

March 30, 2024 · 6 pm · Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Great Vigil of Easter

“Blues
Vigil”



St. Michael's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.stmichaelschurch.org



Welcome to St. Michael's Episcopal Church!

We are an open, affirming and inclusive parish, worshipping in the Episcopal tradition. No matter where you're from, or what you believe, you are welcome to gather with us, sing with us, pray with us, learn with us, and receive communion with us. We do our best to make our customs accessible to all people, but if anything feels confusing to you, feel free to ask someone for help, or simply sit and observe.

Welcome, Visitors! Tell us about yourself.

If you are visiting today, we invite you to sign the Guest Book. We would love to get to know each other! And if you're seeking baptism, confirmation, or simply a community of healing and hope to belong to, we would be delighted to join you on your journey.

Online Giving now available.

If you wish to donate to St. Michael's, either to the church or the Necessity Pantry, scan the QR code, or visit stmichaelschurch.org/give. While there, you can arrange recurring payments for automated giving.



Service Notes

* Denotes moments when the congregation is invited to stand (as able)

"Hymnal" refers to the blue Hymnal 1982 located throughout the Nave. Copyright information for songs from all other sources is printed in this bulletin.

Scriptures are quoted from the NRSV Bible, unless otherwise indicated.

Our Musicians

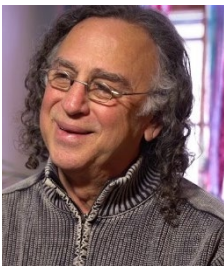
For this evening's service we are beyond thrilled to welcome two good friends and incredible professional musicians, Aaron Mayfield and The Rev. Jimmie Bratcher. Each of these men has a deep and profound faith journey, which they love to express through their gift for music.

Please show your love and appreciation for our musicians with your offering this evening. We are dedicating to them all gifts received in the plate (unless otherwise specified.)

To make your gift online, scan the QR code to the right or visit www.stmichaelschurch.org/give, click "donate" and instead of "operating", select "Aaron & Jimmie". *Thank you!*



Aaron Mayfield was born and raised in Kansas City and recently moved to Atlanta, GA. Throughout his 17-year long career, he has played, produced, arranged, coordinated, toured, written songs, and musically directed for many artists within multiple genres. His daily motto is to make everything "next level!"



The Rev. Jimmie Bratcher is a preacher and blues artist who is not afraid to go places that many won't with his music and message. Jimmie plays in prisons, clubs, Sturgis, church and more. His story is inspiring and has impacted thousands

Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Prelude

Aaron Mayfield & Jimmie Bratcher

Candle Lighting

Book of Common Prayer, p. 285

In the darkness, a fire is kindled.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the newly kindled fire. The congregants light their own candles, then proceed into the Nave while singing.

During the procession, all other candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle.

* Processional Hymn

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

Coombs



1. All ye saints of light pro - claim, Je - sus, the light of the world; Life and mer - cy
2. Hear the Sav - ior's ear - nest call, Je - sus, the light of the world; Send the Gos - pel
3. Why not seek Him then to - day, Je - sus, the light of the world; Go with truth the
4. Come, con - fess Him as your king, Je - sus, the light of the world; Then the bells of



Refrain



in His name, Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light,
truth to all, Je - sus, the light of the world.
nar - row way, Je - sus, the light of the world.
Heav'n will ring, Je - sus, the light of the world.



Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy are bright; Shine all a - round us by day and by night,



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation, for the victory of our mighty King

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land. This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning--he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever *Amen*.

Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant: Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history; and let us pray that God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

First Lesson: Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon

the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

**All singing We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
 Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright;
 Shine all around us by day and by night,
 Jesus the Light of the World.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Second Lesson: Valley of the Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37:1-4

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

All singing We'll walk in the light, beautiful light...

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The candles at the Altar are now lighted from the Paschal Candle.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

* Gloria

“Oh the Glory of Your Presence”

Coombs

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a piano introduction marked *ff*, *f*, and *mf*. The lyrics are: "Oh, the glo - ry of Your pres - ence,". The second system continues with the lyrics: "We, Your tem - ple, give You rev - 'rence. *Come and rise to Your". The third system continues with the lyrics: "rest and be blest by our praise as we glo - ry in Your em - brace; As Your". The fourth system concludes with the lyrics: "pres - ence now fills this place." The score includes dynamic markings (*ff*, *f*, *mf*) and articulation marks such as slurs and accents. The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 4/4.

* Collect of the Day

The Great Vigil of Easter

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

* Sequence

“Alleluia, Alleluia!”

Hymnal #178

* Holy Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid

Sermon

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell



* **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let the baptized now renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic¹ Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

¹ In this context, "catholic" means "universal", referring to the global Church.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

* **Prayers of the People**

Form III, BCP p. 387

Intercessor: Father, we pray for your holy Church

People: That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *[The people may add their petitions]*

Celebrant: Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

* **The Peace**

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome & Announcements

- Easter Sunday: March 31, 10 am
- Easter Egg Hunt to follow!
- Love Offering for our Musicians

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: AMEN.

* **The Lord's Prayer**

BCP p. 364

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

* The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



Communion Notes: Communion is offered in two kinds: bread and wine. One may receive the bread alone, dip it into the wine, or drink from the chalice after consuming the bread. Sealed, pre-packaged containers of bread and wine are available. Gluten-free bread may be requested by crossing one's hands palms-down. All manners of reception are valid, and all are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing.

Communion Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LEVAS #109

1. What a Friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our Ref - uge; Take it to the Lord in prayer.

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

* **Post-Communion Prayer & Blessing**

BCP p. 366

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

* **Closing Hymn** “*Blessed Assurance*”

LEVAS #184

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance: Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore - taste of
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of *rap - ture now
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion: all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his
burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove echo - es of
hap - py and blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his

Spir - it, washed in his blood.
mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry, this is my
good - ness, lost in his love.

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my
sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

*** Dismissal**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!