



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 21, 2025
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

"Veni, Emmanuel"

Martha Sobaje

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HYMN

The Hymnal, 53

1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534); harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946).

ACCLAMATION

Celebrant

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People

You come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son.

Christ-e e - lei - son, Christ-e e - lei - son, Christ-e e - lei - son.

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e - lei - son.

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Following the lesson...

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

Thanks be to God

PSALM 80: 1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1: 1-7

HYMN

The Hymnal, 67



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal* 1982.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1: 18-25

Preceding the Gospel...

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

Following the Gospel...

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Mary Lindquist

After the sermon a period of silence is kept

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

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.

Intervessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

**Lord God,
we praise you for sending light into this world.
We confess that we live as though
the light had never defeated darkness.
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent
to be among us and to live in us.**

**Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.
Prepare us for His return.
Help us rejoice in the light
so that your grace can illuminate
the darkened places of our hearts.
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

The Celebrant bids

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


“Carol of the Advent”

arr. Martin Shaw


All stand to sing

OFFERTORY HYMN


The Hymnal, 56 (vs. 1, 6-8)



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

OFFERING

During the hymn, ushers pass the offering plates. Representatives from the parish bring the people's offerings of bread and wine for the Eucharist, and money for mission and ministry to the Altar. To give online, text the message "GiveStMichaels" to the number 73256.

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.

Celebrant praises God for God's creation and love. Then all sing the Sanctus together.

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 Celebrant recalls (and makes present for all) Jesus' life and last supper.

Presider and People

Therefore we proclaim 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.

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.

Celebrant: Come all who hunger, come all who thirst, come eat and drink.

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. ‘

Following Communion, the congregation stands to say the final prayer:

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

HYMN

The Hymnal, 73

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

Children are invited to process out with the liturgical party and say the dismissal.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

“Arise, Sons of the Kingdom”

J.S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS

10:15: The Reverend Mary Lindquist, preacher; ***The Reverend adwoa Wilson***, celebrant; ***The Reverend Lars Hunter***, Deacon; ***Ricky Davidson***, lay assistant; ***Susan Daigneault*** and ***Annamarie Pluhar***, readers and element bearers; ***Jenny Karstad***, intercessor; ***Brian Morgan*** and ***Betsy Bates***, ushers; ***Miranda Smith*** and ***Craig Irvine***, chalicers; ***Anne Black***, healing minister; ***Craig Newbert***, and ***Jane Sbardella***, Altar Guild; ***Judith & Alan McBean*** and ***Betsy Bates***, coffee hour hosts.

ADVENT GREENS on the altar are given in memory of George by Laura Lewis and Louise Larsen.



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.

- **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.
- **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.
- **CARE IS AVAILABLE** for children during the service. Please ask the ushers for directions.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKDAY WORSHIP

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

Breakfast with the Psalms, 8:30 – 10 am, 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 *Susan Avery, Monday; Jean Smith, Tuesday; Carol Leitch, Wednesday; Joyce Vining Morgan, Thursday; Imogene Drakes, Jeanette Landin, Hugo Taggart, and Susan Ruggles, Friday; Sarah Thessing, Saturday.*

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

- **Today, 9-10 AM:** Pageant Rehearsals
- **December 23, 4 PM:** Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- **December 24, 4 PM:** Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Communion
- **December 24, 8 PM:** Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
- **December 25, 9 AM:** Christmas Day Morning Prayers
- **December 28, 8 AM:** Sunday liturgy with Holy Communion
- **December 28, 10:15 AM:** Christmas Lessons & Carols
- **January 8, 7:30 PM:** Compline service
- **January 11 during coffee hour:** Compassion In Action (CIA) team gathering
- **January 17, 10:30 AM:** Windham County NAACP Freedom Fund Brunch (see eNews for more info)
- **January 18:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
- **January 25:** St. Michael's Annual Meeting

ADULT FORUM Weekly from 9-10 AM in the Meeting Room.

MARY'S SONG AND THE MAGNIFICENT WOMEN OF ADVENT – This Advent Season, we are offering an Adult Forum Series on Mary and the prophetic women predecessors whose acts of justice influenced Mary's Song, the Magnificat.

- **Today: All Christ's Mothers,** Led by adwoa Wilson, who writes, "Yes, I know, your favorite thing about the bible is the genealogies. Maybe not, but we know these days how much lineage really matters. This Sunday, we'll explore the four women who made it into

Jesus's genealogy, and so into ours. What do their surprise stories have to teach us about resilience, belonging, and value as disciples adopted into Christ's family?"

- **December 28:** Adult Forum is on hiatus!

ST. MICHAEL'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

(Available In-Person & by Livestream or Zoom; Links on website and eNews)

- **Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Communion**, Wednesday, December 24, 4 pm
- **Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion**, Wednesday, December 24, 8 pm
- **Christmas Day Morning Prayer**, Thursday, December 25, 9 am
- **Christmas Lessons & Carols**, Sunday December 28, 10:15 am

ADVENT FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE: As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we remember all in need in our community. To that end, we are asking you to bring food and clothing during the four Sunday of Advent which will be distributed to our neighbors.

- Advent I (Nov. 30) Dried, canned beans, rice, Tuna, Chicken, oats
- Advent II (Dec. 7) Warm socks, hats gloves- new or in good repair
- Advent III (Dec. 14) Pasta, sauces, cereal PB and Jelly, pre-made meals
- Advent IV (Dec. 21) Tylenol, cold meds, women's sanitary products, toothpaste and brushes, wipes, and diapers

CIA – COMPASSION IN ACTION TEAM GATHERING, Sunday, January 11 during Coffee Hour A new ministry is forming around concrete, practical and time-limited offerings of Compassion in Action, or CIA. Past examples of this are the Advent collections of food and clothing for people in need in our community, the diaper drive, the MLK Day of Service, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser, to name a few. We need not do what we have done in the past! We wonder about ideas that you might have? The hope is that small groups of folks team-up to organize one or two CIA offerings a year and thereby allow the congregation to participate in acts of compassion, or “praying by doing.” Interested? Please come to a gathering on Sunday, January 11 after the 10:15am service. We will gather at a couple tables at the back of the Undercroft during Coffee Hour. Bring your ideas, inspiration and curiosity!

COMPLINE SERVICE, BEGINNING JANUARY 8

Starting Thursday **January 8 at 7:30pm**, St. Michael's will begin offering a Candlelight Choral Compline service. Compline is a service of the Divine Office that takes place at the end of the day before going to bed. The entire service will be sung by the choir, led by our Director of Music Keane Southard, mostly in plainchant but also with some choral settings, all in candlelight. The service will last about 20 minutes and will continue on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm until the summer. Come end your day with this ancient contemplative service!

COMPLINE USHER NEEDED

Are you willing to come early to St. Michael's first Compline Service on Thursday, January 8 and welcome people as an usher? The service is a short 20 minutes long and the ushering duties are light! Please contact Susie in the office if you are able to service, parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org

HOLIDAY GIVING: AN UPDATE FROM PRISON MINISTRY

Thanks to the many good folks at Saint Michael's, your Prison Ministry team was able to deliver hundreds (yes, 100s) of pairs of socks for the gift bags for the men at Southern State. In addition because of the good work of the Outreach Committee we also provided a large supply of toiletries.

A REMINDER FROM YOUR FAITHFUL WEEKLY COUNTING TEAM

As we near the end of one fiscal year and prepare for the next, the offerings made to the church are often a mixture of 2025 and 2026 donations. We ask parishioners to include a memo on each

check, letting us know which year's pledge your offering should be applied to, or if the check is for some other special purpose or fund. Thank you so much for helping streamline our work as much as possible!