



# 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 2024, eight o' clock in the evening

PRELUDE "Noel" by George Whitefield Chadwick (arr. 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  
*People* **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

*Isaiah 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*

*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   “The Blessed Son of God” by Ralph Vaughan Williams

OFFERING



*During the hymn, ushers pass the offering plates. Please support St Michael’s ministry of God’s love and grace. During the hymn, ushers pass the offering plates. Representatives from the parish bring the people’s offerings 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.stmichaels-vt.org](http://www.stmichaels-vt.org) under “Give” & “Give Online” Thank you for your support!*

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*

52  
  
 Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

60  
  
 Je-sus bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

68  
  
 Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re - deem-er of the world,

76  
  
 do-na no - bis pa - cem, do-na no - bis pa - cem,

84  
  
 do - na no - bis pa - cem.

## 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 and Intercessor*

Greg Lesch, *Thurifer*

William Stearns and David Treadwell, *Readers*

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

Keane Southard and the St. Michael's Choir, *Musicians*

Rebecca Olmstead, Jane Sbardella, Lindsey Boss and Sherry Stimmel, *Altar Guild*

## **Our Staff**

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist, *Rector*

The Reverend adwoa Wilson, *Assistant Priest*

The Reverend Lars Hunter, *Deacon*

Mr. Keane Southard, *Director of Music*

Ms. Jeanie Crosby, *Parish Administrator*

Ms. Casey Parris, *Financial Administrator*

Mr. John Laamanen, *Sexton*

The Reverend Phillip Wilson, *Priest Associate*

## ADVENT GREENS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

### To the Glory of God:

From *Anonymous (2)*

From *Parry Moorhead-Lins*

From *Dorrie DeGutis*

From *Tom & Barbara Evans*

### In thanksgiving for:

Helen & Samuel Fisher from *Elizabeth Fisher*

God's continual blessings from *Parry Moorhead-Lins*

My Church Family from *Ricky Davidson*

Our children and grandchildren: Katherine, Bernd, Jennifer, Charlie, Ronia, Clayton and Madelyn from *Thomas & Ann Ely*

Family and friends from *Judy Walker*

Our parish from *Christine Hart*

Friends and family from *Elizabeth Vick & Craig Hammond*

St. Michael's wonderful administrator, Jeanie Crosby, from *Mary Lindquist*

### In memory of:

Michele Burgess from *Megan Buchanan*

Family from *The Switzers*

The Swift Family, the McGee Family, and Marge Turek from *Judy McGee*

Bruce Hesselbach from *Carol Hesselbach*

Alfred A. Cramer from *Janet Cramer*

Daniel Dobson from *Susan Kubert*

Joan and Dorothy Moorhead from *Parry Moorhead-Lins*

My parents from *Raquel Moreno*

Our parents, Hannelore Polley and Richard & Grace Karstad, from *Iris Polley & Jenny Karstad*

Pete Davidson from *Judy & Jack Davidson*

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

My father, Vernon H. Rediske, from *Jared Rediske*

Rosemary & Charles Dumberger from *Dyana Lee*

Doris E. Spahr, Doris & August Spahr, Jr., Richard D. Blazej and Kristen E. MacGregor from *Lucy Spahr-Blazej*

Edgar & Elizabeth Buttenheim from *Jim & Gay Maxwell*

My mother, Phyllis Lindquist, from *Mary Lindquist*