



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 22, 2024

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE “Veni Emmanuel” by 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 267

1 Praise we the Lord this day, this day so long fore - told, whose
 2 The pro - phet gave the sign for faith - ful folk to read: a
 3 Ask not how this should be, but wor - ship and a - dore, like
 4 She meek - ly bowed her head to hear the gra - cious word, Ma -
 5 Most blest shall be her name in all the Church on earth, through

1 prom - ise shone with cheer - ing ray on wait - ing saints of old.
 2 vir - gin born of Da - vid's line shall bear the prom - ised seed.
 3 her whom hea - ven's Ma - jcs - ty came down to sha - dow o'cr.
 4 ry, the pure and low - ly maid, the fa - vored of the Lord.
 5 whom that won - drous mer - cy came, the in - car - nate Sa - vior's birth.

Words: Anon., *Hymns for Festivals and Saints' Days of the Church of England*, 1846, alt. Music: *St. George*, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

ACCLAMATION

Celebrant
People


Blessed are you, holy and living One.
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

Antiphon
Unison or harmony



1. My soul pro - claims the great - ness
of the Lord, my spi - rit re - joic - es in
God my Sa - vior; for he has looked
with fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.

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

Micah 5:2-5a

Following the lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

The Hymnal S247

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

ANTIPHON

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

ANTIPHON

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

THE SECOND READING

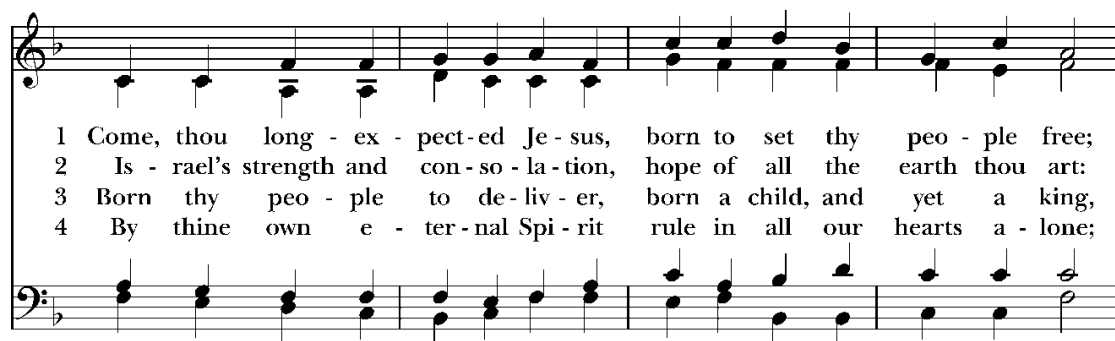
Hebrews 10: 5-10

Following the lesson...

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Thanks be to God

HYMN

The Hymnal 66



1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;
4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spi-rit rule in all our hearts a-lone;



from our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Preceding the Gospel...

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

Following the Gospel...

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

SERMON

The Reverend Mary D. 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.

Intercessor: 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” by Supply Belcher

All stand to sing

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Hymnal 265

hymn printed on next page

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by scers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

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.

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

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.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: — have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you
slower
take a-way the sins of the world: — grant us peace.

Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
Music: Peter Crisafulli, from *Music for the Holy Eucharist Rite II* © 2002 Peter Crisafulli.
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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 53

hymn printed on next page



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).

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

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE “Magnificat” by Jean Francois D’Andrieu

Participants Today

The Reverend Lars Hunter, deacon; **Craig Irvine**, lay assistant; **Laura Andrews** and **Greg Lesch**, readers and element bearers; **Cary Gaunt**, intercessor; **Miranda Smith** and **Craig Irvine**, chalice; **Carolyn Taylor-Olson**, healing minister; **Liz Vick & Craig Hammond**, ushers; **Bruce & Marie Lawrence**, coffee hour hosts; **Rebecca Olmstead** and **Lindsey Boss**, Altar Guild.

The greens on the Altar during Advent are given by **Laura Lewis in memory of George**.

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
Scripture Study, Dec 18, 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*, Today; *Jean Smith*, Monday; *Carol Leitch*, Tuesday; *Joyce Vining Morgan*, Wednesday; *Imogene Drakes*, *Jeanette Landin*, *Hugo Taggart* and *Susan Ruggles*, Thursday; *MJ Woodburn* and *Christine Gauthier*, Saturday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: *Bruce & Kerry Capponcelli*, Friday.

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### ST. MICHAEL'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*Available In-Person & by Livestream or Zoom  
Links on website and eNews*

*Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Communion, Tuesday December 24, 4 pm*

*Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion, Tuesday December 24, 8 pm*

*Christmas Day Morning Prayer, Wednesday December 25, 8 am*

*Christmas Lessons & Carols, Sunday December 29, 10:15 am*

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**PAGEANT 2024!** We are rehearsing this morning from 9-10 am AND this Monday, December 23 at 3 in the afternoon. The pageant is this Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. If you haven't signed up yet and wish to, please write Annie Landenberger: [verbatimvt@gmail.com](mailto:verbatimvt@gmail.com). The more the merrier!

## **CELEBRATING JEANIE CROSBY'S MINISTRY AT ST. MICHAEL'S, THIS**

**MORNING, 9–10 AM:** Please join us for a special between-the-services Coffee Hour today from 9–10 am. Jeanie has been St. Michael's Parish Administrator for 12 years! How fortunate we have been to have someone so brilliant, so compassionate, so good at her job, so easy to talk to and so wise serving St. Michael's for such a long time. We are also collecting a purse for Jeanie as a way of showing our gratitude. Please send checks to St. Michael's, c/o Mary Lindquist, 16 Bradley Avenue, Brattleboro, VT 05301 OR you may put your check in the offering plate (please note "Jeanie's Purse" in the notation). Please note that these gifts will not be tax-deductible because they are a gift. Thank you!

**CHURCH OFFICE TO BE CLOSED DEC 26 - JAN 1:** The administration office will be closed from the day after Christmas through New Year's Day. The office will open on January 2 with Susie Webster-Toleno as administrator. The new office hours will be from 9 am - 1 pm, Tuesday through Friday.

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE HAITI ORPHANAGE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON:** As many of you know, our parish, through our Outreach Committee, has supported the Foyer Evangelique orphanage in Haiti for a long time. Their situation is now dire due to the armed gangs that destroyed their orphanage and school. Please consider writing a check to the "Trusteeship Institute" and sending it to: Helen Schultz, HOST; 41 Chapin St; Brattleboro VT 05301.

**PROJECT FEED THE THOUSANDS RUNS THROUGH DECEMBER 31:** Everything people at St Michael's donate in the name of Project Feed goes directly to Loaves & Fishes. Donated food goes into family grocery bags and the free market for our local refugees. Some of the food is directly cooked in meals which are served to the homeless, the hotel population, and homebound people. Donations of money give us the ability to purchase more food from the Food Bank, wholesale, and local farms. There is a bin at the church by the elevator for the food items listed in the Nov/Dec Guardian. Also, you can deliver to Loaves & Fishes or directly order food from Amazon to be delivered to Centre Church, 193 Main St, Brattleboro 05301. Donations of checks can be made out to Loaves & Fishes with Project Feed in the memo line.

**COMING HOME NEEDS WARM COATS, HATS, BOOTS, MITTENS:** Carry Me Home thanks all of you for your donated clothes and footwear, which we give away to anyone in need, from our free shop every Tuesday and Friday, adjacent to Loaves and Fishes. We still need new or gently used items in great shape, especially hats, mittens, winter coats, and boots. Our full needs list and contact information is at <https://bit.ly/CMH-Needs> . Please bag your offerings and place in the box next to the elevator.

**L'ARCHE SO. VERMONT NEWS!** Friends of L'Arche So. Vermont, the effort begun by the Rev. Duncan Hilton when he was at St. Michael's, has exciting news to share. **They are ready to build their first home within 10 minutes of downtown Brattleboro.** It will be a forever home that will embrace four people with developmental disabilities, along with their assistants.

-- To learn more about this project or to make an online tax-deductible donation, please click here: <https://www.larcheusa.org/vermont/>

-- To make a donation by check, please make payable to: **L'Arche USA with So. Vermont** in the memo line. **Mail to: L'Arche USA, 2475 SE Ladd Ave., Suite 430, Portland, OR 97214.**

-- For more information, contact: Barbara Lee at 802-380-6302 or [bklmd22@gmail.com](mailto:bklmd22@gmail.com)