

December 15, 2024 • 10 am • Third Sunday of Advent

# Advent Lessons & Carols



**St. Michael's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.stmichaelschurch.org](http://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 seems 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**

If you wish make a one-time or recurring donation to St. Michael's, scan the QR code, or visit [stmichaelschurch.org/give](http://stmichaelschurch.org/give). Thank you for your generosity!

### **Service Notes**

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

"Hymnal" refers to the blue Hymnal 1982 located throughout the Nave.

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

### **About our Guest Musicians: "Sacred & Secular"**

St. Michael's is thrilled to welcome our guest musicians this morning! Sacred & Secular is a multi-faith musical collective, celebrating their tenth anniversary this year. The group provides music for worship every second and fourth Sundays at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Excelsior Springs, and is now visiting St. Michael's for the second time, for our special Advent Lessons & Carols service.

# Advent Lessons & Carols

**Prelude/Candle-Lighting** “*Let All Mortal Flesh / What Child is This / Away in a Manger*”

\* **Processional**

“*Prepare the Way O Zion*”

Hymnal # 65

Celebrant Blessed is the king who comes in the Name of the Lord.

**People Peace in heaven, and glory in all creation.**

Celebrant The Lord speaks the word of peace,

**People Peace for all faithful people,**

Celebrant And those who turn to God in their hearts

**People Shall see God’s glory dwell in our world.**

Celebrant Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.

**People Peace in heaven, and glory in all creation.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

\* **Collect of the Day**

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

Celebrant: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant Come, Lord Jesus, come.

**All Be our King of peace,**

**be our new Light in your new day,**

**be our Key of David, be our Root of Jesse,**

**be our Mighty Lord and Provider,**

**be our Wisdom, and be our Emmanuel. Come.**

**O King of peace, desire of nations, come save us, whom you formed out of the clay, and unite us as your people.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 7 & refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.7

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind / in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease, / and be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

**A Reading**

Psalm 10:1, 12, 14-15, 18-19

Why do you stand so far off, O Lord, and hide yourself in time of trouble?

Rise up, O Lord; lift up your hand, O God; do not forget the afflicted. Surely, you behold trouble and misery; you see it and take it into your own hand. The helpless commit themselves to you, for you are the helper of orphans.

The Lord will hear the desire of the humble; you will strengthen their heart and your ears shall hear; To give justice to the orphan and oppressed, so that mortals may strike terror no more.

\* **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

Hymnal # 76

Celebrant O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting,

**All            Come down on all who sit in darkness or who sit in the shadow of death.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 6 & refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.6

*O come thou Dayspring from on high, / and cheer us by thy drawing nigh  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, / and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

**A Reading**

Psalm 16:7-11

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand I shall not fall. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

\* **Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**

Hymnal # 67

Celebrant O Key of David, what you open no one can close,

**All and what you close, no one can open. Come rescue those whom this world has imprisoned and close forever the way of misery.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 5 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.5

*O come, thou Key of David, come, / and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, / and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

**A Reading**

Canticle 9 (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

\* **Surely It Is God Who Saves Me**

Hymnal # 679

Celebrant O Root of Jesse, on whom the Spirit of the Lord shall rest,

**All            Come be our defender as well as our judge, and bring to this world your  
                  new order.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 4 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.4

*O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, / free them from Satan's tyranny  
that trust thy mighty power to save, / and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

**A Reading**

Isaiah 11:1-6

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.

\* **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

Hymnal # 68

Celebrant O Mighty Lord and Provider, who satisfied Israel's needs,

**All            Come lead us, feed us and write your law on our hearts.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 3 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.3

*O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, / who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law, / in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

## **A Reading**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

## **Little Drummer Boy**

Instrumental

Celebrant O Holy Wisdom, continuing to form and nurture your creation,

**All            Come heal our blindness and teach us your compassion.**

## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 2 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.2

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, / who orderest all things mightily,  
to us the path of knowledge show, / and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

## **A Reading**

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## \* **Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Hymnal # 81

## \* **Holy Gospel**

Luke 3:1-6

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our LORD Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount



prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Reflection

The Rev. Ryan Wiksell

Celebrant O Emmanuel, our Lord and Savior,

**All Come ransom us, come rescue us and come redeem us, as only you can,  
for we have exiled ourselves from you.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*verse 1 and refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 v.1

*O come, O come, Emmanuel / and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here / until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

\* **Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Hymnal # 66

Celebrant Divided as we are in this world, we pray

**People Come be our King of peace.**

Celebrant Despairing of the darkness that surrounds us, we pray  
**People Come be our new Light in your new day.**

Celebrant Imprisoned in prisons we have built and maintained, we pray  
**People Come be our Key of David.**

Celebrant Having resisted rules that might restrict our self-gratification, we pray  
**People Come be our Root of Jesse.**

Celebrant Having mistaken our weakness for strength, we pray  
**People Come be our Mighty Lord and Provider.**

Celebrant Having blindly and heartlessly embraced foolishness, we pray  
**People Come be our Wisdom.**

Celebrant And because we need to see and to know that God is with us, we pray  
**People Come be our Emmanuel, our Lord and our Savior. Amen.**

\* **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** (*refrain*)

Hymnal # 56 refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel!*

Celebrant Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**People Peace in heaven, and glory in all creation.**

\* **The Peace**

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

## **Welcome & Announcements**

- Church Center App
- Vestry Openings
- Tue, Dec 24, 6 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

# The Holy Communion

Offertory

Instrumental

## \* The Presentation

*“Doxology”*

Hymnal # 43 v.4

1 2

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise  
 him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

*“Sursum Corda”* Hymnal # S-120

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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* *People*  
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [Preface for Advent] Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**People: 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:

\* Sanctus

“Holy Holy Holy Lord”

Hymnal # S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: 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,

**All: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, and Jacob, Rachel & 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.

**All: 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!*



## The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 364

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**All** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

BCP p. 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for us, 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.

\* **Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing**

BCP p. 365

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 Song**

*"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*

Hymnal # 58

\* **Dismissal**

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

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

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - e  
 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on hig  
 3. O come, O come, thou Lord of mig  
 4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tre  
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, cor  
 6. O come, thou Day - spring from on hig  
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bir

and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el  
 who or - derest all things might - i - ly,  
 who to thy tribes on Si - nai's heig  
 free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny  
 and o - pen wide our heaven - ly horr  
 and cheer us by thy draw - ing nig  
 in one the hearts of all man - kin

that mourns in lone path - ly ex - ile he  
 to us the the path of know - ledge he  
 in an - cient times didst give the sh  
 that trust thy might - y power to sa  
 make safe the way that leads on hi  
 dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of nig  
 bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cea

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and teach us in her ways to go.  
 in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe. Re - joice! Re - jc  
 and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 and death's dark shad - ow put flight.  
 and be thy - self our King of Peace.

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