

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Centered in our love for Jesus, we worship God, reach out to those in need, celebrate our blessings, and love and care for each other. We are inclusive and welcoming of all God's people. Together, we strive to faithfully meet the challenges of a changing world.

Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

PRELUDE Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Now Comes the Gentiles' Savior) by Bach, arr. Busoni

Please stand in body or spirit.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN The Hymnal 1982 - #65 Prepare the Way, O Zion *Please join us.*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

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

Celebrant welcomes the congregation

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 & second candles are lit.

We ask that you silence any electronics that might make noise during the service.

Leader 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.**

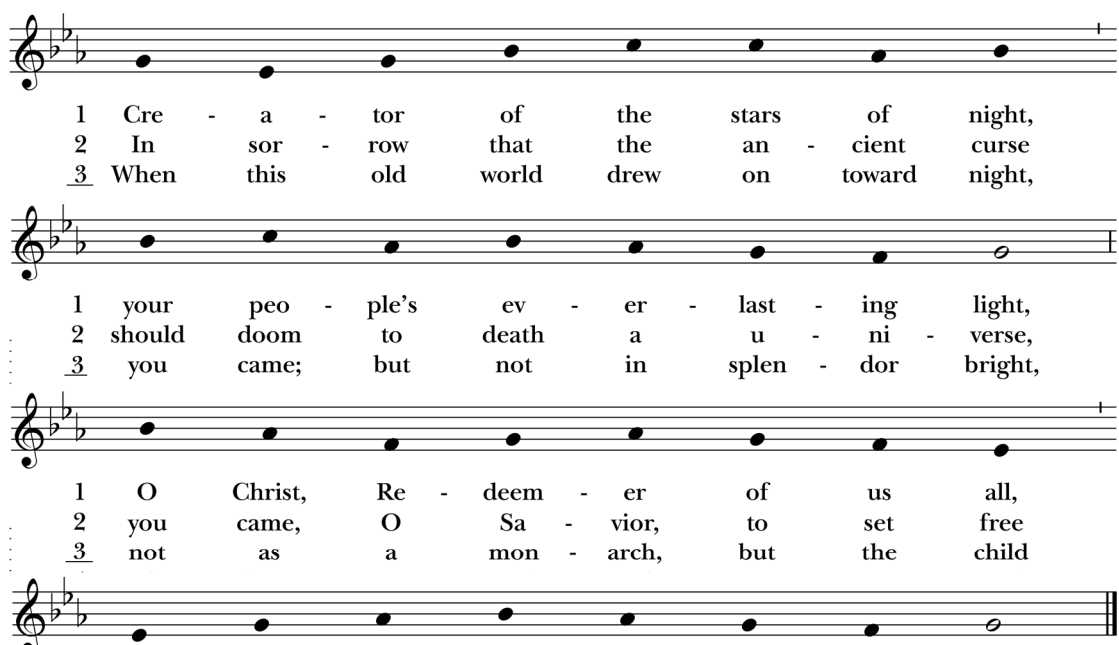
GENERAL CONFSSION *Kneel or stand as you are able.*

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Gracious God,
we praise you for accepting us as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you as we should
and serve you as we ought.
Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
who is our savior and redeemer. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE The Hymnal 1982—#60 Creator of the Stars of Night (*verses 1-3*)



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3 When this old world drew on toward night,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
3 not as a mon - arch, but the child

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS & PSALM

A reading from the book of Isaiah (11:1-10)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the
ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his
dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Please pray Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 responsively by half-verse.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *

who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *

and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (15:4-13)

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*verses 3 & 4*) *Please join us.*

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL Matthew (3:1-12) *Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

SERMON The Rev. Mike Ferrito

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand in body or spirit.*

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Holy God, yours is the voice that calls from the places we least expect, inviting us into ever deeper relationship with you that we might live surrounded by your love. Hear now our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for Christ's church, that we may never become settled in comfort but that we might always be on pilgrimage serving those we encounter. We especially pray for Archbishop of Canterbury elect Sarah Mullally, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Megan our Bishop, Megan, Katie, Mike, Rod, and Jesse, our clergy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who hold authority over us, that they might escape from their fears and hatreds and govern in the glory of your mercy and wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for each other in this parish community, that we might discern our own calls to be Christ in all the places our day-to-day lives take us. We pray especially for Christine, our head of school, for all the staff, teachers and students at St. Michael's Day School and Starr King TK-8. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the natural world and for our own stewardship of creation, that we might be advocates for actions needed to leave an abundant creation to future generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need of healing and relief from their burdens, worries and fears, in body, mind, or spirit. Especially we lift up **Kathy, Dawn, Jane, Marilu, Jennine, Averey, Lynn, Debbie, Dan, Marguerite, Jon, Sarah, Jennifer, Michael, Andrea, Chris, Kate, Liz, Mike, Tina, Mary, Kay, Hunter, and Billie.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Surround all those who have been killed or injured by gun violence, and comfort their families and communities who are left grieving and traumatized. We especially pray for those grieving in Stockton. Merciful God, bind up their wounds and bless them with your loving presence. Empower us to be agents of peace and healing in our world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve, hasten the day of Christ's return that we might be reunited with all whom we have loved but see no more. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else or whom else shall we pray? (*A time of silence is kept.*) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Almighty God, you entered into our world and blessed our lives through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, your son and our Lord. Bless us still as we strive to become the people we were meant to be. **Amen.**

THE PEACE AND OFFERTORY *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM A Light Will Shine by Larsen

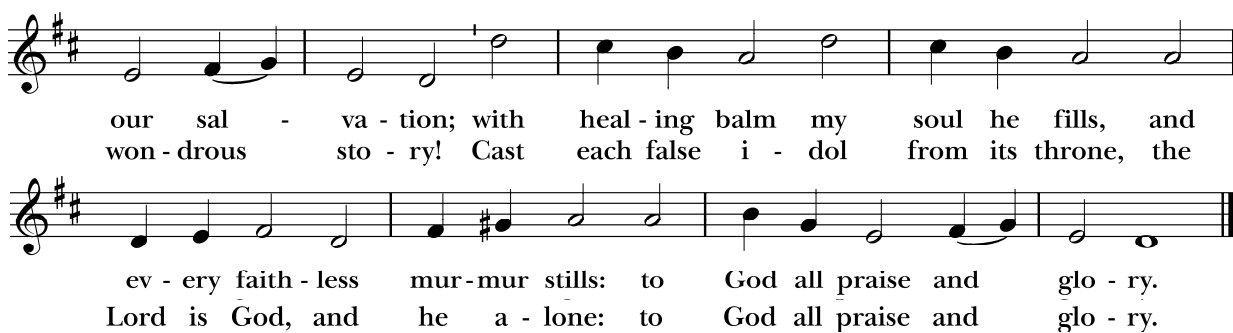
PRESENTATION HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#408 Sing Praise to God (*Verses 1 & 3*) *Please join us.*



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the
ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

Words: Johann Jakob Schütz (1640-1690); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt. Music: *Mit Freuden zart*, melody from "Une pastourelle gentille," 1529; adapt. *Pseaumes cinquante de David*, 1547, and *Kirchengeseng darinnen die Heubtartikel des Christlichen Glaubens gefasset*, 1566; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), after Heinrich Reimann (19th cent.).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Please stand in body or spirit.*

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 Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him 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.

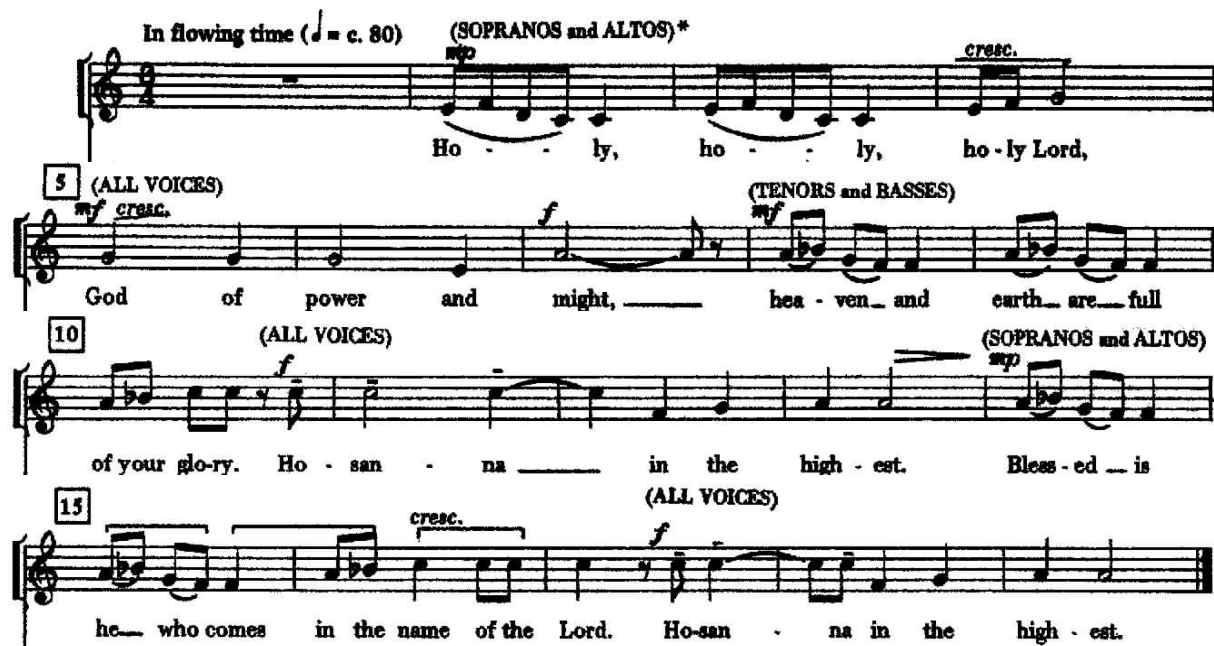
At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

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:

THE SANCTUS Holy, Holy, Holy Lord by Rutter (from Music for Holy Eucharist Rite II) *(Please join us.)*



In flowing time (♩ = c. 80) (SOPRANOS and ALTOS)*
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
5 (ALL VOICES)
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full
10 (ALL VOICES) (SOPRANOS and ALTOS)
of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
15 (ALL VOICES)
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.

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, Isaac, and Jacob; 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 BREAD and THE INVITATION

THE FRACTION ANTHEM Lamb of God by Rutter (from Music for Holy Eucharist Rite II)

Quiet and flowing (♩ = c. 60)
(SOPRANOS and ALTOS) *p dolce e legato* (ALL VOICES) *p* 5

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins_ of the world: have

(TENORS and BASSES) *mp*

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins_ of the

10 (ALL VOICES) *mp* (ALL VOICES) *mp cresc.*

world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

15 *mp* *p* *pp*

sins_ of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to receive communion. Communion is offered with gluten free bread that is free of the top 8 allergens. The Bread and Wine is offered at the altar rail, and grape juice is offered at the back of the altar. Communion will be taken by eating the bread and sipping from the cup. If you do not feel able to sip from the cup please allow it to pass by. We believe that if you have received communion in one kind (bread only) you have received a full communion. Cross your arms over your chest if you wish to receive a blessing in place of consuming. Baptism from any Christian tradition is anticipated for those regularly receiving. Let an usher know if you need to receive at your pew. Ingredients are listed in the back of the bulletin.

*SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER * To be prayed on your own as desired.*

On behalf of anyone who desires to receive Communion but for any reason cannot, including those joining us online, we offer this prayer for spiritual Communion. We thank you, O Christ, that the very desire to commune with you is true and complete Communion. Enter the hearts of all those who wish to receive You but are not able to receive the physical elements of Bread and Wine. Grant them mystical union with You and with the whole Communion of Saints. This we ask in your precious Name. Amen.

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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM The Ballad of the Lion and the Lamb by Cohen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.*

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

Celebrant 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.**

CLOSING HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#66 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (*Please join us. Music can be found on the following page.*)

Please stand in body or spirit.

Deacon Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Prelude in d minor, BWV 539 by Bach

**Julian of Norwich Liturgy*

Serving Today

The Rev. Katie Holeman Celebrant

The Rev. Mike Ferrito Preaching

The Rev. Rod Davis Deacon

The Rev. Megan Anderson Gartin Assisting &
Children's Homilist

Jackie Linn, Dancy Dobrenick, Patty Green, Laura
Quene Altar Guild

The Acolyte Team

Kate Muris, Jim Dodds, Rick Larkey Readers

Jackie Linn, Sue Davis, Ann Hall Eucharistic
Ministers

Jack Carr, Ed Linn, Dawn Wright, Tyson Wright
Ushers

Harriette Carr Greeter

St. Michael's Chancel Choir

John Cozza Music Director

Coffee Hour Hosts Sue Corbin & Julie Linderman

The Flowers are given in loving memory of Woodbridge "Skip" Metcalf.

CLOSING HYMN The Hymnal 1982—#66 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

Upcoming Events

Saturday December 13 - [Winterdance \(More Info & Tickets\)](#) 7pm

Sunday December 14 - [A Service of Lessons & Carols](#) 5pm

Friday December 19 - Blue Christmas Service 8:30am

Wednesday December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

5pm Family Service with Pageant

8pm Choral Service with Festival of Christmas Music

Thursday December 25– Christmas Morning Service 10am

Sunday January 25 - Annual Meeting

Saturday February 28 - Rise Against Hunger

Announcements

Worship

10am Sunday Morning Worship Eucharist & Choir
Godly Play & Nursery available

5pm Sunday Contemplative Service on Zoom

9am Morning Prayer – Zoom, Monday—Thursday

8:30am Friday Morning Contemplative Eucharist

Communion Updates We have changed the practice of how we receive communion together. We will be using baked bread that is free from the top 8 common allergens including gluten, offering the chalice through drinking from the common cup (discontinuing the practice of intinction) and adding a grape juice chalice as an alternative to wine. Full article found in the weekly Messenger.

Communion Bread ingredients:

Gluten Free Flour (*Rice Flour, Whole Grain Brown Rice Flour, Sorghum Flour, Tapioca Starch, Potato Starch, Cellulose, Vitamin and Mineral Blend [calcium carbonate, niacinamide (vitamin B3), reduced iron, thiamin hydrochloride (vitamin B1), riboflavin (vitamin B2)]*), *Xanthan Gum, Cellulose Gum.*), Water, Avocado Oil, Honey, Baking Powder, Salt.

Lessons & Carols—Join us for a coffee & cookie reception directly following the service. Let the office know if you can bring cookies or simple dessert.

A Blue Christmas service—Sometimes called a Longest Night service— will be conducted on **Friday, December 19th, at 8:30 a.m.** It is a gentle, contemplative worship service designed for people who find the holiday season difficult as well as for those attending to provide support for others. More information found in the Weekly messenger.

Christmas Music & Flowers—Remember loved ones and celebrate moments in your life with the gift of flowers and music to the church for Christmas. Please fill out our online form or email the office with your note for the bulletin by Dec. 19th. Donations to “Christmas Flowers & Music” can be dropped off on Sunday, to the office, by mail or online.

Annual Meeting—Sunday January 25, 2026

Immediately following the 10am service with a lunch. During the meeting we will be voting for Vestry Members and Diocesan Delegates and taking a look at 2025 and looking to the future. We will also elect 2026 Vestry Members & Diocesan Delegates. If you feel called to serve on the St. Michael’s Vestry or as a Diocesan Delegate please use the link on the website and Messenger or contact the Church Office (916) 488-3550 for a hard copy.

Stewardship Pledge cards are still being accepted for the 2026 Pledge Year. The vestry appreciates your continued support as they plan the 2026 church budget.

St. Michael’s Serves in the Community

Gifts from the Heart (GFTH)-Drop off times are—
Today, December 7 from 9am—2pm.

Food Bank Donations Now, more than ever, food and financial donations are needed for food banks like River City Food Bank, Loaves & Fishes & more.

Regular Outreach

- **River City Food Bank Center**
- **Carmichael HART**
- **God's Helping Hands Laundry**

St. Michael’s Learn & Connect

What’s in a Beginning ~ Advent Reflections with *Marilyn McEntyre & Rev. Megan* - Sundays in Advent at 11:30am in Friendship Center. In this series we’ll reflect on Advent as a time to recognize beginnings: the beginning of Jesus’ life on earth, the Incarnation as beginning of a new age, the beginning of a new liturgical cycle, & the ways we may be invited even now to begin a new thing by the One who makes all things new. Please note all are welcome to attend even if you missed last week.

Living Compass-Living Well in Advent booklets are available, free of cost, on the ushers’ table on Sundays. There are multiple ways you can engage with this material through Living Compass at <https://www.livingcompass.org/advent>

St. Michael's Cont. Studies—more info online

St. Michael's Reads the Gospels Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm on zoom

Thursday Open Bible Study Hybrid Meets at 10am in the Friendship Room and by Zoom.

Sacred Circle Last Wednesday of every month 6pm via zoom.

Centering Prayer Mondays in Friendship Center at 9am & Thursdays on Zoom at 7pm

Healing Circle - Second Saturdays, 11am in the Friendship Center.

St. Michael’s Youth & Family

Christmas Pageant We will have our Children’s pageant on Christmas Eve at the 5pm Family Service. If you have children interested in participating, please talk to Pastor Katie. The play has been written by Paula Frink & will be a wonderful addition to our Christmas Eve celebration. Rehearsals will be held immediately following our 10am services on Sunday's December 14 & 21.

Additional details on the announcements can be found in this week’s Messenger and on our website.

Sunday December 7—The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist 10am with Livestream
Nursery & Godly Play 10am
Coffee Hour 11:15am Parish Hall
Advent Reflections 11:30am Friendship Center
Contemplative Prayer Service 5pm Zoom

Monday December 8

Centering Prayer 9am Friendship Center
Morning Prayer 9am Zoom
Mercy & Social Justice Meeting 7pm

Tuesday December 9

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom
Staff Meeting 9:30am
EfM 6:30pm Zoom
Reading the Gospels Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom

Wednesday December 10

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom

Thursday December 11

Morning Prayer 9am Zoom
Open Bible Study 10am Friendship Center
Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Centering Prayer 7pm Zoom

Friday December 12

Friday Morning Eucharist 8:30am

Saturday December 13

Winterdance 7pm Parish Hall

Sunday December 14—The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist 10am with Livestream
Nursery & Godly Play 10am
Coffee Hour 11:15am Parish Hall
Advent Reflections 11:30am Friendship Center
Contemplative Prayer Service 5pm Zoom

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2140 Mission Ave.
Carmichael, CA. 95608
916.488.3550
Stmichaelscarmichael.org

SAVE THE DATE

Friday December 19—Blue Christmas Service
8:30am

Wednesday December 24—Christmas Eve Services
5pm Family Service *with Pageant*
8pm Choral Service *with Festival of
Christmas Music*

Thursday December 25—Christmas Day Service
10am

Sunday January 25 - Annual Meeting

Saturday February 28 - Rise Against Hunger

CLERGY, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair Bishop,
Episcopal Diocese of Northern California
The Rev. Megan Anderson Gartin Rector
The Rev. Katie Holeman Associate Rector
The Rev. Rodney Davis Associate Priest
The Rev. Jesse Vaughan Associate Priest
The Rev. Mike Ferrito Associate Priest
Andy Chamness Sexton
John Cozza Music Director
Michelle Falcý Parish Administrator
Jack Cozza Videographer
John Quené Treasurer
Kate Muris Bookkeeper
**Diane Rehrer-Salisbury, Sr. Tina Francesca
Ferriot, Eileen Thomas, Sue Corbin, Renée
Pierce, Mary Ellen Ferguson** Office Volunteers

VESTRY

Tammy Murray Senior Warden
Greg Dewey Junior Warden
Doug Davy Clerk
Sue Davis Member
Elizabeth Dolezal Member
Mary Ellen Ferguson Member
Christina Manning Member
Suzanne Phinney Member
Renée Pierce Member
Todd Stone Member
Dawn Wright Member
Holly Yue Member

John Quené Treasurer
Constance Weichert Music Director Emeritus