

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

7:00 pm

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

PRELUDE

Guitar Reflections on Christmas Carols & Songs

Richard Thomas
Henry McLeod

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

Joy to the World

ELW 267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

*Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.*

*repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
*Let all their songs employ, while fields
and floods, rocks, hills, and plains*

**4 He rules the world with truth and
grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

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. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
6For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

SONG

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

*1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!*

*2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds
keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!*

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

*1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."*

*Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Please Stand

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, go tell it on the mountain
over the hills and ev'rywhere; that Jesus Christ is born!*

*1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain*

GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told

them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SONG

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain*

Please Sit

MESSAGE

Pastor Frank W. Anderson

THANKSGIVING

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

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Cello Reflections on Christmas Carols and Songs

Austin Thomas

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

What Child is This

ELW 296

*1 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!*

*3 So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own
him. The King of kings salvation
brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!*

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

**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**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

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.

The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

*1 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.*

*2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!*

***3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.***

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;

twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

SENDING SONG

Away In A Manger

ELW 277

***1 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.***

***2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.***

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

BLESSING

Let us pray. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Interim Musician: Harold “Hoss” Jefferies

Lector: Bo Harris

Ushers: Paul Nevergoll, Gerry Goegeline,
Bo Harris



✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝

POINSETTIAS may be taken home after the service for those who purchased a plant. Please see the complete list of those honored, remembered, and lifted up tonight and always. There are a few insert-style lists in the narthex for anyone that would like one to preserve or to send to a loved one.

SUNDAY, January 2nd – Please join us for Lessons and Carols led by Interim Cantor Harold Jefferies. Worship begins at 10:30 am. This will also be Harold’s final worship as our music leader.

*Thank
you*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to our musicians: Austin and Richard Thomas, Henry McLeod, and especially Harold Jefferies, for sharing their musical talents and gifts with us tonight.

FROM PASTOR FRANK & KRIS

A very special thank you to all who remembered us this Christmas season with gifts, cards, and special recognitions. We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation. Merry Christmas!

*The Poinsettias
Gracing the Chancel
Are Given by*



Bob, Rita, & Jennifer Anderson in loving memory of
Bror & Eileen Anderson and Alfred & Marina Monsalvatge

Pastors Frank W. & Mary Anderson in loving memory of
our parents, Dorothy Shuler & Emory Williams
and Harriet & Merl "Andy" Anderson

Pastors Frank W. & Mary Anderson in honor of
Colleen, Shannon & Savannah Dishman and Elise Anderson & Adam Brock

Carolyn Cook to the Glory of God
and in honor of my family

Kris Esgar to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of my grandparents and in honor of my church family

Ted & Linda Frick in loving memory of our parents,
Dan & Thelma Frick and Ed & Edna Day

Edward Fulmer in loving memory of
Marjorie Fulmer

Edward Fulmer in honor of
Glynn & Sandra Fulmer, Pattie Fulmer, and Beth & Keith Wolfe

Pattie Fulmer & Beth Wolfe in honor of
our father, Edward Fulmer

*The Poinsettias
Gracing the Chancel
Are Given by*



Myrna & Gerry Goegeline in loving memory of our parents & grandparents

Myrna & Gerry Goegeline in honor of our family

Alice L. King & family in loving memory of
Gary D. King, Mr. and Mrs. Cicero J. King, Larry D. King,
Frank Griffin, Gregory M. Rawson, Mr. and Mrs. Alpheus K. Lain,
Raymond L. Lain, Melanie C. Lain, and Danna Lain

Mitzi McTeer in loving memory of
Henry McTeer and my mother, Leona Williams

The Millers and the Jordans in loving memory of Nana & D-dad

The Millers in loving memory of Nannie & Papa

Larry Slice in loving memory of
my parents, Roscoe & Ludell Slice,
and my step-grandson William Tedder Russell
and in honor of my daughters, Amelea and Sara, and step-daughter Angela

In gratitude for the wonderful gift of music and ministry
provided by our Interim Cantor Harold "Hoss" Jefferies

In gratitude to the people of Saint Michael
and their faithfulness to God's mission and ministry

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 instantaneous receipt is sent via email or text for your tax records, too.

Restrooms 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

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