

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

St. Michael's Row, Bridgetown, Barbados



A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**Sunday, December 5th, 2021
at 5:00 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 Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn, B.Sc,
B.A.**

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. 22) Directive, 2021

The following protocols will be enforced: Attendance is limited to a maximum of one hundred and thirty-five (135) persons, (Nave 83; Balcony 27; Sanctuary/Chancel 16; and Lady Chapel 9); Temperature checks upon arrival and signing of the Register; Wearing of Masks above the Nose and under the Chin; Designated Seating; the Use of an Offering Box; Physical Distancing- Six (6) feet apart; No physical exchange of the Greeting of Peace; Sanitization of Hands before entering the Cathedral and before Communion.

The cooperation of everyone is required

**A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
President and Preacher:
The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson**

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 ~ 236

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

Refrain

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die – I scarce can take it in:
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain

Words: Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859-1940), from O Store Gud, Swedish;

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Lighters of the Candles:

1. Hope~ Mrs. Sandra Mahon
2. Peace ~ Mrs. Juno Burrows
3. Joy ~ Mr. Darnley King
4. Love ~ Mrs. Betty Mason
5. The Christ Candle ~ The Dean

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

Priest: The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

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

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: "God's People are Comforted"

Isaiah 40:1-5

Lector: Mrs. Carol Vaughan

READER:

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

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² 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. ³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ 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.
5 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 ~ 139:1-11

Page 654

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit?
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,

11 Darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day;
 darkness and light to you are both alike.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now,
 and shall be for ever. Amen

New Testament Lesson: “A Living Hope” Peter 1:3-9

Lector: Mrs. Betty Grandison

READER:

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the First Epistle of Peter, the first chapter, beginning at the third verse.

³Blessed 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the

salvation of your souls.

READER: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual **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 Holy Gospel: “The Beatitudes” Matthew 5:1-12

READER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GOSPELLER: The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

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

ALL: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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.

¹² 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 S. 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.

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| 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)

The Blessing of the Doves

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.

Organ Interlude

Soloist: (to be announced)

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

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| 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 | |

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| The Invitation Form “ C ” | Page 146 |
| The Agnus Dei | Page 147 |
| Instrumental music during Communion: | |
| The Post Communion Prayer “ C ” | Page 148 |
| The Blessing “ Advent ” | Page 149 |

The Recessional **Hymn ~ 462**

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
 God will take care of you;
 beneath his wings of love abide,
 God will take care of you.

Refrain:

*God will take care of you,
 through every day, o'er all the way;
 he will take care of you,
 God will take care of you.*

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
 God will take care of you;
 when dangers fierce your path assail,
 God will take care of you.

Refrain

All you may need he will provide,
 God will take care of you;
 nothing you ask will be denied,
 God will take care of you.

Refrain

No matter what may be the test,
 God will take care of you;

lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you.

Refrain

Words: Civilla Durfee Martin (1869-1948)

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

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Juno Burrows

Treasurer: Mr. David Murray

Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Harriett Clarke

Synod Representatives

Mr. Darwin Clarke

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 |

Looking Ahead! Christmas 2021



Saturday, December 25th, 2021

Christmas Day

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

**4:00 P.M. ~ A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
(To be broadcast)**

December 26th, 2021

The First Sunday After Christmas Day

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

Friday, December 31st, 2021

P.M.~ A New Year's Eve Service (To be announced)



CONTACT US

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