



# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

**JANUARY 4, 2026**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**10:15 AM**

PRELUDE

“Three Settings on ‘Away in a Manger’”

*Susan C. Carson*

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, 117*

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).

## ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Creator, Son and Holy Spirit

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

## 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 -  
 8 lei - son. Christ-e e - lei - son, Christ-e e - lei - son, Christ-e e -  
 16 lei - son, e - lei - son. Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, Ky-ri-e e -  
 23 lei - son, Ky-ri - e, Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

*Following the Lesson...*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you!  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;  
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold  
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

A READING FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

*Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a*

*Following the Lesson...*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

*The Hymnal 247*

*Burden*

Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle tin - y child, bye - bye, lul -

ly lul - lay. 1 O sis - ters, too, how may we do  
2 He - rod the King, in his rag - ing  
3 That woe is me, poor child for thee!

for to pre - serve this day this poor young - ling for  
charg - ed he hath this day his men of might, in  
And ev - ery morn and day, for thy part - ing nor

*Repeat Burden after verse 3*

whom we sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?  
his own sight, all young chil - dren to slay.  
say nor sing bye - bye, lul - ly lul - lay?

Words: Coventry carol, 15th cent. Music: *Coventry Carol*, melody from *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, 15th cent.; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958). Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.

*Preceding the Gospel...*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 2: 41-52*

*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*

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.*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Silence*

**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

“In Celebration of Christmas”

arr. Gerald Cockshott

*Representatives from the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread, wine, money and food for the Drop-In Center to the Altar.*

*All stand to sing*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*The Hymnal, 128*



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.



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).

## THE OFFERING

*During the hymn ushers pass the offering plates. Representatives from the parish bring the people's offerings of food for the hungry, bread and wine for the Eucharist, and money for mission and ministry to the Altar.*

## 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 with the proper preface*

*Celebrant and People sing*

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!

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

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.*

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.

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.*

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

## 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.**

## **WE ARE SENT AND GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD**

### 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 IN PROCESSION

*The Hymnal, 92*

1. On this day earth shall ring  
with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ our King,  
born on earth to save us;  
him the Father gave us.  
Refrain:  
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o,  
gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. His the doom, ours the mirth;  
when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth;  
ox and ass beside him  
from the cold would hide him.  
(Refrain)

3. God's bright star, o'er his head,  
Wise Men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed,  
lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.  
(Refrain)

4. On this day angels sing;  
with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King,  
born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.  
(Refrain)

## DISMISSAL

*Presider* Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*People* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE “Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men” *Johann Gottfried Walther*

## Participants Today

*The Reverend Mary Lindquist*, preacher and celebrant; *The Reverend Lars Hunter*, Deacon; *Ricky Davidson*, lay assistant; *Michael Hightower* and *Chris Dubis*, readers and element bearers; *Jenny Karstad*, intercessor; *MJ Woodburn*, healing minister; *Judith and Alan McBean*, usher; *Whitney & Michael Hightower*, coffee hour hosts; *John Byrnes* and *Kiersten McKenney*, 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:** Prayers for healing are available immediately after the service ends at the chairs by the piano in the front of the sanctuary. 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 8:00am 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 & Wednesday in-person the Chapel

Scripture Study, 8:30-10 am, every other 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 *Andy Burrows*, Monday.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MICHAEL'S**

**January 8, 7:30 PM:** Compline service in the sanctuary

**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 information)

**January 18:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday at St. Michael's

**January 18, noon:** Budget Review Meeting

**January 25:** St. Michael's Annual Meeting after 10:15 service

**ADULT FORUM:** The Forum meets on 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.
- **January 11 : Elders Ministry** In this Forum, the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series presented by the Elders Ministry, we will explore in more depth Gate 2 in the Map for Navigating the Journey to the End - 'The Slippery Slope' ("Compromise," in McCullough's model). Following a brief introduction, a panel of experts, facilitated by Rob Szpila, will offer examples of the key challenges faced at this stage, such as cognitive health, driving, and physical safety. In small groups and plenary, we will also explore concerns and helpful strategies at this stage.

### **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

### **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!

### **BUDGET REVIEW MEETING, January 18, 12pm**

St. Michael’s draft budget for 2026 will be available soon for your review. Those of you who would like the opportunity to meet with our treasurer Gwen Mousin, hear an overview, and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited a gathering on Sunday, January 18 at 12pm in the Meeting Room.

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, MLK SUNDAY**

We are honored to welcome the Reverend Charles Wynder, Jr. (a friend of Cliff and Wylene Wood!) to be St. Michael’s MLK preacher this year. Reverend Wynder is the Dean of Chapel & Spiritual Life and The Charles Dickey Faculty Chair for Religion and Ethics at St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire. Prior to his position at St. Paul’s School, he served on the Presiding Bishop’s Staff of The Episcopal Church, where he worked to enhance the Episcopal Church’s capacity for advocacy, witness, and engagement to advance social and racial justice.

Reverend Wynder earned his B.A. in political science at Syracuse University, where he attended on a four-year Army ROTC scholarship. A Truman Scholar, he earned a Juris Doctor degree at the University of Michigan Law School. He then served six years as an attorney in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Rev. Wynder continued his public service as a Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney, executive director of a federally funded legal services program, and vice president of programs for the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. He served several years as an adjunct professor at Hampton University teaching Constitutional Law: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties. Reverend Wynder earned his Master of Divinity Degree from the Episcopal Divinity School.

In addition to preaching at both services, Reverend Wynder will also lead the Adult Forum that day, on the subject “Where Do We Go in 2026: Chaos or Community?” See next week’s eNews and bulletins for more detailed information

### **PARISH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, January 25**

It is January, and it’s time for us to give thanks for our ministries in 2025 and look with hope and vision to our ministries in 2026 at our Annual Meeting! Last year, we got snowed out and had the Meeting on Zoom. This year we hope to meet in person after the 10:15am service with a light lunch in the Undercroft, followed by our meeting. (We will also provide a Zoom link for the meeting for anyone who would like to participate from home.) During this meeting, we will view our annual slide show, hear reports, elect four new members of the Vestry, and elect delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Childcare will be available. The Annual Meeting is an important overview of the past and future of our ministry together. Please make every effort to attend!

**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](mailto:rosie@wojnet.org)