



Christmas

CELEBRATION

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.
LUKE 2:14

The Cathedral Church of Saint Michael And All Angels

Diocesan Bishop

The Right 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

Organist/Choirmaster

Mr. John F. Bryan, B.Sc., BMus.

Organist

Mr. Eric Cobham, B.Sc., B. Mus.

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Armel Marshall, B.Sc.: Cert SM: Cert HRM

Vergers

Mrs. Chloe Grant

Assistant Vergers

Ms. Harriet Lowe

December 25th, 2020

Service: 7:00 A.M.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
CHRISTMAS DAY

YEAR B

7:00 A.M. ~ HOLY EUCHARIST

President & Preacher: The Rev'd Dr. Marcus Lashley

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

Introit Hymn ~ 73 *“Joy to the world! The Lord is come;”*

Opening Sentence **“Christmas”** Page 97

The Invocation Page 101

The Collect for Purity Page 101

The Kyrie Page 102

The Gloria In Excelsis Page 102

The Collect: **“Christmas Day”** Page 158

O God, you make us glad with by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:6-12

Lector: **Ms. June Stuart**

Psalm 97 Page 595

“The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice;”

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4-7

Lector: **Mrs. Zida Hunte**

The Gradual Hymn ~ 91

“While shepherds watched their flocks by night,”

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Gospeller: **The Rev'd Dr. Marcus Lashley**

The Sermon: The Rev'd Dr. Marcus Lashley

The Nicene Creed Page 104

Intercession “**B**” Page 107

Intercessor: Mrs. Shernelle Nelson

The Act of Penitence Page 123

The Greeting of Peace “**A**” Page 124



The Vicar-General's Christmas Message 2020

The link to the video clip of the Christmas message

- <https://vimeo.com/493938106/1f349db653>

Welcome, Remarks, Birthdays and Anniversaries

THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn ~ 83 vs 1, 2, 3, 5 & 8

“Of the Father's love begotten”

The Offertory Prayer Page 126

The Eucharistic Prayer Page 126

The Proper Preface “**Christmas**” Page 127

The Great Thanksgiving: “**A**” Page 131

The Lord's Prayer Page 144

The Breaking of The Bread “**A**” Page 145

The Invitation to Communion “**A**” Page 145

The Agnus Dei Page 147

The Administration of Communion

Hymns ~ 665 *“Once in royal David’s city”*

The Post Communion Prayer “A”

Page 147

The Blessing **“Christmas”**

Page 149

The Recessional Hymn ~ 68 *“Hark! The herald-angels sing”*

The Dismissal

Organ Postlude:

WELCOME AND MAY THE LORD BLESS US ALL



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Comment: *“God comes to restore the people”*

The Hebrew Bible lesson is an expression of great expectation and rejoicing: **Salvation comes to Jerusalem.** The prophet pictures watchmen on the walls of the city calling upon the Lord. Then the people stream forward to hear the Lord’s proclamation. They will now be named the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord, those who are Sought Out, a City Not Forsaken.

Psalm 97

A hymn to the awesome Lord and Ruler who brings the fire of judgement and light for the righteous.

Second Lesson: (The Epistle) Titus 3:4-7

Comment: *“Saved through water and the Spirit”*

This New Testament reading is a **summary of the story of our salvation.** Not by our deeds, but through God’s goodness and mercy do we experience the water of rebirth and renewal in the

Holy Spirit. We are now heirs in hope of eternal life.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Comment: *“The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds.”*

Our gospel tells how **the shepherds, after the angelic vision which announced Jesus’ birth, come to Bethlehem to see for themselves the promised child.** They share with Mary and Joseph the words of the angels. In this little baby, laid in a manger, they perceived the fulfilment of the songs of the heavenly host. Glorifying and praising God, they return to their fields.

DIOCESAN SYNOD OF BARBADOS

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Christmas Message

The Very Rev'd Dr Jeffrey D. Gibson
Vicar-General, Anglican Diocese of Barbados
Dean of the Cathedral Church of St Michael and All Angels

My Anglican Christian brothers and sisters, as the angels joyfully greeted the shepherds on that first Christmas more than 2,000 years ago, I similarly greet you on this glorious Christmas of 2020 with great news.

As told in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verse 10, the angels said to the shepherds: “Don’t be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news

of great joy which will be to all the people.” Great news of comfort and joy. Great news of reassurance and hope during these challenging times. Great news that God remains fully with us; despite the emotional roller coaster of the harrowing year we’ve just gone through.

Christmas is a celebration of Emmanuel — God is with us. God leaving the heavenly realm of spirit, taking on human form in the person of Jesus the Christ, and taking up earthly residence among us to experience mortal life as we do.

Because we serve a God who understands the human condition, we can find joy and comfort in any situation knowing God fully understands and will meet our needs. However, we must learn, through faith, to trust Him to work His purpose out in our lives, even though we may not fully understand what is happening at times.

What a dramatic and eventful year 2020 has been for humanity! It was a year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic. In its rampage across the world, COVID-19 has left a trail of disruption, dislocation, devastation and death on a scale never seen before. Certainly not in my lifetime and yours.

As I speak, many countries are going through a deadlier second wave. Compared with the first wave, the big difference this time is the emergence of a ray of hope. The hope of a solution following the discovery of a promising vaccine which is currently being rolled out with others to follow. We pray for the success of these miracles of modern medicine so that humanity, at last, can start to emerge from the painful valley of the shadow of death.

Christmas 2020 comes against this backdrop, with the world in an expectant mood, even though there is a damper on the celebrations. When the Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea just over 2,000 years ago, a similar mood prevailed. Living under the dark oppression of Roman imperial domination, the people too were hoping for deliverance, just as we are in the case of COVID-19.

Luke knew of the prophecy of Isaiah, foretelling the coming of a great liberator -- a Messiah. It is alluded to in the annunciation scene, found in Chapter 1, verse 32, of Luke's Gospel. "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David."

The people, therefore, were eagerly awaiting his arrival. Also, many see in the reference to the infant Jesus as Saviour and Messiah, born in David's city (Bethlehem was the birthplace of David), another allusion to Isaiah's prophecy. The "God-Hero" had come. Isaiah, the Prophet of Hope in Troubled Times, proclaimed: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined". (Isaiah 9:2)

Through Jesus, the world made a transition from the darkness of despair to the great light of hope. Hope of salvation, reconciliation with God and eternal life. The Jesus of 2000 years ago, who performed this great act of deliverance, is the same today, tomorrow and forevermore. Because Jesus is part of the Godhead in unity with the Father and Holy Spirit, He does not change.

Therefore, no matter what kind of darkness we are experiencing in our lives, Jesus offers the light of hope for deliverance. Isn't that great news of comfort and joy amidst the gloom pervading this Christmas? Knowing that we serve a God who will never leave us nor forsake us.

It is only through faith, however, that we can have a true encounter with God and possess what sustained the people of old in the face of great difficulty. COVID-19 presented a severe test for our faith. Cut off from corporate worship for months because of public health restrictions, many Christians no doubt felt isolated and abandoned. In such circumstances, many sometimes cry out in despair: "Where is God?"

Even though God may have seemed distant, God, however, was with us and was working the Divine purpose out. Look at the remarkable

speed with which a promising vaccine was developed! That was not the result of humanity's ingenuity alone. If God, theologically speaking, is the source of all knowledge, then it stands to reason that any solution developed by humans to solve a problem is the product of divine insight.

Our increasingly secular and materialistic world tells us today there is no need for God. Indeed, many say God does not exist; that we should place our faith fully in science and technology. Yet, in times of trouble, to whom do we automatically cry out? "O God!" is our common cry. This innate tendency draws attention to a human characteristic which cannot be easily dismissed. The spontaneous cry of "O God" strongly suggests that we are somehow programmed to be innately connected with God.

Our fore-parents clearly understood this. They were a people of great faith. Often, they had little or nothing but they never complained like us who have so much. Neither did they give up. Sometimes, there would be no food in the house, no money to buy school clothes. Instead of fretting, Granny would calmly say with confidence, "The Lord will provide." And He always did, acting through human agency, and the evidence was there to see.

While COVID-19 has severely tested our faith, ironically, it also provides an opportunity for us to rediscover the faith of our fore-parents. That is my wish for you, fellow Anglicans, this Christmas. That, as a church, we become more grounded through faith so that we have the inner strength to confront and conquer whatever adversity comes our way.

A lot of people are hurting this Christmas. They may be without a job. They may have lost a loved one. They may not have food. They may be lonely. Reach out to them, in the true Christian spirit, and give them an experience of comfort and joy. Showing that you care will mean a lot and will make a really big difference. Jesus is saying to us: "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before

others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 14-16)

On behalf of Bishop Michael and his family, who remain in our prayers at this special time, I wish you and yours a blessed and safe Christmas. May you truly experience a rediscovery or a renewal of faith through an encounter with the Babe of Bethlehem, not only this Christmas but always!



Christmas Flowers: We thank all those persons who donated flowers to decorate the church at this Christmastide.



Household Worship: Members are encouraged to pray the office of Morning Prayer daily. The Daily Office can also serve as a personal or family discipline. The Daily Lectionary for the week of Christmas and Epiphany begins on Page 708, in the Book of Common Prayer. Note further that this year is Year 1, and the readings for Monday, Christmas, December 28th, 2020 are Isaiah 26:1-9, Psalm 26, and Matthew 2:13-18.

Stewardship of Treasure: During the period of lockdown, members were unable to make their regular financial contributions to the church in the usual manner. However, several persons made use of the options which were provided, and we are grateful for their contributions. For the convenience of all, online payments may be made to the St. Michael’s Cathedral, CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Bridgetown Branch, Account # 27193-02; Transit # 09606.

FLORAL TRIBUTES: The Officers and members of the Flower Guild wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all persons who made contributions to the flowers this Christmastide.

- Mrs. Shirley Hurley
- Mrs. Jeanette Rollock on her birthday.
- Mr. Adrien Jones and Mrs. Beverley Jones on behalf of Ida Maloney, David Waithe and Owen Miller.
- Mrs. Margaret Watson for her husband Mr. Arlington Watson's birthday and in loving remembrance of her parents and brother.
- Mrs. Joyanne Blackman-Jarvis on behalf of her parents Keith and Carmen Blackman and mother-in-law, Mrs. Cynthia Ruth Jarvis.
- The Collins family in celebration of their birthdays.



CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES

**Today, the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
CHRISTMAS DAY**

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

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

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

Preacher: **The Rev'd Canon George Knight**

**Sunday, December 27th, The First Sunday after
Christmas Day**

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Choral Matins & The Administration of
Communion

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

Wednesday, December 30th, 2020

10:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

Preacher: The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson

Thursday, December 31st, 2020

11:00 P.M. ~ Watch Night Service

Looking Ahead!

Sunday, January 3rd, 2021

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist



Tuesday, January 5th, 2021,

**12:30 P.M. ~ The City Outreach,
sponsored by The St. Michael Centre
for Faith and Action (SMCFA)**



Congratulations to all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week:

Ms. Tricia Collins ~ 27th

Mr. Wilbur Belle ~ 31st

Mr. Micah G. Quintyne ~ 31st

Mrs. Jeanette Rollock ~ 31st



May God bless and strengthen you.



Please remember the sick or injured of our Parish and wider community, especially Mrs. Colleen Byer, Ms. Eudora Cooper, Mr. John Clarke (the Caterer), Ms. Alice P. Hall, Mr. Frank Harris, Mr. Jonathan Holder, (N.Y), Ms. Dawn Holder-Maxwell, Ms. Selina Jones, Mrs. Vida King, Mr. Blair Murray, Mr. Adrian Price, Mrs. Jeanette Rollock, Ms. Phyllis Springer, and Ms. Winifred Trotman.

I pray to the Almighty
to bring you healing
and a speedy
recovery...

**Get Well
Soon...**



Bereavement: Sincere condolences to the families of the late Mrs. Thora **Theresa** Clarke, (mother of Ms. Harriet Clarke), Ms. Andrea Holder (daughter of Ms. Olga E. Marshall) who died in N.Y., Mr. Edgar Nesfield (brother of Mrs. Margaret Watson (Chorister) and brother-in-law of Mr. Arlington Watson) who died in the U.K., and Ms. Colleen Thompson.

May you know the blessedness of those who mourn.

THEME FOR THIS SERVICE

“Undeserved grace”



DIOCESAN NEWS

Diocesan Calendars: The 2021 Diocesan Calendars are available through the office of the Administrative Assistant, at the price of \$6.00 each.

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

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Juno Burrows

Treasurer: Mr. David Murray

Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Harriet Clarke

Synod Representatives

Mr. Trevor King;

Mr. Samuel Maxwell, J. P.

Dr. Wendy Sealy

Alternative Synod Representative

Ms. Donna Inniss



LEADERS OF ORGANISATIONS AND MINISTRIES

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

SERMON NOTES

Sermon Text:

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Topic:

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Preacher:

Points to Ponder:

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What was God saying specifically to me during the Sermon?

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