



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE “Prelude in G” by Gustav Merkel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the Announcements, a period of silence is kept. Please stand when you hear the music for the first hymn.

HYMN

The Hymnal 632

printed on next page

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
 3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
 O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897), alt. Music: *Munich*, melody from *Neu-vermehrtes und zu Übung Christl. Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meiningsches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. and harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1807-1847).

ACCLAMATION

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

SONG OF PRAISE

In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied; In my
 life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

v. 2 In my song, Lord
 v. 3 In your church, Lord

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 Following

the lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

**1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.**

**2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.**

**3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."**

**4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.**

**5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.**

**6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

**7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**

**8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

**12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

HYMN

The Hymnal 617

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Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Ru - ler of the cease - less round
2 We would be one in ha - tred of all wrong,
3 Oh, clothe us with thy heaven - ly ar - mor, Lord,

of cir - cling plan - ets sing - ing on their way,
one in the love of all things sweet and fair,
thy trust - y shield, thy word of love di - vine;

guide of the na - tions from the night pro - found
one with the joy that break - eth in - to song,
our in - spi - ra - tion be thy con - stant word,

in - to the glo - ry of the per - fect day;
one with the grief that trem - bleth in - to prayer;
we ask no vic - to - ries that are not thine;

rule in our hearts, that we may ev - er be
one in the power that makes thy chil - dren free
give or with - hold, let pain or plea - sure be;

guid - ed and strength - ened and up - held by thee.
to fol - low truth, and thus to fol - low thee.
e - nough to know that we are serv - ing thee.

Words: John White Chadwick (1840-1904), alt. Music: *Song I*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), rev.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25: 14-30

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

The Reverend Phillip Wilson

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.

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

CONFESSION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

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.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

The peace of Christ 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

CHORAL ANTHEM “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” arr. Virgil Thomson

All stand to sing

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Hymnal 490

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

a tempo
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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 at www.stmichaelsvermont.org under "Give" & "Give Online." Our ministry at St. Michael's depends on your generosity. Please consider making a donation or a pledge.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

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 him thanks and praise.

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

SANCTUS

The Hymnal S130

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Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant recalls (and makes present for all) Jesus' life and last supper.

Therefore, according to his command, O God:

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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.**

BREAD IS BROKEN

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

This setting is not used in Lent.

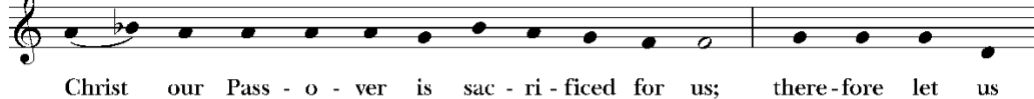
Cantor



All



Cantor



All



Celebrant: Come all who hunger, come all who thirst, come eat and drink.

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. ‘

Following Communion, the congregation stands to say the final prayer:

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

**Eternal God,
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.**

WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

HYMN

The Hymnal 419

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1 Lord of all be - ing, throned a - far, thy glo - ry
 2 Sun of our life, thy quick - ening ray sheds on our
 3 Lord of all life, be - low, a - bove, whose light is
 4 Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kin - dling

flames from sun and star; cen - ter and soul of
 path the glow of day; star of our hope, thy
 truth, whose warmth is love, be - fore thy ev - er -
 hearts that burn for thee, till all thy liv - ing

ev - ery sphere, yet to each lov - ing heart how near!
 soft - ened light cheers the long watch - es of the night.
 blaz - ing throne we ask no lus - ter of our own.
 al - tars claim one ho - ly light, one heaven - ly flame.

Words: Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894). Music: *Mendon*, from *Methodist Harmonist*, 1821; adapt. and harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Children are invited to process out with the liturgical party and say the dismissal.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “Bachiana” by Gordon Young

Participants Today

Alex O'Pray, lay assistant; **Ed McCatty** and **David Treadwell**, readers and element bearers; **Jenny Karstad**, intercessor; **Greg Lesch** and **Ricky Davidson**, chalice bearers; **Sherry Stimmel** and **Betsy Bates**, ushers; **Judy Davidson**, coffee hour host; **Craig Newbert**, **Jane Sbardella** and **Sherry Stimmel**, 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: *Christopher Wesolowski* and *Aiden Anderson*, Today; *Christine Gauthier* and *Eve Pomazi*, Monday; *Annelise Fedoruk*, *Amanda White* and *Rosalind Ridgway*, Tuesday; *Anne Brown*, Wednesday; *Pam Crispe* and *Juniper Ridgway*, Friday.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge in support of St. Michael's ministry and mission for 2024. As of November 15, we have received 97 pledge cards for a total of \$209,458. We are well on our way toward our goals for pledges received (140) and total pledged (\$322,000). If you have not had a chance to pledge, we encourage you to do so soon. You may also pledge online [HERE](#). If you have not received a pledge card, you can pick one up in the back of the church or the Common Room, or we can send one to you. Many thanks for your great generosity and support.

ADULT FORUM THIS MORNING. 9-10 AM, MEETING ROOM:

- **November 19: "Israel and Palestine: Context and Discussion"** – The Adult Forum Committee has invited the Reverend Nicholas Porter, Founding Director of Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB), to facilitate a forum about the current situation in Israel and Palestine, as well as to address our questions. Jerusalem Peacebuilders is a ministry of interfaith reconciliation that partners with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim organizations to provide Israeli Jewish and Palestinian Arab educators and youth with the skills, relationships, and support they need to be effective agents of positive change. In 2011, JPB began with 11 participants. In 2022, JPB impacted 10,000 adults and youth.

SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER FOR GROUNDWORKS, TODAY, NOVEMBER 19: This morning, the Youth Group will be offering homemade baked goods for Coffee Hour by donation so they can purchase Christmas gifts for kids connected to Groundworks. While there will be other food at Coffee Hour that day (fruit and veggies), the Youth Group will have a monopoly on the baked goods! ***You will need cash to buy a goodie and make a donation to this wonderful cause.***

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR FOR CHURCH IN THE CLOUD TODAY! While there will be no coffee and it will probably not last an hour, we hope you will come and meet your fellow parishioners in the Cloud. The Zoom Link (same as last time) is

SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY:

- **Godly Play** (for ages 3 and up) will hear the story of the Prophet Isaiah; Susan Heimer is the storyteller and Liz Vick is the doorkeeper.
- **Upper El** (Grades 3-6) will meet again on November
- **Youth Group** (Grades 7-12) will meet today, November 19.

“RESPONDING TO OUR NEIGHBORS” MEETING, TODAY AT 12 PM. We continue to meet and discern and to share what we are learning as we explore how to respond to our neighbors who are unhoused. You need not have attended the previous meetings if you would like to come and take part!

ST. NICHOLAS DAY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! The annual St. Nicolas Day Fair will be held on December 3 this year. There are a number of opportunities where you can help support this wonderful and fun inter-generational parish event!

- Help out at the individual craft tables. If you would like to create and organize your own craft activity, we welcome that. Alternatively, we can provide you with a craft activity to supervise.
- Help set up on Saturday, Dec. 2.
- Help clean-up on the day of the event, Dec. 3.
- Donate some of the items needed for crafts. Please place these items in the designated container in the Common Room: large containers of creamy peanut butter; large pine cones.
- Contribute food items for the Buffet Table (sandwiches, baked goods, snacks, cheese platter, fruit, etc.)

If you can help with any of the above, contact Lydia Taggart at lydiafin1@gmail.com or find sign-up sheets in the Common Room.

We are looking for a new organizer for next year and now is the time to apprentice! Please let Lydia know if you are interested in helping to organize this fun and festive event.

THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING PRAYER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 8 AM:

Because we are not able to worship at Christ Church this year, we will hold a simple Morning Prayer Service in the Chapel of Mary Magdalene at 8 am on Thanksgiving Day. There is a small group of us who pray Morning Prayer each weekday in this simple manner. We invite you to come and begin your Thanksgiving Day with praise and prayer and song.

ADULT FORUM, 9-10 AM, MEETING ROOM EACH SUNDAY:

- **November 26 – “T’is the Season — Gifts and gifting”:** What is a gift? How do we understand gifts as we head into the Christmas season? “The Gift” by Lewis Hyde explores the idea of gift in human experience. I read it in the 1980s and it completely reframed my understanding. Perhaps his ideas and our discussion will be helpful to you as we approach the annual Christmas gift exchange. Facilitated by Annamarie Pluhar.

DIAPER SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 26: Every Tuesday and Friday, thanks to the generosity of our community, families in need go to Loaves and Fishes to receive a hot meal, groceries, and needed personal health items such as diapers. Foodworks in Brattleboro and Parks Place in Bellows Falls also supply donated diapers. All three of these great organizations have limited budgets, and they sometimes run out of diapers completely. Your donations of diapers are welcome in the offering basket at St. Michael’s every

week of the year. And twice a year, at Thanksgiving and Mother's Day, we highlight this need and express thankfulness for our own blessings by organizing a diaper drive.

Please bring a pack or box of disposable diapers (any size) or wipes to St. Michael's on Diaper Sunday, November 26, placing them in the front of the Sanctuary. Prior to that date, you may also leave them on Brian and Joyce Vining Morgan's porch at 109 Wantastiquet Drive. Or any week in November, place a check to St. Michael's in the collection plate with the memo "Diaper Sunday," which the Outreach Committee will use for a bulk purchase of diapers. Your donations will be shared between Parks Place Diaper Bank in Bellows Falls and Foodworks and Loaves and Fishes in Brattleboro.

BRIEF MEETING OF KIDS AND TEENS FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT, NOVEMBER 26!! Calling toddlers, children and teens! Join St. Michael's Christmas Eve pageant and help bring the Nativity to life for our parish! We've been doing our own Vermont Nativity for several years now and will continue to do so, modifying to fit the company and adding any new elements that pageanteers invent.

We'll gather first on November 26, next Sunday, right after church in the Undercroft to go over the pageant plan and to hear who would like to be involved and in what role. If you can't make it to that brief roundup, no worries: kids can sign up by email--info to follow.

We'll then rehearse Sunday mornings December 3, 10, 17 from 9-10 a.m. (during Sunday school) AND Saturday, December 23 in the afternoon. The pageant is December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

We invite youth from outside the Parish to join in, too. Kids: if you have friends from school or the neighborhood who'd like to be part of the pageantry, please encourage them to join us.

We welcome--and are grateful to--the Youth Group as key players in the pageant this year. For more information, contact Annie Landenberger, 802-348-7156, verbatimvt@gmail.com. Watch for more information and a list of other adult contacts in upcoming Sunday Bulletins.

-Annie Landenberger, Lydia Taggart, Miranda Smith

ST. MICHAEL'S REFUGEE MINISTRY UPDATE: Since we began this work in late 2021 we have received and co-sponsored 5 families, totaling 28 people. All our families are now on a path to stability with apartments and jobs, children in school and hopes for the future. Other refugees are now arriving in Brattleboro from other countries. 70 are currently in residence at SIT, the interim housing stop. The Ministry itself, led for over two years by Jean Smith and Jeff Lewis, along with Daniel Dobson and Nancy Ames, formed an Advisory Committee nearly a year ago to prepare for sustainability. The new leaders of the Ministry will be Elizabeth Fisher, Paul Gallagher and Robin Manning, with the Advisory Committee supporting them. They will be looking to form new teams to host families from the arriving refugees.

PRISON MINISTRY: We had a wonderful service on Sunday, Nov. 12, with twelve participating. The men especially enjoyed the music led by Ron Bos Lun, volunteer and teacher at the Compass School. A special thanks to the three persons who made donations which allowed us to purchase a nice array of much needed toiletries. Additional donations which would allow us to create holiday gift bags for the inmates would be appreciated. If you wish to make a monetary donation so that we can purchase these items in bulk, please indicate "prison ministry" when you send or bring your donation. Thank you for your continued support.

CARRY ME HOME NEEDS COATS AND MITTENS: Carry Me Home continues to give gently used clothes to refugees and others in need at our shop in the basement of Centre Congregational Church. Our biggest needs at present are:

- winter coats,
- mittens, and
- volunteers to help us staff the shop.

You may place donations in the collection box near the Common Room, next to the elevator. Our full needs list and contact information is at <https://bit.ly/CMH-Needs>, or call Alix Fedoruk at 802-355-2256.

PROJECT FEED THE THOUSANDS RUNS FROM NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023:

We need --

- 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
- Afghan and other refugee food needs: rice, red beans, garbanzo beans, flour, oil, yeast, sugar
- And of course cash

“How can we live with ourselves if our neighbors are living with hunger?”