

# Welcome to **ST. MICHAEL'S** EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023



## OPENING MUSIC & WELCOME

*Celebrant* Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant* Gracious God, pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ. **Amen.**

*Leader* Today we add the second candle of Advent. We light the candle of peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of peace and that through him, peace is found.

*The first two candles are lit.*

Let us pray, Gracious God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Help us spread peace to those who are anxious and afraid. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray.

**Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The flowers are given in loving memory of **Jim Eddings** by Dorothy Eddings.

## LESSONS & PSALM

### A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Please pray Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 responsively by half verse.**

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**

2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
**and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
**and our land will yield its increase.**

13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

## **MUSIC**

### **PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL**

*Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark (1:1-8).  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **SILENT REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Celebrant* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.

*Leader* Let us pray for this gathering, for all worshipping communities throughout the world, for all who seek God and especially for those who don't know God yet. Pray for the Church. **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

Let us pray for hope; for things we yearn for but cannot name. **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

Let us pray for peace; for goodwill among all nations and wise actions by leaders. We pray for an end to violence and aggression, especially in those places where people are suffering from war, those in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, and Russia. We pray for the wellbeing of all people. Pray for justice and mercy. **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

Let us pray for the good earth which God has given us. Pray for the wisdom and will to be good stewards. **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

Let us pray for all in any need or trouble. For: **Sarah, Tina, Jennifer, Connie, Robert, Jay, Cynthia, Kyle, Mark, Genie, Mary, Ruby, Kathy, Kay, Hunter, and Billie.** Pray for comfort and healing. **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

Let us pray for the departed, especially Bill Brown, and pray for peace and comfort for those who mourn. **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

For whom else or what else shall we pray? *(Please add your prayers silently or aloud.)* And we pray, **Jesus, we wait in hope for your coming.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot, ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## MUSIC & CANDLE LIGHTING

*As music is played, you are invited to come forward to the altar rail and light a candle in thanksgiving or for intercessory prayers.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Celebrant* Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power, let us bring our offerings and selves to God.

*Your offering may be placed in the basket on the table in the aisle. Please come forward to the altar as the table is being prepared. All are welcome to participate in communion.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**  
*(Eucharistic Prayer C, Book of Common Prayer)*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Living God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.  
**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE INVITATION**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant* This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who want to know and love Christ, all are invited to come and meet Jesus here. The Gifts of God for the people of God.

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please stand as you are able*

*Celebrant* Together, let us pray.

**Almighty God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we wait the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us separated from you but engaged with you in your service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

May God's blessing be with you in the darkness and in the light, while you are awake and while you are sleeping, in your joys and in your sorrows—In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Deacon* Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSINGS**

## Announcements

### Christmas Music & Flowers

Remember loved ones and celebrate important moments in your life with the gift of flowers to the church. Please add "Christmas Flowers & Music" to the memo line of checks and mail or drop them off to the office with your message for the bulletin. Please submit your messages for the bulletins by **Tuesday, December 19th.**

### ADVENT EVENTS

- **The Life Profession of Sr. Tina Francesca Ferriot** on December 16, 11am
- **A Service of Lessons & Carols** on Sunday, December 17 at 5pm
- **Winterdance—17th Annual Celtic Christmas Celebration**, Tuesday, December 19 at 7pm

More Info on our website <https://stmichaelscarmichael.org/connect/>

### ADVENT CALENDAR OFFERING

In anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, Rev. Mary is offering an Advent Calendar practice to prepare your hearts and homes for the new birth of Christ this year. More details and info can be found on the Blog page of the Website.

### Learn & Connect

#### Living Compass Advent

The Living Compass theme for the Advent season is Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind. A discussion group facilitated by Lisa and Jim Sargent is offered on Sunday evenings, **December 10 & 17** from 6:30-7:30 on Zoom. Contact [lisa@2sargents.com](mailto:lisa@2sargents.com) to sign up.

#### A Radiant Birth: Advent Reflections

This Advent season Marilyn McEntyre is leading reflections on a new collection of Advent daily readings by contemporary Christian writers, A Radiant Birth. Participants are encouraged to follow the daily readings during the week and come to the Sunday gathering after coffee hour for reflection.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- **Christmas Eve Family Service** at 5pm with "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant" - Join us for this fun and lighthearted Christmas Experience
- **Christmas Eve Choral Service** at 9pm Festival of Christmas Carols beginning at 8:30pm. You will not want to miss this.
- **Christmas Morning Service** at 10am

*All of our Christmas Services will also be available Livestreamed at our YouTube Channel.*

### Serving in the Community

#### Volunteers needed: Winter Respite 2024 Mornings Wednesdays, 1/10/2024 & 1/31/2024 & Friday 2/2/2024

Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave, Carmichael, CA 95608

St Michaels will again be joining with other faith communities in Carmichael to provide meals and a warm place to relax for a few hours during the coldest days of the year for our unhoused neighbors. We will need volunteers to prepare and serve breakfast and a sack lunch or snack each day, plus volunteers to greet and host guests. Please contact Cindy Dewey 909-921-8855, [cmdewey84@gmail.com](mailto:cmdewey84@gmail.com) to volunteer.

#### Habitat for Humanity: Build for Unity

Build for Unity is a program where multi-faith communities come to build houses together. St. Michael's was one of the original faith groups that started this amazing program (in 2016). Our three scheduled work days are: **Saturday, February 3, Friday, February 9, Saturday, February 10.** If you have questions, please connect with Terry Bridges.

#### St. Michael's has a Green Team? Really?

In 2022, the National Church adopted a resolution at the General Convention to commit to goal of Net Carbon Neutrality in operations by 2030. The Diocese of Northern California, at the November 2022 convention, called upon parishes and schools to determine how to become carbon neutral by 2030. So, the Vestry here at St. Michael's has formed a Green Team committee (Rick Larkey, Pat Cole, and Sue Gaston) to investigate how we as a church, and as individuals, can become carbon neutral. Check out last weeks Messenger for the full article. Updates will be appearing in upcoming Messengers.

#### Annual Meeting

St. Michael's annual meeting will be **Sunday January 28, 2024** immediately following the 10am service with a lunch. During the meeting we will be, Voting for Vestry Members and Diocesan Delegates, Voting to amend our current bylaws, and Take a look at 2023 and look to the future. If you are interested in the governance of the church, please pray about running for vestry. If you are interested in the governance of the diocese, please pray about running as a diocesan delegate. Applications are on our website and available in the office. The same application is used for either position. Copies of both our current Bylaws and the proposed Amended Bylaws can be found on our website.



### **Sunday December 10—The Second Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist 10am Eucharist & Live stream  
Coffee Hour 11:30am Parish Hall  
A Radiant Birth Book Study 11:45am Friendship Center  
Celebration of Life Service for Penny Howard 2pm  
(*Parishioner of St. Clements*)  
Contemplative Prayer Eucharist with Zoom 5pm  
Living Compass in Advent 6:30pm Zoom

### **Monday December 11**

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom

### **Tuesday December 12**

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom  
Staff Meeting 9:30am  
EfM 6:30pm

### **Wednesday December 13**

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom

### **Thursday December 14**

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom  
Open Bible Study 10am Friendship Center  
Noon Day Prayer 11:45am Zoom  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm

### **Friday December 15**

Friday Morning Eucharist 8:30am

### **Saturday December 16**

Life Profession of Sr. Tina 11am  
*Reception immediately following*

### **Sunday December 17—The Third Sunday of Advent**

Holy Eucharist 10am Eucharist & Live stream  
Coffee Hour 11:30am Parish Hall  
A Radiant Birth Book Study 11:45am Friendship Center  
Lessons & Carols 5pm  
*Reception immediately following Parish Hall*  
Living Compass in Advent 6:30pm Zoom

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### **SAVE THE DATE**

December 19 **Winterdance** 7pm

December 24 **Christmas Eve Family Service** 5pm  
**Christmas Eve Service** 9pm with  
*Festival of Christmas Carols at 8:30pm*

December 25 **Christmas Morning Service** 10am

January 28 **Annual Meeting**

### **CLERGY, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

**The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair** Bishop,  
Episcopal Diocese of Northern California  
**The Rev. Mary Clausgus** Rector  
**Pastor Katie Holeman** Assisting Priest  
**The Rev. Rodney Davis** Associate Priest  
**The Rev. Roy Whitten** Associate Priest  
**The Rev. Jesse Vaughan** Associate Priest  
**Andy Chamness** Sexton  
**John Cozza** Music Director  
**Michelle Falcly** Parish Administrator  
**Jack Cozza** Videographer  
**Kate Muris** Bookkeeper  
**Diane Gilmore, Diane Rehrer-Salisbury, Sr. Tina**  
**Francesca Ferriot, Eileen Thomas, Sue Corbin,**  
**Karen Christie, Mary Ellen Ferguson** Office  
Volunteers

### **VESTRY**

**Tammy Murray** Senior Warden  
**Doug Davy** Junior Warden  
**Chris Chamness** Clerk  
**Andrea LaMattina** Member  
**Pamela Lueders** Member  
**Janet West** Member  
**Rick Larkey** Member  
**Jane Samuelson** Member  
**Mary Kessler** Member  
**Renée Pierce** Member  
  
**John Quené** Treasurer  
**Constance Weichert** Music Director Emeritus