault*

Bruce Hesselbach *from Carol Hesselbach*

Corky Elwell *from Chris, Bill and Ben*

Peter Davidson *from Judy & Jack Davidson*

Nini & Bumpa *from Hailey and Ryan Cogliano*

Nancy & Halsey Hicks and Jeffrey Durborow *from Pam & Paul Gallagher*

Robert R. Anderson *from Becky Anderson*

Kate & Glenn Mayo *from The Fisher Family*

My Parents and Grandparents *from Lise Sparrow*

REGULAR WORSHIP AT ST. MICHAEL'S

SUNDAYS

8:00 am Quiet service of prayer and Eucharist (in-person), (40 minutes)
9:00 am Education hour
10:15 am Prayer, music and Eucharist with childcare (in-person and online), (75 minutes)

WEEKDAYS

8-8:30 am Morning Prayer (on-line); Tues and Wed also in-person in chapel

WEDNESDAYS

11:30 Centering Prayer (in-person)
12:00 Eucharist (in-person), (30 minutes)

THURSDAYS

5:30 pm Contemplative Service (in-person and online), (30 minutes)

SATURDAYS

8:00 am Centering Prayer (in-person) (1 hour)

The Annunciation

Even if I don't see it again - nor ever feel it
I know it is - and that if once it hailed me
it ever does -

And so it is myself I want to turn in that direction
not as toward a place, but it was a tilting
within myself,

as one turns a mirror to flash the light to where
it isn't - I was blinded like that - and swam
in what shone at me

only able to endure it by being no one and so
specifically myself I thought I'd die
from being loved like that.

- *Marie Howe*