



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God

The Feast of the Incarnation, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE: “Noel” by George Whitefield Chadwick, arr. Keane Southard

HYMN 87

ACCLAMATION

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

HYMN 96

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
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.**

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 62:6-12

Following the Lesson...

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 97

1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.

9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

A READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Titus 3: 4-7

Following the Lesson...

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 81

Preceding the Gospel...

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1 - 20

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Reverend Lars Hunter

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.*

Stand or kneel if able

Intercessor: Prince of Peace.
People: **Reveal to us your glory.**
Silence

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER

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!

HYMN 115

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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.

Celebrant and People

**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 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.**

BREAD IS BROKEN

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

We who are many are one Body, for we all share one bread, one cup.
Thanks be to God.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

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**

HYMN 105

DISMISSAL

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

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

POSTLUDE "The Son of God Has Come" by J.S. Bach

THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MORNING

Lay Assistant – *Jay Pomponio*
Readers– *William Stearns* and *David Treadwell*
Intercessor – *Joyce Vining Morgan*
Ushers – *Brian Morgan* and *William Stearns*

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*

