

The Christmas Pageant
with
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve 2023 at 4:00 pm

Prelude "Silent Nocturne (Sleep in Heavenly Peace)" by Keane Southard

Welcome

All stand to sing

Hymn in Procession *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Hymn 83

Verses 1, 2, 3 and 6 of this processional hymn

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;

*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

- 2 God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;

Refrain

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;

Refrain

- 6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Opening Acclamation

All standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: God, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT BASED ON LUKE 2:1-5

Congregation sits for the remainder of the pageant.

Introit

Adeste Fideles

Liturgy of the Word:

Luke 2: 1-5

Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem.

The angels are heard

Hymn 96

Angels we have heard on high

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The shepherds and farmers see the star.

Hymn 112, verses 1+ 4

In the bleak midwinter

Soloists sing verse one, and congregation joins them on this 4th verse

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

The Baby Jesus is born and embraced.

LEVAS 27

Away in a manger

The congregation sings vs. 1 & 2, the pageant sings vs 3

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The Three Kings visit Jesus

Hymn 128

We three kings

- 1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

- 5 Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Heaven to earth replies

Refrain

Song

Lord of the Dance

Congregation and Pageant join to sing together

I danced in the morning when the world was begun
I danced with the moon and the stars and the sun
I came down from heaven and I danced on earth
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the dance, said he
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John
They came with me and the Dance went on.

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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!

Presentation Hymn, 115

What Child is This

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Refrain

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Refrain

The Great Thanksgiving:

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider praises God for God's creation and love. Then all say the Sanctus together:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider recalls (and makes present for all) Jesus' life and last supper. Then the Presider asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God's holy food.

Lord's Prayer

**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,
the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept.

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.

After all have received communion, the acolytes will pass the candle light to the congregation. All remain seated to sing Silent Night.

Hymn 111

- 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.

Following the singing of Silent Night, we observe a few moments of silence. Then the congregation is invited to join in the following prayer.

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 and all stand to sing

Hymn 100

Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude "Improvisation on 'Antioch'" by Keane Southard

CAST OF THE PAGEANT

Singing *Adeste Fideles*, v. 1 and *In the Bleak Midwinter*, v. 1

Bibi Johnson
Alli Ackermann-Hovis
Hazael Lowe

Narrators

Asa Taggert
Hugo Taggert
Bibi Johnson
Alli Ackermann-Hovis
Hazael Lowe

Guitar for "Silent night"

Miles Ackerman-Hovis

Spot

Carter Lowe

Mary

Emma Emond

Joseph

Andrew Goodridge

Baby Jesus

Ocean Leitermann-Long

John the Baptist

John Hilton

Innkeeper

Penny Liubushkin

Innkeeper's Helper

Elodie Leor

Shepherds

Abbie Haineswood, Ben Emond, Leander Chapin, LeRoy Kotapish, Oliver Ridgway, Juniper Ridgway, Westen Thormann

Farmers

Asa Taggert, Hugo Taggert, Bibi Johnson, Hazael Lowe, Alli Ackermann-Hovis

Angels

Ros Ridgway, Reilly Leitermann-Long, Louise Moody, Xiao Yi Osborne, Araya Thessing, Layla Thessing, Maea Chapin, Bella Kotapish, Emmeline Haineswood, Ryan Cogliano, Ros Ridgeway, Madeline Ely, Canaan Thormann

Wise People

Mei Yi Osborne, Sage Fahey, Zhong Yi Osborne

Star-bearer, Head Angel

Hailey Cogliano

Animals

Ethan Horton (goat), Charlie Hilton (sheep), Quinn Leitermann-Long (sheep)

We are very grateful to Annie Landenberger and Miranda Smith, Directors of the Christmas Pageant, and Caroline Wojcik, their helper, as well as the parents, grandparents, children and friends who helped with the St. Michael's pageant this year. Thank you!

Thank You to those who serve this evening

Betsy Bates and Ricky Davidson, *Ushers*

Eleanor Horton and Annabel Horton, *Acolytes*

Alli Ackermann-Hovis, *Crucifer*

Miranda Smith and Annie Landenberger, *Chalicers*

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

OUR STAFF

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist, *Rector*

The Reverend adwoa Wilson, *Assistant Priest*

The Reverend Lars Hunter, *Deacon*

Mr. Keith Southard, *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 Chris Hart

In thanksgiving for:

My Family *from Judy McGee*

Our children and grandchildren *from Liz Vick & Craig Hammond*

Family and Friends *from Judy Walker*

The birth of Phoebe Heidel Landenberger *from Annie Landenberger*

The ministry of the Reverend Jean Smith *from Charlene Kemp*

The gift of St. Michael's Family *from Margit & Jack Lilly*

My sister Medora McCrum and my daughter Cassandra Coughlin *from Margery McCrum*

In memory of:

George Lewis *from Laura Lewis*

My Family *from Judy McGee*

Tim Gallagher and Nancy & Halsey Hicks *from Pam & Paul Gallagher*

Bruce Hesselbach *from Carol Hesselbach*

Judith Wagenbach *from Susan & Michael Wilmott*

Family *from Doug & Ann Switzer*

Nini & Bumpa *from the Cogliano Family*

Vernon H. Rediske *from Jared V. Rediske*

Jane, Jim, Ron and Bella *from Carolyn Taylor-Olson*

Bob Anderson *from Becky Anderson*

Daniel Dobson *from Susan Gantt Kubert*

Poppies *from his loving family*

Peter Davidson *from Judy & Jack Davidson*

My mother, Phyllis Lindquist *from Mary Lindquist*

My parents Olivia & Laurence McCrum *from Margery McCrum*