

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 31 DECEMBER 2023 - THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

READINGS: ISAIAH 61:10-62:3; PSALM 147:13-21; GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7; JOHN 1:1-18

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WITH US THIS MORNING! THIS BULLETIN WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. YOU CAN FIND THE NUMBERED HYMNS IN THE BLUE HYMNAL. AT COMMUNION TIME ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE IN THE EUCHARIST. THE BREAD IS TAKEN IN THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND; IF RECEIVING THE WINE, EITHER DIP (INTINCT) THE BREAD OR SIP FROM THE CUP. YOUR FOLDED HANDS WILL SIGNAL THE PRIEST THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A BLESSING.

We welcome Joseph Daniel-Hoste as our organist this morning.

Organ: Prelude on *Greensleeves* -- Richard Purvis

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

Alleluia. To us a child is born; **Come, let us adore him. Alleluia**

Hymn 96, Angels We Have Heard On High, Singing Sweetly Through The Night

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In our Hebrew Bible reading the prophet joyfully responds on behalf of all God's people to the Lord's promises for a redeemed Jerusalem. The prophet will not silence keep until the deliverance of Jerusalem is known throughout the world.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In Psalm 147, the whole creation and all peoples join together in praise of the Lord. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion; for he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. **R.** He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat. He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly. **R.** He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgments to Israel. He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah! **R**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians

In this epistle lesson, Paul explains what the role of the law has been and how, in our new relationship of faith, we have become sons and heirs of the Father.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 101, Away In A Manger, No Crib For His Bed

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Hymn 82, Of The Father's Love Begotten

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

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

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace."

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Prayers are offered for those on our prayer list: Donald Burton, Lori, Lynn Kerber, Nina, Susan Rich, Cheri, Ed Haug, Kevin O'Connor, Jim Veit, Karen Schulze. In our Diocese, for the clergy and people of St. Andrew's, Waterford

The people are invited to add their own petitions.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence is kept, then all pray together:

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things done and left undone, and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Grant that all people may hear together the song of joy, and find their homes in the garden of justice and hope. Hear all our prayers and forgive all our sins, that we may experience the fullness of life which is your will for all in the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

Organ: Musette on *Adeste Fideles* -- Jeanne Demessieux

Offertory Hymn 105: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth . . . who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Eternal God, **You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. 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 Lord.**

Amen.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 100, Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come

Organ: Toccata on *Joy to the World* -- Joyce Jones

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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