



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## THE THIRD WEEK IN SEASON OF CREATION

### WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE            “Kyrie” by Girolamo Frescobaldi

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HYMN

*The Hymnal 427*

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known  
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:  
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,

1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,  
2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word  
4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!  
3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

## ACCLAMATION

*Presider:* Blessed be the One who creates all things.

*People:* **God's love is new every morning.**

V: Holy One, to you belong praise, glory, honor, and blessing.

R: **Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks unto God.**

V: O nights and days, O shining light and enfolding dark,

R: **Praise and bless the Lord, and give thanks unto God.**

V: O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,

R: **Praise and bless the Lord and give thanks unto God.**

## SONG OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to all peo-ple on earth.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

*Exodus 14: 19-31*

*Following the lesson...*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 114

### 1 Hallelujah!

**When Israel came out of Egypt, \***  
**the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**

**2 Judah became God's sanctuary \***  
**and Israel his dominion.**

**3 The sea beheld it and fled; \***  
**Jordan turned and went back.**

**4 The mountains skipped like rams, \***  
**and the little hills like young sheep.**

**5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \***  
**O Jordan, that you turned back?**

**6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \***  
**you little hills like young sheep?**

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

THE SECOND READING

*In the Season of Creation, our Second Readings will come from non-scriptural sources.*

*From "Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert" by Terry Tempest Williams –*

“The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wilderness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we live only by grace. Wilderness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is in our hands.”

HYMN

*The Hymnal 393*



1 Praise our great and gra - cious Lord, call up - on his ho - ly Name;  
2 God has given the cloud by day, given the mov - ing fire by night;



raisi - ng hymns in glad ac - cord, all his might - y acts pro - claim:  
guides his Is - rael on their way from the dark - ness in - to light.



how he leads his cho - sen un - to Ca - naan's prom - ised land,  
God it is who grants us surc re - treat and re - fuge nigh;



how the word we have heard firm and change - less still shall stand.  
light of dawn leads us on: 'tis the Day - spring from on high.

Words: Harriet Auber (1773-1862), alt. Music: *Maoz Zur*, Hebrew melody; adapt. and arr. Eric Werner (1901-1988).

THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 18: 21-35*

*Preceding the Gospel...*

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

*Following the Gospel...*

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

SERMON

*Mary Colleen Sinnott*

*After the sermon a period of silence is kept*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things,  
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,  
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.  
We believe in God as the source of all life,  
who baptizes this planet with living water.  
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,  
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,  
who loves and cares for this world  
and who suffers with it.  
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,  
who came to reconcile and renew this world  
and everything in it.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,  
who moves with God  
and who moves among and with us today.  
We believe in everlasting life in God.  
And we believe in the hope that one day  
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.

## 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: God, in your mercy,  
People: **Hear our prayer.**

### THE CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
and what our hearts can no longer bear,  
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant bids*

### THE PEACE

Not an easy peace,  
not an insignificant peace,  
not a halfhearted peace,  
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ  
be with you all.  
**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

“The Blue Green Hills of Earth” by Kim Oler

OFFERTORY HYMN

*The Hymnal 304*

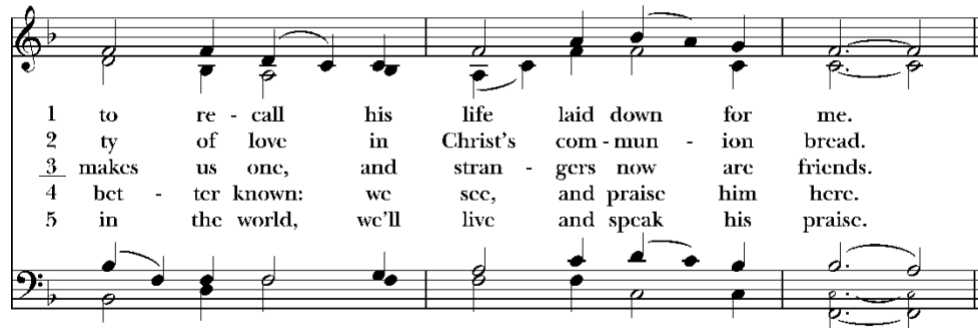
*Unison or harmony*



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to -  
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple



1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
3 makes us onc, and stran - gers now are friends.  
4 bet - ter known: we sec, and praise him here.  
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

OFFERING

*Please consider an offering/pledge to St. Michael's to support our many ministries. At this time, we have an offering plate located at the back of the church to collect contributions. You may also contribute online on our website, [www.stmichaelsvermont.org](http://www.stmichaelsvermont.org), clicking the "Give" and "Give Online" button on the top right hand corner. Our ministry at St. Michael's depends on your generosity.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

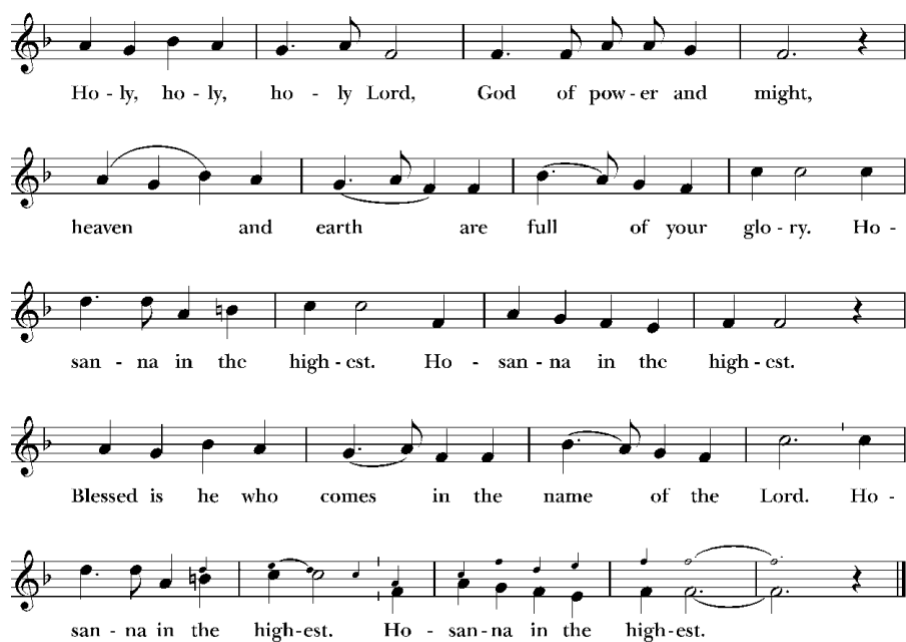
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

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

*The Presider asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God's holy food.*

Let us pray:

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Mother, our Father,**  
who is within us and among us and around us,  
holy and blessed be all your names.  
May love come, may love be done  
as love dwells in all realms.  
May we live so that all in the community  
have plentiful and healthy air and water,  
food and shelter, respect and love.  
May we live in forgiveness,  
forgiving ourselves, forgiving others, as we have been forgiven.  
May the living earth, the living water,  
the living air, and the fire behind it all  
sustain us in the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil  
into peace, justice, mercy, kindness, and love,  
for love is the all and the all and the all forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

Truth shall spring - up from the - earth and right - eous-ness shall look down from hea - ven

7  
Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Bles - sed are those who are called to the sup - per of the lamb. Al - le - lu - ia

13  
Al - le - lu - ia Bles - sed are those who are called to the sup - per of the lamb.

He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread.

He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

**With people everywhere we affirm  
God's goodness at the heart of humanity,  
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

Alleluia, Behold what you are!

**May we become what we receive.**

#### INVITATION TO 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. Please indicate that preference to the liturgical minister.*

#### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

**Faithful God  
in the wonder of your wisdom and love  
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,  
and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.  
We thank you for feeding us with this bread.  
May it strengthen us that  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may embody your will  
and be renewed for your service  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### BLESSING

#### HYMN

*The Hymnal 690*

*Hymn is printed on next page*

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

DISMISSAL. *Children in the congregation are invited to join the Deacon in the aisle to help do the Dismissal.*

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” by Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

### Participants Today

**The Reverend Lars Hunter**, deacon; **Alex O’Pray**, lay assistant; **Jenny Karstad** and **Carol Hesselbach**, readers and element bearers; **Carol Hesselbach**, intercessor; **Miranda Smith** and **Ricky Davidson**, chalicebearers; **Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan**, ushers; **Jane Sbardella**, **Sherry Stimmel**, **Judith Junkins** and **Craig Newbert**, Altar Guild.



**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.**

- **WELCOME TO VISITORS!** All are welcome at this table. If you have any questions about the liturgy, location of the bathrooms, or anything else, please ask one of the ushers or greeters. Thank you for joining us today.
- **GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AND GRAPE JUICE** are available for Communion at both 8:00 am and 10:15 services. Please make yourselves known to the priest when you come up for Communion.
- **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!** There are clipboards with paper and crayons, as well as activity bags with coloring books at the back of the Sanctuary for children who are interested in coloring or drawing during the service. Feel free to come in and out of the worship area as needed with your children! Please ask an usher if you need assistance.
- **CARE IS AVAILABLE** for children during the service. Please ask the ushers for directions.

### **ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 am, Monday-Friday, on Zoom and in-person Tues-Thursday in the Chapel

Breakfast with the Psalms, 8:30 – 10 am, The Works, Main St., Brattleboro

Centering Prayer, 11:30-11:55 am, Wednesday in the Chapel

Eucharist with the Saints, 12 noon-12:30, Wednesday in the Chapel

Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday in the Chapel, in-person and on Zoom

Centering Prayer, 8 am, Saturday in the Chapel

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:** *KJ White*, Monday; *Skyla Ragle* and *Elise Burrows*, Tuesday; *Krista Burtis*, *Ainsley Meyer*, *Christian Olmstead* and *Laura Panzer*, Wednesday; *Anne Montgomery* and *Alix Fedoruk*, Friday.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:** *Marie & Bruce Lawrence*, Wednesday.

**THE SEASON OF CREATION:** This fall, St. Michael's is joining with millions of Christians around the world to celebrate, for the second year, the Season of Creation. The movement, which began in the Eastern Orthodox Church and spread widely among Protestant, Catholic and Anglican congregations, is observed every year from September 1-October 4 (St. Francis' feast day, which will be celebrated on Sunday, October 8 at St. Michael's).

In our Sunday liturgy, we are integrating prayers, readings, music, sermons and a Eucharistic Prayer that reflect our love of God's creation, incorporating our grief, repentance and renewed commitment, with God's grace, to work for the healing of our earth. Today we have special preacher Mary Colleen Sinnott and on October 8 we will hear from Mark Kutowski. We hope you will join us for this special season!

Please note that the version of **the Lord's Prayer** we are using for this season was written by parishioner, poet-farmer Kim Peavey. Kim states: *This version / vision of Christianity's the Lord's Prayer has evolved over a few years. The Living Prayer, as I call it, has been inspired by the earth, water, air, and fire of my own farm; by Miriam Macgillis's (Dominican sister and co-founder of Genesis Farm in New Jersey) body prayer, which is derived from Indigenous and Christian traditions; and by conversations with our own Parker Huber.*

**MARY COLLEEN SINNOTT PREACHES TODAY:** Mary Colleen is a member of the Church of the Woods in Canterbury, New Hampshire and has been involved in eco-spirituality for decades. In addition, she has worked as a hospital and college chaplain and is connected to the L'Arche Community in Syracuse, New York, as a member of their Spiritual Life Team.

**ADULT FORUM BEGAN TODAY, 9 AM:** St. Michael's welcomes Libby Bennett from the **Groundworks Collaborative**, who "works with people and systems creating solutions to end hunger and homelessness for all people in our region." Libby will report on Groundworks and leave plenty of time for questions from our community. This forum is a step for St Michael's in our discernment about how we respond to homelessness in our community.

**THE CHOIR IS BACK!** Today St. Michael's Choir is back from their summer respite to add to our service. We are so happy to have the musical support of St. Michael's Choir under the new leadership of Keane Southard. Keane plans to start an optional, weekday practice in October, for those both new and experienced who would like more practice and training in offering the gift of singing.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP** got off to a great start last Sunday! Here is what is happening today:

- The Godly Play Class (ages 3-8, who meets in the Godly Play Room every Sunday, will explore *The Circle of the Church Year* and *The Creation Story*. Susan Heimer is the storyteller and Miranda Smith is the Assistant.
- Upper El (Grades 3-6), who meet in the Upstairs Meeting Room twice a month, will study the Creation Story and Noah's Ark. Marie Lawrence is the lead teacher and Jesse Ridgway is her assistant.
- Youth Group (Grades 6-12), who meet in the Small Meeting Room downstairs once a month, will continue to talk about projects planned for this coming year.

**HEALING PRAYER BOOK STUDY: A 6-WEEK STUDY, THURSDAYS, 4-5:15 PM, IN-PERSON + ON ZOOM, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 28:** Are you interested in the relationship of prayer to healing? In the stories of healing in the gospels? In St. Michael's Ministry of Healing Prayer? If so, please join us for a six-week book study, beginning Thursday, September 28. We will meet in-person and on zoom.

We will be reading *Healing in the Landscape of Prayer*, by Avery Brooke. One reviewer wrote: "*Healing in the Landscape of Prayer* is an excellent introductory text that emphasizes the ministry of healing as one of the primary works of the church and the believer. It traces the history of healing as an artifact of baptism and provides a glimpse from the early church in which physical healing occurred to later developments in which spiritual healing was emphasized. The author, through her own experience, encourages others to claim this important ministry in their own lives, in healing prayers for others, and in binding the works of the unholy one in restoring people to health.

Our hope from the book study is that some who participate may be interested in further training and discernment as we re-form St. Michael's Healing Team for the 10:15am service. This is not a requirement, however, and all are welcome to come and explore the book. Please contact Mary Lindquist ([mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org)) if you are interested in being part of the book study.

**CASP (COMMUNITY ASYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT) AUCTION, THROUGH SEPT 19:** CASP is putting on an 'End of Summer Auction' online at <https://www.32auctions.com/CASP2023>. Many fine items from small to large, art to food, and experience opportunities like Kripalu and The Hatch Space and dining at The Reluctant Panther or the Marina are available. Bid early and often to support CASP and the asylum seekers in our community.

**SHELTER MEALS MINISTRY:** For many years, parishioners of St. Michael's have prepared (and sometimes served) homemade dinners for residents at a Brattleboro shelter for the homeless—currently, at the Groundworks Drop-in Center on South Main St. There is no more direct way to help those in need than this.

This fall, our Shelter Meals Ministry will resume, with meals being provided on the first Thursday of each month, from October through April. These meals typically include a homemade hot pasta dish such as lasagna or macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, bread and butter, milk, and dessert for about 35 people.

No one is expected to prepare a whole meal, but rather to contribute one part. Anyone volunteering to prepare a main dish is also welcome to divide the task with a friend. For those who need serving dishes, we have disposable foil pans or containers available in a cabinet in the church kitchen marked "Foil Pans For Shelter Meals."

On the evening of the meal, we ask that you bring your portion to the church parking lot at 4 p.m. (not 5 p.m., as in the past), where we will collect it and bring it over to the Groundworks Shelter.

A few years ago, before the health risks of COVID made it inadvisable, St. Michael's volunteers also helped serve these nutritious meals to the residents and enjoyed getting to know them. We hope that direct contact will be able to resume some time soon.

For those who have joined in this mission in the past, I know it has been a labor of love. A sign-up sheet is now available in the Common Room. If you would like to know more about participating in this ministry, please contact Benson Bobrick at [shiloh98@sover.net](mailto:shiloh98@sover.net) or Liz Vick at [ebethvick@gmail.com](mailto:ebethvick@gmail.com).

**SERVICES FOR SSCF RESIDENTS:** St. Michael's continues to provide religious services at The Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield on the second and fourth Sunday each month. I am pleased to report an increase in attendance. We are sorry to lose Reverend Duncan Hilton who has been leading services on the fourth Sunday and now will be devoting time to his ministry in New Hampshire.

If anyone is interested in assisting with services or has a homily burning on their heart, we welcome you. Please contact me at [clwood0213@gmail.com](mailto:clwood0213@gmail.com).

We can also again take donations. There is a tremendous need for toiletries such as soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste. Please place these in the bin on the bench outside the church or give the office a check marked "Prison ministry." From this fund, we will purchase toiletries in bulk.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Cliff Wood*