

St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
Christmas Eve – 24 December 2024 – 4.00 PM

A warm welcome to you. We are delighted that you are here.  
This service bulletin will guide you through our worship.  
Hymns can be found in the blue hymnals.

Music To Prepare Us For Worship

**Hymn 87: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing! Glory To The Newborn King**

Choir: A Christmas Introit - Lance A. Massey, 1947-2013

**Hymn 112: In The Bleak Midwinter, Frosty Wind Made Moan**

Anthem: For Him All Stars Have Shown - Bob Chilcott, b. 1955

Organ: What Child is This? - Richard Purvis, 1913-1994

**Hymn 89: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear That Glorious Song Of Old**

Choir: Still, Still, Still - Norman Luboff, 1917-1987

**Hymn 79: O Little Town Of Bethlehem, How Still We See Thee Lie**

Organ: Prelude on the *Sussex Carol* - Dale Wood, 1934-2003

A Celtic Eucharist For Christmas Eve

*The bell is rung to gather our hearts in the presence of God.*

The Opening Word -- A Christmas Poem -- Mary Oliver 1935-2019

Says a country legend told every year: "Go to the barn on Christmas Eve and see what the creatures do as that long night tips over. Down on their knees they will go, the fire of an old memory whistling through their minds!" So I went. Wrapped to my eyes against the cold, I creaked back the barn door and peered in. From town the church bells spilled their midnight music, and the beasts listened – yet they lay in their stalls like stone.

Oh the heretics! Not to remember Bethlehem, or the star as bright as a sun, or the child born on a bed of straw! To know only of the dissolving Now! Still they drowsed on – citizens of the pure, the physical world, they loomed in the dark: powerful of body, peaceful of mind, innocent of history.

Brothers! Sisters! I whispered. It is Christmas! And you are no heretics, but miracles, immaculate still as when you thundered forth on the morning of creation! As for Bethlehem, that blazing star still sailed the dark, but only looked for me. Caught in its light, listening again to its story, I curled against some sleepy beast, who nuzzled my hair as though I were a child, and warmed me the best it could all night.

*All stand.*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**

**Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**Christ the Lord.**

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Only-begotten Son of the Father; R.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest! R.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R.

*All are seated*

*Bell at the Prayer for Christmas Eve. Silence is kept before the prayer.*

Let us pray.

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. This night, this Holy Night, heralds a new dawn, a stretching out to what is ahead as your Christ comes into our world. So be with us and all people, and let us say: **Amen.**

A Reading from Scripture – The Letter to Titus

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*After the reading:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God**

Music: Before The Paling Of The Stars – Joseph D. Daniel-Hoste b. 1979

A Reading from the Anglican Church of India

God of God, only the sound of an infant crying in the night. A familiar, homely, human sound like the sound of hooves on flagstones, like the rattle of chains tethering cattle, like the crunch of straw in the mouths of oxen, like the rustle of hay tossed into a manger. Light of light, only the light of a star falling on an infant in a crib like the light in a shepherd's lantern, like the light in the eyes of a mother, like the light in the learning of the wise men, like the light that lightens each dawn. Very God of very God, only a pillow of straw and an infant in rags and tatters, like the weather-worn blankets of shepherds, like dusty, travel-stained garments of travelers, like cloth stuffed in a stable window to keep the draft out and the cattle warm.

God is with us, terribly, simply, with us. And the shadows of men and women, with arms outstretched to receive him, fall across the manger in the form of a cross.

Music: O Magnum Mysterium – Morten Lauridsen, b. 1943

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

*After the music, all stand and listen to the Nativity Story according to Luke.*

*After the reading:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. Thanks be to God

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. R.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. R.

A Reflection: Christmas – The Night Of Memories  
*Silence follows the reflection. The bell is rung and all stand.*

What Do We Believe?

We believe in God:

Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, Whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth, Whose love was crucified by evil that can entrap us.

Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God,  
and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:

To serve others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,

To care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,

To live in the freedom of forgiveness, in the power of Love's spirit,

And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church; for the glory of God. Amen.

(The Iona Confession of Faith)

The Prayers of The People

Gracious God: In peace, we pray to you.

For all people in their daily life and work:

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For Christians everywhere who gather this evening to welcome the birth of our savior:  
**For the gift of him who saves us and brings us everlasting life.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble  
**For those who care for the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.  
*The People may add their petitions.* Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*The People may add their thanks.* Thank you, Lord. **For your goodness surrounds us.**

We pray for all who have died.  
*The People may speak the names of their loved ones departed.*  
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

Almighty God and Father of light: A child is born for us and a son is given to us. Your eternal word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder at the nearness of her God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and peace, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

May the peace of Christ which passes all understanding be with you this night and in all the days to come. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and the people greet one another in the name of God's Peace, and then are seated.*

### Holy Communion

*We come forward for a moment of grace in which all will be refreshed at this table. By ancient words of blessing made new, or by the sharing of bread and wine; through ordinary things God's love is made present. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand; it may be dipped in the wine or you may sip from the cup. You may also receive Communion by bread alone. If you wish to receive a blessing, keep your hands folded. Your collection for the work of this church is received during the choir anthem.*

Choir: Mid-Winter – Bob Chilcott

*After the gifts are presented and the altar is made ready, all stand:*



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.**

Almighty God, you have both created us and yet more wonderfully restored us to wholeness in you . . . Joining in their hymn of your unending praise: (Choir) 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.

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

*The Prayer concludes with the Great Amen, Breaking of the Bread, and Invitation to Communion.*

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

*Music during Communion:*

Strings: Away in a Manger – arr. Bruce Healey b. 1950

**All: Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God; We celebrate with joy your coming into our midst; we celebrate with hope your coming into our midst, we celebrate with peace your coming into our midst; for you have come to save us. By your grace we recognize your presence in men and women everywhere; by your power you free us from all that stands in the way of your loving purpose; through your strength our lives can reclaim hope; through your love we can work for peace and justice. You are the source of our being, you are the light of our lives. Thank you for this time in your presence, and for sharing with us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. And thank you for this most holy night, which shines with the light of your eternal promise. All this we pray.  
**Amen.**

*Then is sung:*

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven  
afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is  
born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy  
face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy  
birth.

*Silence is kept for space.*

Moonless darkness stands between. Past, the Past, no more be seen! But the Bethlehem-star may lead  
me to the sight of Him who freed me from the self that I have been. Make me pure, Lord: You are  
holy. Make me meek, Lord: You were lowly. Now beginning, and always.

Now begin, on Christmas Day. Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844-1889

A Gaelic Blessing – John Rutter, b. 1945

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the  
quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you.  
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ, of Christ the light of the world  
to you. Deep peace of the Son of peace to you. And may God's blessing be yours and ours, and well  
may it befall us all, this night and forever more. **Amen.**

Let us go out into the world in peace and joy, rejoicing in the power of His birth.

**Thanks be to God.**

Music for strings: O Holy Night, The Stars Were Brightly Shining

Adolph Adam, 1803-1856; arr. Bruce Healey

*After the music, the bell is rung to send us on our way.*

A Merry and Spirit-Filled Christmas to Everyone!

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

"We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors."

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Thanks to our musicians for their offering of Christmas music: Dr. Joseph Daniel-Hoste,  
Organist and Music Director; Stephanie Dean, Soprano; Brooks Daniel-Hoste, Tenor;  
Margaret Hakim, Karen McCarthy, Stacey Fischer-Lewis, Lisa Gavin, Madison Coyle;  
Elodie Chapoutot, Isabell Johnson, Jackson McDowell, Lauren McKague – strings.

## Texts for Choral Music -- Christmas Eve -- 2024

### **Christmas Introit – Lance A. Massey** Text: Christmas traditional

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!* Christ is born in Bethlehem, alleluia, alleluia. Sing for joy, Jerusalem, alleluia, alleluia.

### **For Him All Stars Have Shown – Bob Chilcott** Text: Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001)

He is so small the stars bow down the fierce winds ease their breath, and careful shepherds look upon the one unsullied birth. They kneel and stare while time seems gone and goodness rules the earth. The blight on man is all undone, and there will be no death, for though this child will be nailed on A cross, he'll be so since He is the jewel of untold worth. For him all stars have shone.

### **O Magnum Mysterium – Morten Lauridsen** Text: Responsorial Chant for Christmas Day Matins

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, iacentem in praesepio! O beata virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

### **Still, Still, Still – Norman Luboff**

Still, still, still One can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, Let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep 'Tis the eve of our Savior's birth. Dream, dream, dream, Of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number Watch you as you sweetly slumber. Dream, dream, dream, Of the joyous day to come.

### **Before the Paling of the Stars – Joseph Daniel-Hoste** Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Before the paling of the stars, Before the winter morn, Before the earliest cockcrow Jesus Christ was born: Born in a stable, cradled in a manger, In the world His hands had made Born a stranger. Priest and king lay fast asleep In Jerusalem, Young and old lay fast asleep in crowded Bethlehem: Saint and Angel, ox and ass, Kept a watch together, Before the Christmas daybreak in the winter weather. Jesus on His Mother's breast in the stable cold, Spotless Lamb of God was He, Shepherd of the fold: Let us kneel with Mary maid, With Joseph bent and hoary, With Saint and Angel, ox and ass, to hail the King of Glory.

### **Mid-Winter – Bob Chilcott** Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; But only His mother, in her maiden bliss, Worshipped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.



## **Christmas Flowers & Greens**

### Thank Offerings

*David & Elaine Backhurst for their baby grandson*

*Ed Brown for Kilkenny*

*Anonymous in honor of the St. Michael's Choir*

*Jennifer Magee for the people of St. Michael's*

*Jim & Karen McLeod for family and friends*

*Jennifer Magee for the people of St. Michael's*

*Gayle Peller for family & friends*

*Dale & Mary Scrace for family and friends near and far  
and all the folks at St. Michael's*

### Given By

*Ed & Michelle Bailey*

*Nancy Bierley*

*Kate Colborn & Family*

*Helen & John Finkelmann*

*Beverly Fitzgerald*

*Elly Garzel*

*The Gibson Family*

*Sally Graham*

*Norman Hahn*

*Phyllis Harper & Family*

*Dr. Joseph & Mr. Brooks  
Daniel-Hoste*

*Edna Lock*

*Don & Sarah Ludlow*

*Cheryl Mac Donald*

*Barbara Malley*

*Gail McQueen*

*Martha Miller*

*Barb Pappas*

*Dale & Dianne Pegg*

*Dale & Mary Scrace*

*Carolyn Skaff*

*Rev. Michael Lankford-Stokes*

*Reba Torongo*

*Laurie Wood*

### In Loving Memory of

*Mr. & Mrs. J. Edward Bailey III, and Mr. & Mrs. William A. Gordon Sr.,  
Michael Nash*

*Bob Bierley & Esther & Gil Russell*

*Ted Colborn*

*Charlotte & William Howe, Eleanor & John Finkelmann, Stephen L.  
Peck, William A. Howe, Jr.*

*Marion Dice*

*Roger Garzel, Robert & Catherine Waters*

*Parents Charles & Patricia Gibson and brother Scott.*

*Husband Steuart Graham, Bert & Alice Schlemmer,  
Donald & Ginny Schlemmer*

*Judy, Carl, & Irene Hahn*

*Victor Harper*

*Our friends and family we've lost over the years*

*Rev. Daniel Hillman Goodrich III*

*Mary Zedan, Ruth Hatcher, Rose Albrecht, Anne Grayr, Robert  
Ludlow, Gary Ludlow*

*Loved Ones*

*George Malley*

*Loved Ones*

*Loved Ones*

*Sterling & Anne Berry and Ted & Mary Pappas*

*Russell & Helen Pegg and Joseph & Elizabeth Peters*

*Audrey Henderson, Robert & Eleanor Harris, Charlene  
Don & Jerry Scrace, Barbara Zimmer, Darwin Baker*

*Michael S. Skaff and our parents Michael A. and Geneva Skaff  
& Sam and Mary Skaff*

*Sharon Amluxen*

*Joseph Torongo and Joseph Torongo Jr.*

*Phyllis & John Wood, Mary Lou Isenberg, George Helwig, and Loved Ones*