



**The Cathedral Church of  
St. Michael and All Angels**

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



***A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE***

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
at 6:00 P.M.**

***Diocesan Bishop***

**The Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. J. Maxwell, M.A.**

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

**Precentor:** The Rev'd Canon George Knight, B. Min

**Assistant Priest:** The Rev'd Dr. Marcus Lashley

**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Armel Marshall,  
B.Sc.; Cert SM; Cert HRM

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

**Organist:** Mr. Eric Cobham, B.Sc., B. Mus.

**Verger:** Mrs. Chloe Grant

**Assistant Verger:** Ms. Harriet Lowe

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Emergency Management (COVID-19) Churches (No. 3) Directive, 2020**

The following protocols will be enforced: Temperature Checks upon arrival; Wearing of Masks, Designated Seating; the Use of an Offering Box; Physical Distancing- Three (3) feet apart; No physical exchange of the Greeting of Peace; and Sanitization of Hands before entering the Cathedral and before Communion.

## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **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 ~ 38** *“Comfort, comfort, o my people,”*

Comfort, comfort O my people,  
speak of peace, now says our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness,  
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load;  
Speak unto Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them;  
tell of all the sins I cover,  
and that warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one who's crying  
in the desert far and near,

bidding all to full repentance,  
since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him,  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

O make straight what long was crooked,  
make the rougher places plain:  
let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that his word is never broken.

*Words: Johannes G. Oleorius (1611-1684),  
based on Isaiah 40: 1-8, from Tröstet, tröstet, meine Lieben,  
German; translation: Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

### ***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."*** (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 Reading: “Comfort to the People” Isaiah 40:1-5

**Lector: Mr. Edwin Pollard**

READER: A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Isaiah, chapter forty, beginning at the first verse.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

READER: *The Word of the Lord*

**ALL: *Thanks be to God.***

*Psalm ~ 121 “I lift up eyes to the hills;”*

*Levavi oculos*



*READER: A Reading from the word of God, written in First Letter of Peter, chapter one, beginning at the third verse.*

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,<sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,<sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*READER: The Word of the Lord*

*ALL: Thanks be to God.*

**Gradual Hymn ~ 478** “The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;”

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.



Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear no ill:  
for thou art with me, and thy rod  
and staff my comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd  
in presence of my foes;  
my head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house for evermore  
my dwelling-place shall be.

*Words: Scottish Psalter, 1650*

The Holy Gospel: "Blessedness to Mourners" Matthew 5: 3-12a

READER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GOSPELLER: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according  
to Matthew, written in the fifth chapter, beginning at the third verse.

ALL: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for  
they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**GOSPELLER:** This is the Gospel of Christ.

**ALL:** **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## **A Reflection**

*Silence*

## **LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE**

**LITANIST: The Rev'd Jilian Crawford**

**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

## **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: "**Blue Christmas**"

*Organ Interlude*

Hymn ~ 507 "Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown"

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown  
when thou camest to earth for me;  
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
for thy holy Nativity:

***Refrain:***

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;  
there is room in my heart for thee.*  
Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
proclaiming thy royal degree;  
but in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
and in great humility:

***Refrain***

The foxes found rest, and the bird had its nest  
in the shade of the cedar tree;  
but thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,  
in the desert of Galilee:

***Refrain***

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
that should set thy people free;  
but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn  
they bore thee to Calvary:

***Refrain***

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,  
at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying, 'Yet there is room,  
there is room at my side for thee:'

***Refrain***

*Words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliot (1836-1897)*

**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:*

<i>The Post Communion Prayer “C”</i>	Page 148
<i>The Blessing “Advent”</i>	Page 149

**Recessional Hymn ~ 34 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus,”**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;  
born a Child and yet a King;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

The Dismissal

Organ Postlude:

## OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

### Church Warden Emeritus

Mr. Arlington Watson, BSM, J.P.

### Church Wardens:

Mr. Samuel Maxwell Mr. Victor Sylvester

**Secretary:** Ms. Donnah Russell

**Treasurer:** Mr. David Murray

Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Harriet Clarke

### Synod Representatives

Mr. Trevor King

Mr. Samuel Maxwell

Dr. Wendy Sealy

### Alternative Synod Representative

Ms. Donna Inniss



## LEADERS OF ORGANISATIONS AND MINISTRIES

<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Mr. John Moore
<b>Mothers' Union:</b>	Mrs. Colleen Byer
<b>Church Army:</b>	Captain Donnah Russell
<b>Woman's Auxiliary:</b>	<b>(Vacant)</b>
<b>Ushers' Guild:</b>	Mrs. Juno Burrows
<b>Outreach Committee:</b>	Mrs. Delores Hinds
<b>Guild of Servers:</b>	Major Charleston Maxwell and Mr. Jerry Alleyne
<b>Health Ministry:</b>	Dr. Wendy Sealy
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Mrs. Harriett Blackman
<b>Flower Guild:</b>	<b>(Vacant)</b>
<b>Guild of St. Raphael:</b>	Mr. Darwin Clarke



## Looking Ahead! Christmas 2020

Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

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



**Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

11:30 P.M. Vigil and Sung Eucharist

**Christmas Day, Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

7:00 A.M.~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M.~ Sung Eucharist

**December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 The First Sunday After Christmas Day**

7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. Sung Eucharist

**Thursday, December 31st, 2020**

11:00 p.m. Watchnight Service



## **CONTACT US**

**<http://www.saintmichaelscathedral.bb>**  
**[stmichaelcathedral@caribsurf.com](mailto:stmichaelcathedral@caribsurf.com)**  
**[Facebook.com/saintmichaelscathedral](https://www.facebook.com/saintmichaelscathedral)**

Address:

St. Michael's Row, Bridgetown  
Telephone: 1 (246) 427-0790 (Office)  
Mon – Friday: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
437-4265 (Dean's Residence)

