

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

400 River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.
Please speak the responses **gently**. It is recommended that masks are worn during worship.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

GREETING

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:

To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

GATHERING SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

*1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

*3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain*

OPENING DIALOGUE

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

God has not forgotten to love us all! Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Make a joyful noise! Break forth in song! With strings and horns,

sing praise to the Holy One!

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

With all the land and everything in it!

The floods clap their hands. The hills sing for joy.

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

Justice for everyone, everything fair.

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please Sit

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

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

PSALM 147:12–20

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;

they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Pastor sings

*O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.*

*Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No 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, O Christ.**

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime

ELW 284

*1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:*

Refrain

Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!

*3 The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness especially.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith especially.... With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING

We give in grateful response for all God's gifts; God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*We offer the convenience of **secure online giving** through [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly). Please see the back page for more information about online giving. Offering plates are currently located at each entrance/exit for your convenience. If you need an envelope, please ask an usher.*

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus, so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The Pastor will instruct the congregation when to take communion from their pew. Wine, juice, and gluten-free wafers are labeled and available at each entrance on the first Sunday each month. Holy Communion is offered to all who believe in Jesus Christ, who confess their sins, and seek forgiveness. Please contact the pastor for home communion.

COMMUNION SONG *Sung by Pastor*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending comes full homage to demand.*

Please Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self

with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Love Has Come

ELW 292

- 1 *Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*
- 2 *Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*
- 3 *Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

LECTOR: Bo Harris

USHERS: Paul (team leader) & Judith Nevergoll, Gerry Goegeline, Bo Harris

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Doris Snyder and in honor of Mickey Lindler for their shared January 5th birthday by Carl Lindler.

FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2021 is in the flower notebook. Also, don't forget to grab your *2021 offering envelopes!*

PLEASE ASK AN USHER if you need assistance or have a question before worship. Extra bulletins, offering envelopes, etc. are available if needed. They are not in the pews due to COVID.

HOLY COMMUNION takes place on the *first* Sunday of the month due to ongoing COVID precautions. You may select an individual, pre-filled wine, juice, or gluten-free wafer set at the entrance, which you may keep with you until communion. The pastor will direct the congregation when to partake from the pews or at home.

- **QUIET COMMUNION** takes place *immediately following* worship in the transept on all other Sundays for those who wish to stay. You may also stay in your pew. Please remember to maintain physical distance.
- We will continue streaming so those at home can join us.
- Please remember to deposit empty cups, seals, and bulletins in the blue recycle bins as you exit.
- **HOME COMMUNION** available through Pastor Frank or the office. Each cup is individually sealed and contains a wafer and juice or wine serving. We can put together several servings in a sealed plastic bag and deliver curbside if you call in advance!
- For those who wish to commune, please take your preferred communion cup from the trays near the front. Pastor Frank will direct us when to partake.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT MICHAEL

TODAY, January 3

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School—FH

Worship with Holy Communion; Also Streaming Online

Monday, January 4

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 5

12:00 noon AA Meeting—FH

Wednesday, January 6

Bible Study Resumes! All are welcome!

Thursday, January 7

12:00 noon AA Meeting—FH

Next Sunday, January 10

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Baptism of our Lord

Sunday School—FH

Worship—Also Streaming Online



*Every Monday and Friday, expect a call from Pastor Frank at 4:55 p.m.
#KeepingUsConnected*

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND* OR ILL

Bill Adams

Roy Adams

Dot Black

*Helen Derrick

Barbara DeVore

*Virgie Dreher

Marcie Frick

June Fulmer

Whitney, Ron & Ari Goodson

John Kreykenbohm



Jill Lee

Mickey Lindler

Aaron Martin

Caroline McCauley

Scott McCauley

Gayle Michelsen

Sandra Michelsen

Linda Miller

Susan Norcutt

*Billie Schnabel



Larry Slice

*Olene Sons

Richard Starnes

Ed Thomas

Dean Whitecotton

Bruce William

David Wilson

Crystal Wood

FOR A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE

MEMBERS & FAMILIES OF THE US ARMED FORCES & MILITARY, INCLUDING:



Tyler Alexander, grandson of Sherri Spangler, USMC

Samantha Davis, niece of Gene & Diana Riley, US Army

Grant Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, SC National Guard

Victor Frick, grandson of Ted & Linda Frick, US Army

Phil Lake, husband of Bridgett (Sloan) Lake, US Naval Reserve

George McArthur, son of Judith Tolhurst, USMC In Japan

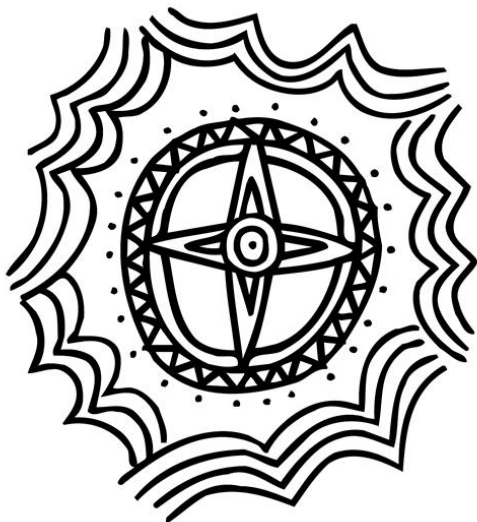
Griffin Mcleod, son of Amanda Mcleod, SC National Guard

Brian Pipkin, son-in-law of Louie & Imogene Conder, SC Natl. Guard

William Woodruff, son of Jeff And Libby Woodruff, US Army

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



If you are a guest, welcome! Please ask an usher for a blue Connections Card and drop in the offering plate so that we can get to know you better. As you leave today, be sure to introduce yourself to the pastor. If you would like to learn about membership or have other questions, please call the church office. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Tithe.ly online giving available in the app store or www.tithe.ly/give. Set up a secure profile, search "St. Michael Lutheran" and click on our church. One-time or recurring gifts can be scheduled, eliminating the need for carrying cash or check writing. The process is quick, safe, and funds are deposited

immediately. Personal information is secure, and you can change your giving profile at any time. Designations for memorial or special gifts are available. An instant receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

Restrooms are located in both the Administrative and Christian Education Buildings.

Children are always welcome in our worship service, but for those who desire it, a nursery is located in the Administrative Building with the service available via audio.

Large Print bulletins available from an usher

The People of Saint Michael, Ministers

The Reverend Frank W. Anderson, Pastor

Kris Esgar, Parish Administrator

StMichael1814@gmail.com www.stmichael1814.com 803-781-0229 (office)

WiFi: *StMichaels_Guest* PW: *Sunday!!*