



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 2023, eight o' clock in the evening

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

After the organ prelude, all stand to sing

ENTRANCE HYMN

O come all ye faithful

Hymnal 83

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.*

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

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 CRËCHE

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;
Refrain

Child, for us sinners poor
and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?

Refrain

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
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.

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

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

Isaiab 9: 2-7

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

**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.**

**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."**

**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.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2: 11-14

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

HYMN

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

Hymnal 79

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

After the proclamation, the Deacon says

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Mary Lindquist

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

CHORAL ANTHEM “Sussex Carol” arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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!

HYMN

What child is this

Hymnal 115

After the hymn the presider and people pray the

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 Mary 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

30

Ho- ly, — ho- ly, — ho- ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

37

heav-en and earth are full of your glor-y. Ho- san - na, ho- san - na, ho - san-na in the

42

high - est. Bles-sed is he — who comes — in the name — of the

46

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.

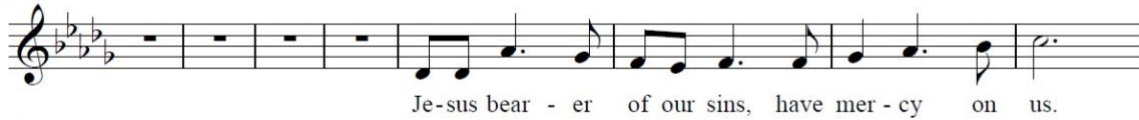
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept. Then all sing this hymn

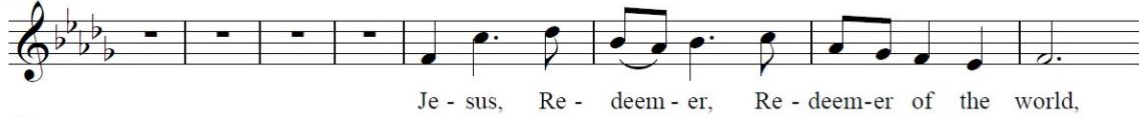
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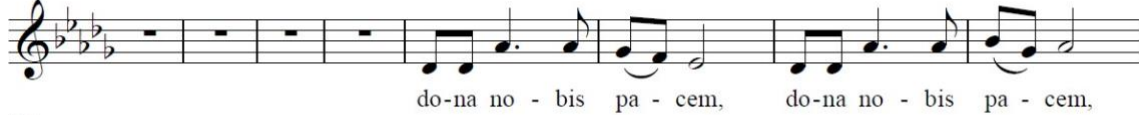
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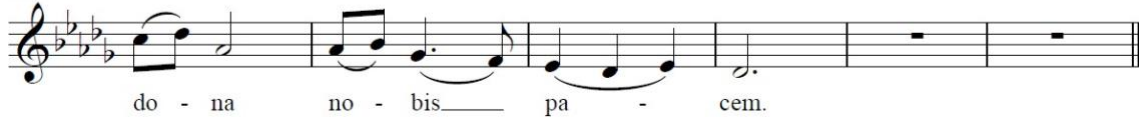
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BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

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.

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

HYMN

Silent Night

Hymnal 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.

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the world!

Hymnal 100

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

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

POSTLUDE "Improvisation on 'Antioch'" by Keane Southard

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

Mary Lindquist, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Kate McGinn, *Lay Assistant*

Greg Lesch, *Thurifer*

David Treadwell, Dan Houder & Beth Houder *Readers*

Maida McKenna, *Intercessor*

Alex O'Pray, *Chalicer*

Elizabeth Freese, Ricky Davidson and William Stearns, *Ushers + Candle-lighters*

Keane Southard 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*

Mr. Lars Hunter, *Deacon*

Mr. Keane 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*

Phyllis Lindquist *from Mary Lindquist*

My parents Olivia & Laurence McCrum *from Margery McCrum*

