

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 29, 2024

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

HYMN 93

Angels from the realms of glory

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.

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.

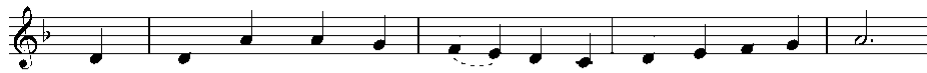
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

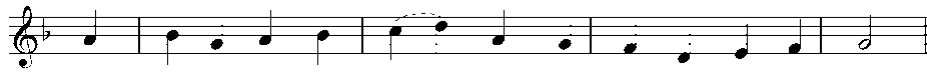
The Prophet foretells the coming of a savior.



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heavn - 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.



Refrain
 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

The Christ is called the Key of David.

Revelation 3:7-9

HYMN 109

The first Nowell, vs 1-3

Hymn printed on next page

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 wher - 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.

The Angel Gabriel announces good news to Mary.

HYMN 128, v. 1,3,5 *We three kings*



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!

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

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds go to the Manger.

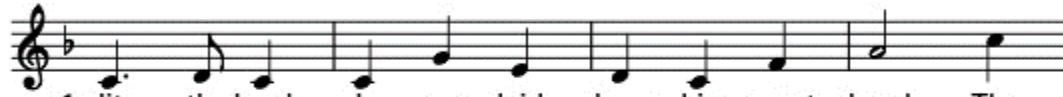
LEVAS 27

AWAY IN A MANGER

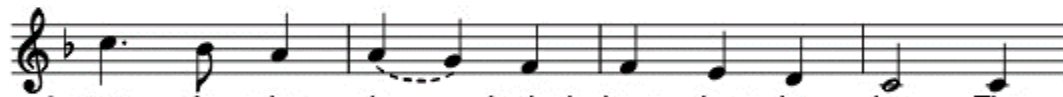
MUELLER



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

Hymn printed on next page

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 - - - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

DISMISSAL

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

Readers This Morning

Judith Reichsman

Greg Lesch

Jenny Karstad

Laura Frey

Elizabeth Fisher

Cary Gaunt

Susan Heimer

Laura Andrews

David Treadwell

Thanks to Those Who Serve This Morning

Betsy Bates and Ricky Davidson - *Ushers*

ADVENT GREENS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN

To the Glory of God:

From *Anonymous (2)*

From *Parry Moorhead-Lins*

From *Dorrie DeGutis*

From *Tom & Barbara Evans*

In thanksgiving for:

Helen & Samuel Fisher from *Elizabeth Fisher*

God's continual blessings from *Parry Moorhead-Lins*

My Church Family from *Ricky Davidson*

Our children and grandchildren: Katherine, Bernd, Jennifer, Charlie, Ronia, Clayton and Madelyn from *Thomas & Ann Ely*

Family and friends from *Judy Walker*

Our parish from *Christine Hart*

Friends and family from *Elizabeth Vick & Craig Hammond*

St. Michael's wonderful administrator, Jeanie Crosby, from *Mary Lindquist*

In memory of:

Michele Burgess from *Megan Buchanan*

Family from *The Switzers*

The Swift Family, the McGee Family, and Marge Turek from *Judy McGee*

Bruce Hesselbach from *Carol Hesselbach*

Alfred A. Cramer from *Janet Cramer*

Daniel Dobson from *Susan Kubert*

Joan and Dorothy Moorhead from *Parry Moorhead-Lins*

My parents from *Raquel Moreno*

Our parents, Hannelore Polley and Richard & Grace Karstad from *Iris Polley & Jenny Karstad Pete Davidson* from *Judy & Jack Davidson*

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

My father, Vernon H. Rediske, from *Jared Rediske*

Rosemary & Charles Dumberger from *Dyana Lee*

Doris E. Spahr, Doris & August Spahr, Jr., Richard D. Blazej and Kristen E. MacGregor from *Lucy Spahr-Blazej*

Edgar & Elizabeth Buttenheim from *Jim & Gay Maxwell*

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 & 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 *Annamarie Pluhar* and *Laurel Harrison*, Monday; *Caleb Webb*, Wednesday; *Robert Peeples*, Thursday; *Joslyn Haineswood* and *Rachel Fox*, Friday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to *Margery McCrum & George Moore*, Monday.

NO FORUM OR SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY: We will begin our regular schedule next Sunday, January 5.

WEEKDAY SERVICES IN THE CHAPEL:

- **New Year's Day**, The Feast of The Holy Name on Wednesday January 1, there will be a noon service.
- **Epiphany, Monday January 6**, there will be a noon service of the Eucharist in the chapel to celebrate the Feast.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Beginning on January 2, the Church office will be open from 9 am – 1 pm on Tuesday through Friday. You can reach Susie Webster-Toleno at parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org or at the Church office phone at 802-254-6048, ext 104.

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

- **January 5, “The Iconography of Epiphany”:** The season of Epiphany has its own special imagery, connected to, but distinct from Christmas'. Every church and many homes have Christmas crèche displays with Mary, Joseph and the animals, and baby Jesus who makes his appearance on Christmas night. The three gift-giving visitors come from afar, and their camels draw ever nearer until they arrive on Epiphany. The images of the season are so much richer than just these. We'll see some of the images that surround the season, and discuss what the stories and images of the Epiphany tell us about who the three visitors were, how Christ's Good News spread in the world, and ultimately, how our experience of Epiphany illuminates the relationship between God and God's people. Led by David Treadwell.
- **January 12, “Baptism: Roots and Wings”:** Baptism is the 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 THIS MONTH: Mary is on sabbatical for parts of 2025! She will be away during the month of January and May 13-August 5. From January 5-31, she will be at the Upaya Zen Center participating in their Winter Practice Period. Please be aware that she will not have access to email or texts during this time.

Adwoa Wilson, St. Michael's Assistant Priest, will be taking on responsibilities of liturgy and preaching during January, while Lars Hunter, St. Michael's Deacon, will be 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, you can reach Lars at lars@stmichaelsvermont.org, and you can reach Susie at parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org