

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 28, 2025

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" by Johannes Brahms

HYMN

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

The Hymnal, 93

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

BIDDING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

God confronts Adam; sin enters the world

LEVAS 21

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born. **Fine**

1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

D.C.
1. Be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light. —
2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth. —
3. And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn. —

Words: Luke 2:8-20; adapt. John W. Work, Jr. (1871-1925). used by permission of Mrs. J. W. Work. Adapt. and Arr. Copyright © 1989 *The United Methodist Hymnal* by permission. Music: Negro Spiritual; adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith (b. 1941).

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22: 15–18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed all the world shall be blessed.

HYMN 107

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

The Prophet foretells the coming of a savior.

HYMN 105

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm.
 Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces good news to Mary.

HYMN 109

The First Nowell, vs 1-3

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star where - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Alternative Refrain
Descant (others unison)

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

Mary visits Elizabeth, and sings the Magnificat

HYMN 128

We Three Kings, v. 1,3,5



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O ——— star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN 89

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, vs 1 + 4

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by
 glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -
 near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its
 heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give
 still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

SEVENTH LESSON

The Shepherds go to the Manger.

Luke 2:8-16

AWAY IN A MANGER

MUELLER



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close



1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The
2. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I
3. by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless



1. stars in the sky — looked down where he lay, The
2. love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, And
3. all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, And



1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
2. stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Text: 11 11 11 11; verses 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, ca. 1885;
 verse 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892, alt. Music: attr. to James R. Murray, 1841-1905.

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.***HYMN 112***In the bleak midwinter*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

THE OFFERING

An offering will be taken during the singing of the next hymn.

HYMN 81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

COLLECT

BLESSING

HYMN 96

Angels we have heard on high

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “All Praise to Thee, Eternal God” by Johann Pachelbel

Readers This Morning

- William Stearns
- Craig Hammond
- Annamarie Pluhar
- Kate McGinn
- Margery McCrum
- Ann Ely

Jenny Karstad
Maida McKenna
Craig Irvine

Thanks to Those Who Serve This Morning

Andy & Elise Burrows – *Ushers*

Sher Wilson -- *Healing Minister*

Maida McKenna & friends ~ *Coffee Hour hour hosts*

Advent Greens & Christmas Flowers are given

To the glory of God:

From *Chris Hart*

From *Belle Coles*

From *Jared Rediske*

In thanksgiving:

For the warm welcome of the people of St. Michael's, from *Susie Webster-Toleno*

In memory of:

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

Daniel Dobson, from *Susan Gantt Kubert*

Bruce Hesselbach and Jennifer Hocursak, from *Carol Hesselbach*

Alfred A. Cramer, from *Janet Cramer*

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

Our grandparents Sandy and Mary Sistare, Hermann and Barbara Ziel, Donna and George Pesut,
from *Erin Pesut & Gabriel Sistare*

Pete Davidson, from *Judy & Jack Davidson*

George Lewis, from *Laura Lewis and Louise Larsen*

Rich Blazej, Doris E. Spahr, Doris W & August Spahr, Jr., from *Lucy Spahr-Blazej*

Thomas C. Ely, from *Ann Ely*

My brother and sister, from *Judy Walker*

Family members, from *Doug and Ann Switzer*

The McGee family, the Swift Family, and Marge Turek, from *Judith McGee*

Judy Wagenbach and DG McBean, from *Karen Davis*

The Holvino family, from *Evangelina Holvino*

John Mamrych and Rev. Harland G. Lewis, from *Jeff Lewis and Suzann Jones*

My parents Edgar and Elizabeth Bittenheim Maxwell, from *Gay Maxwell*

Our brothers, Samuel and Michael, from *Nicholas and Dorothy Porter*

Ralph and Hope, from *Chris Chapman*

My mother, Phyllis Lindquist, from *Mary Lindquist*

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 the Chapel
Bible Study, 8:30-10 am, every 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday at The Brattleboro Food Co-op

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 *MJ Woodburn* and *Christine Gauthier*, today; *Annamarie Pluhar* and *Laurel Harrison*, Tuesday; *Caleb Webb*, Thursday; *Robert Peebles*, Friday; *Joslyn Haineswood* and *Rachel Fox*, Saturday.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

- **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

NO FORUM OR SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY: Children of all ages are encouraged to stay with their adults and sing and hear the Christmas story today. We will begin our regular schedule next Sunday, January 4.

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

- **January 4: Sharing our Practices** To celebrate the New Year, Mary Lindquist will facilitate a conversation about practices we engage in that help us feel grounded, close to God and/or close to one another. What has worked well for you? What has not worked? What would you like to try? Please be prepared to share your experiences and your stories.

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. 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

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 in knowing more? Plan 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!

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR IN 2026! Many thanks to all the generous people who have hosted Coffee Hour in 2025. We sure love to eat and visit with one another! It is a new year and we have many open slots in January and February for Coffee Hour hosts. The sign-up sheet is in the Common Room. If you've never done it before, we can help orient you, or find someone to assist you. Please contact Rosie with any questions at rosie@wojnet.org