



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

January 12, 2025

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE:

“Prayer”

Jean Langlais

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HYMN IN PROCESSION

The Hymnal 135

Hymn printed on next page

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
 4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen-dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
 and at Ca - na, wed - ding-guest, in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
 man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
 When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man-i - fest.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). St. 4, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Priest: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God, Creator of all.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-7

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

**1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

**2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

**3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.**

**4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

**5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; *
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

**6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

**8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.**

**9 And in the temple of the Lord *
all are crying, "Glory!"**

**10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

**11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; *
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

A READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 8: 14 - 17

Following the Lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The Hymnal 121

Hymn printed on next page

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spi - rit on you came,
 2 God called you his be - lov - ed Son, called you his ser - vant true,
 3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed his call
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spi - rit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,

as peace - ful as a dove and yet as ur - gent as a flame.
 sent you his king - dom to pro - claim, his ho - ly will to do.
 free - ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.
 that, like - wise in God's ser - vice we may per - fect free - dom find.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Caithness*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Preceding the Gospel...

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The story of Jesus' baptism

Following the Gospel...

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

SERMON

The Reverend Lars Hunter

After the sermon a period of silence is kept

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant says

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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

ANTHEM

“Vocalise (Elegie)”
Diane Southard, soprano

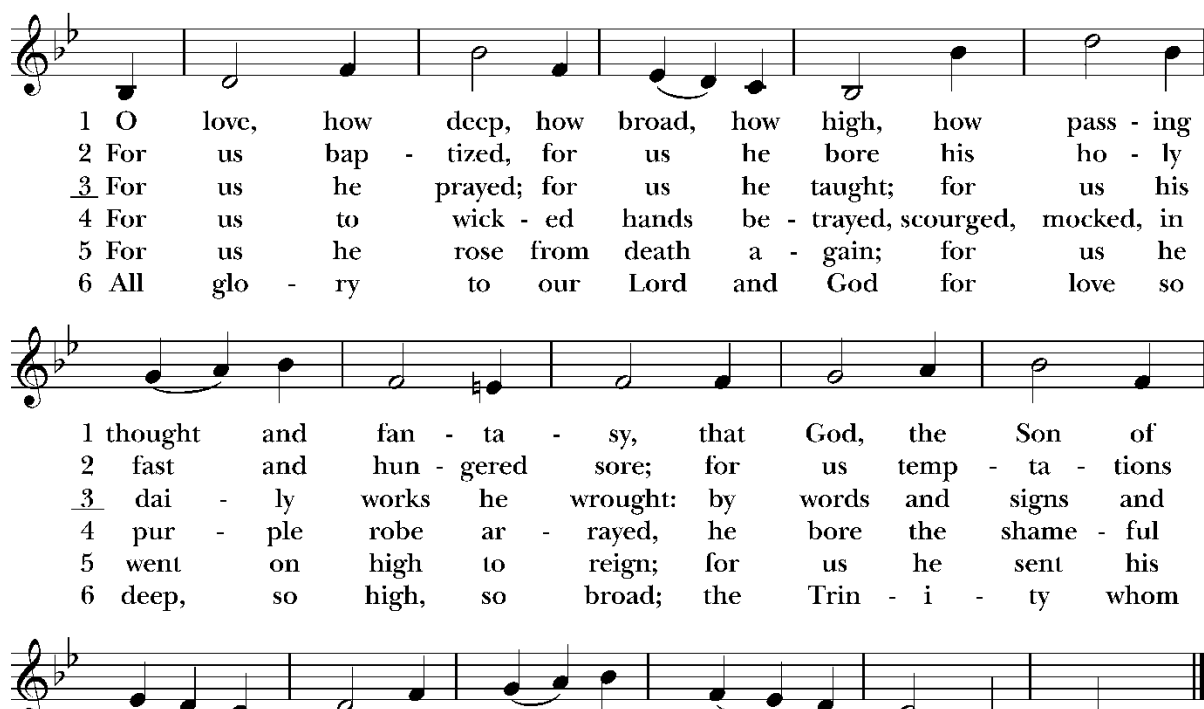
Gabriel Faure
arr. Keane Southard

All stand to sing

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Hymnal 448, v 1-3, 6

Hymn printed on next page



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
 4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in
 5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so

1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and
 4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his
 6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom

1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
 3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
 4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949).

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 people remain standing. The Celebrant says

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts,
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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._____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Presider recalls and makes present for all Jesus' life and last supper.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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.

Like bread in the de - sert, You nour - ish our lives, We
sing your praise, al - le - lu - ia!

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant: Behold what we are.

People: **May we become what we receive.**

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.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

HYMN

The Hymnal 117

Hymn printed on next page

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
 2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 3 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,
 4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,
 5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,
 2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,
 4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,
 5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,

1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.
 3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?
 4 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911).

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary in G”

George Berg

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

The Rev. Lars Hunter, deacon; **Alex O’Pray**, lay assistant; **William Stearns** and **Brian Morgan**, readers and element bearers; **Margery McCrum**, intercessor; **Ricky Davidson**, chalice; **Betsy Bates** and **William Stearns**, ushers; **Greg Lesch**, healing minister; **Chris Meyer**, coffee hour host; **Judy Walker** and **Carol Hesselbach**, 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.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

- **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.
- **TO RECEIVE THE RITE OF HEALING:** Trained lay healing ministers are available in the chapel to pray with you individually before or after you receive communion. A healing minister will say prayers, lay her or his hands upon you, and anoint you with consecrated oil. You can come for yourself, for another person, for a need or for a thanksgiving. Please ask ushers for assistance if you have questions.
- **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.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 am, Monday-Friday, on Zoom, Tuesday-Thursday in-person the Chapel

Breakfast with the Psalms, 8:30-10 am, Wednesday at 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 *Bruce Griffin*, Wednesday; *David Mattocks*, Saturday.

ADULT FORUM TODAY: The Forum meets on Sunday morning from 9-10 in the Meeting Room. All are welcome to join in.

- **Today January 12, "Baptism: Roots and Wings":** Baptism is both the Church's ancient rite of initiation and a key theological construct for our understanding of ministry today. This Forum will explore the historical roots of Baptism and the ways in which our understanding of Baptism and Baptismal Ministry has evolved and informs our current understanding of the Ministry of All the Baptized. We will explore the current liturgy, and some of the ongoing, sometimes controversial, conversations about Baptism and expansion of the Baptismal Covenant. If you can, bring a Book of Common Prayer with you, along with your questions. Tom Ely leads.

MARY IS ON SABBATICAL IN JANUARY: From January 5-31, Mary is at the Upaya Zen Center participating in their Winter Practice Period. Please be aware that she does not have access to email or texts during this time.

Adwoa Wilson, St. Michael's Assistant Priest, is taking on responsibilities of liturgy and preaching during January, while Lars Hunter, St. Michael's Deacon, is working with the Pastoral Care Team to help address any pastoral needs. Susie Webster-Toleno will be working with adwoa on administrative tasks. You can reach adwoa at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org for pastoral meetings as needed and at 617-860-8523, in the event of emergencies. You can reach Lars at holyharleyvt@gmail.com and you can reach Susie at parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION OFFICE CHANGES: Susie Webster-Toleno is now the administrator. You can contact her at parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org. The land line in the office phone stays the same: 802-254-6048, ext 104.

The office hours have changed slightly. The office is now open from 9 am - 1 pm, Tuesday through Friday.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, MLK SUNDAY: St. Michael's is honored to welcome the Rev. Canon Nicholas Porter, the Founding Director of Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB), to be our MLK Sunday preacher this year. JPB 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. Fr. Nicholas states *the particular connection between MLK and JPB is the dedication to Christ's call for freedom, equality, and peace between nations, peoples, and individuals.*

MLK DAY OF SERVICE AND BOB DRIVE UPDATES: Please see the January Guardian for full details, including a list of suggested non-food items to donate to the Bag of Basics Drive. We have three events scheduled so far:

- Sorting donated BOB Drive items, immediately after the January 19th 10:15 coffee hour, meet in the Undercroft.
- Organizing the Carry Me Home Shop, January 20th, 10am-noon, and
- Deep clean of Loaves and Fishes, January 20th, 1pm-3pm.

The Carry Me Home and Loaves and Fishes events will be in Memorial Hall, Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St, Brattleboro.

Call/text Alix Fedoruk 802-355-2256 with questions about BOB Drive and Carry Me Home, and David Treadwell 734-657-0023 with questions about the Loaves and Fishes event.