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**The Cathedral Church of**

**St. Michael and All Angels**

*St. Michael’s Row, Bridgetown, Barbados*

[](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=1h4YqaUO&id=0C26B9F5C232B353490DF21882BB83013C1AA0C2&thid=OIP.1h4YqaUO4JAaKXMSBtVctAEXDf&mediaurl=http://openwalls.com/image/16111/blue_dove_1280x1024.jpg&exph=1024&expw=1280&q=free+images+of+blue+doves&simid=608045174931784094&selectedIndex=1&qpvt=free+images+of+blue+doves)[](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=1h4YqaUO&id=0C26B9F5C232B353490DF21882BB83013C1AA0C2&thid=OIP.1h4YqaUO4JAaKXMSBtVctAEXDf&mediaurl=http://openwalls.com/image/16111/blue_dove_1280x1024.jpg&exph=1024&expw=1280&q=free+images+of+blue+doves&simid=608045174931784094&selectedIndex=1&qpvt=free+images+of+blue+doves)

**A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 17th, 2017**

**at 5:00 P.M.**

**Diocesan Bishop**

The Most Rev’d & Dr. The Hon. John W. D. Holder, CBE, LLD

**Dean:** The Very Rev’d Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson

**Assist. Priests:** The Rev’d Canon George Knight, B.Min

The Rev’d Dr. Marcus Lashley

**Assist. Curate:** The Rev’d Richard Kellman, LTh.

**Administrative Assistant**: Ms. Armel Marshall,

B.Sc.; Cert SM; Cert HRM

**Organist/Choir Master**: Mr. John Bryan, BSc., BMus.

**Organist**: Mr. Eric Cobham

**Verger:** Mrs. Chloe Grant

**Assistant Verger:** Ms. Harriet Lowe

**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**President: The Very Rev’d Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson**

**Entrance in Silence**

The Greeting

Priest:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

***Words of Welcome***

**Hymn 34**

**“Come, thou long-expected Jesus,”**

***Lighting of the Advent Candles***

*(Each response is followed by a period of silence for personal remembrance and prayer)*

 Priest:

We light this first candle, the candle of **HOPE,** recalling the pain of loss; the loss of jobs, the loss of health; the loss of relationships. We pause to gather up the pain of the past and offer it to God. As we light this candle, may it remind us of the hope that light brings into darkness and the Christian hope of the resurrection to eternal life. The psalmist says **“*O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.”*** As we think of this blessed hope, may we each strive to carry the light of Christ into the world through our daily lives.

***People:***

**As that same hope burns within us, may our loving God refresh, restore, renew us, and lead us into your future*.***

*Silence*

Priest:

We light this second candle, the candle of **PEACE**, as we remember those whom we have loved and lost. We remember their names, their faces, their voices, the memories that bind them to us in this season. Lord, they are now at peace with you. The light of this candle reminds us of our Lord’s promise of the gift of peace to His disciples. *"****Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*** (John 14:27). May his promise to them be ours as well.

**People:**

**May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence*

Priest: We light this third candle, the candle of **JOY**, as we remember ourselves and our sorrow in this season of joy. We recall these past weeks and months; the disbelief, the anger, the sadness, and give thanks to God for the support of family and friends and all who have stood with us. This candle reminds us of the joy of which the prophet Isaiah spoke to a people in despair. **"Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”** (Isaiah 65:18).

**People:**

**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.**

*Silence*

Priest:

We light this fourth candle, the candle of **LOVE,** to remember the love we shared with our loved ones and our faith and the gift of love which the Christmas story offers to us in Jesus. We remember that God, who shares our life, promises to love us always, for he is our loving Shepherd in whom we shall never lack anything.

**People: He says to us that he will never leave us nor forsake us.**

*Silence*

Priest:

We now light our last candle, the **CHRIST CANDLE**, to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement. Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

***The Collect***

Priest:

God our Comforter, in this Holy Season we are invited to receive good news of joy because people who once walked in darkness have seen a great light. May we who have suffered loss in our lives once again experience joy and see your light. May the light that is the Holy Child of Bethlehem illumine our hearts; through him who is Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen**

*(Lighting of the Christ Candle)*

**The Ministry of the Word**

Old Testament: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

*Lector:* ***Mr. Donald Leacock***

*Psalm 146:5-10*

*“Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;”*

*New Testament Lesson: James 5:7-12*

*Lector:* ***Mrs. Juno Burrows***

**Gradual Hymn 46**

**“Lo, he comes with clouds descending”**

The Gospel: *Luke 1:26-38*

*The Gospeller:* ***The Rev’d Richard Kellman***

**A Reflection: The Rev’d Dr. Marcus Lashley**

*Silence*

**Litany of Remembrance and Hope**

Litanist: **Mrs. Judy King**

Leader:

In the spirit of this season we approach the God of all hope and grace praying. “Hear our prayer.”

Leader:

For the peace proclaimed by the Christmas Angels, to come throughout the whole world; God of hope.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader:

For all in our world who know pain and loneliness as a constant companion, and for those who live without hope, that they may hear and receive the glad tidings of your love for them; God of hope.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader:

For our family and friends, and all who share our pain and grief, that they may know your peace and love; God of hope.

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader:

For ourselves, that we do not try to minimize our loss during this time but that in our vulnerability we might meet you, who came to us as a vulnerable child; God of hope.

**People: Hear our prayer**

Leader:

For things done and left undone, that we might be forgiven and restored; God of hope,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader:

For every loss and grief we bear; for those we love but see no longer, that nothing good in their lives would be lost but will be of much value to the world; God of hope,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

In silence or out loud we remember our loved ones who have gone before us.

Leader:

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord’

**People: And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader:

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Act of Penitence

Form “**B**” Page 123 ff

The Greeting of Peace

Form “**C**”, Page 125

**Hymn of Fellowship:** “Let there be love shared among us”

**Mission Praise Hymn 411**

**Let there be love shared among us   
Let there be love in our eyes   
May now your love sweep this nation   
Cause us O Lord to arise   
Give us a fresh understanding**

**Of neighbourly love that is real   
Let there be love shared among us   
Let there be love**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**TRIMMING THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

**(A Tree of Hope)**

*As the altar is being set, we invite you to come forward to hang a white dove on the Christmas tree in memory of those you love but see no longer.*

*Song:* ***I’ll have a blue Christmas***

*Organ Interlude:*

 Hymn: 82 “O little town of Bethlehem,”

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

Presentation of the Offerings Page 126

Eucharistic Prayer Page 126

Proper Preface “Advent” Page 127

The Great Thanksgiving “C” Page 137

The Lord’s Prayer Page 144

The Breaking of the Bread Page 145

The Communion

The Invitation Form “C” Page 146

The Agnus Dei Page 147

*Instrumental music during Communion:*

*Hymn:****599 “Jesu, gentlest Saviour,”***

Post Communion Prayer “C” Page 148

The Blessing “Advent” Page 149

**Recessional Hymn 750**

**“Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!”**

The Dismissal

 Organ Postlude:

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**OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Church Wardens:**

Mr. Arlington Watson Mr. Darnley King

**Secretary:** Ms. Donnah Russell

**Treasurer:** Mr. Ian Weekes

**Synod Representatives**

Mr. Trevor King

Mr. Samuel Maxwell

Dr. Wendy Sealy

**Alternative Synod Representative**

Ms. Donna Inniss

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**LEADERS OF ORGANISATIONS**

**AND MINISTRIES**

**Men’s Fellowship:** Mr. John Moore

**Mothers’ Union:** Mrs. Colleen Byer

**Church Army:** Captain Evelyn Jackman

**Woman’s Auxiliary:** Ms. Shirley Clarke

**Ushers Guild:** Mrs. Juno Burrows

**Outreach Committee:** Mrs. Delores Hinds

**Guild of Servers:** Major Charleston Maxwell

and Mr. Jerry Alleyne

**Health Ministry:** Dr. Wendy Sealy

**Sunday School:** Mrs. Harriett Blackman

**Flower Guild:** Mrs. Anita Yarde

**Guild of St. Raphael:** Mr. Darwin Clarke

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**Looking Ahead! Advent/Christmas 2017**

**December 21st**

**8:00 P.M.** A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Tickets are availableat $30.00 each)

**December 24thChristmas Eve**

7:15 A.M. Holy Eucharist 9:00 A.M. Sung Eucharist/Christingle Celebration 11:30 P.M. Vigil and Sung Eucharist

**Christingle Service:** A **Christingle** is a symbolic object used in the Advent services of many Christian denominations. **Christingle** means 'Christ Light' and is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World". Used primarily for Advent and Christmas, it is also used for Epiphany. The Cathedral will celebrate Christingle during the 9 o’clock service next Sunday; children are asked to bring a monetary donation for the children of Dominica.

**December 25th Christmas Day**

7:00 A.M Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M Sung Eucharist

11:00 A.M Choral Matins

**December 31stThe First Sunday after Christmas Day**

7:00 A.M Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M Sung Eucharist

11:00 P.M. Watch Night Service

A Blessed and Happy Christmas to All

**CONTACT US**

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