



St. Michael's Cathedral

Services

for

The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th, 2021

9:00 A.M.

**The Cathedral Church of Saint Michael and
All Angels
The Diocese of Barbados**

Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. John. 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/Choirmaster

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

Organist

Mr. Eric Cobham, B.Sc., BMus

Vergers

Mrs. Chloe Grant

Assistant Vergers

Ms. Harriet Lowe



The Nativity of Our Lord: YEAR C–
CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

The Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. J. Maxwell

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dr. Sherlock Bradshaw



AND MAY THE LORD BLESS US ALL

ANNOUNCEMENT

Emergency Management (COVID-19) Churches (No. 24) 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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

The Opening **Hymn ~ 61 (vs. 3 omitted)**

Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn,
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
 rise to adore the mystery of love,
which hosts of angels chanted from above:
 with them the joyful tidings first begun
 of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
 I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
 to you and all the nations upon earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
 this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran,
to see the wonder God had wrought for man,
and found, with Joseph and the blessèd Maid,
 her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid:
then to their flocks, still praising God, return,
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
 from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
 tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,

till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, the angelic hosts among,
to sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song:
he that was born upon this joyful day
around us all his glory shall display;
saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

Words: John Byram (1692-1763), alt.

Opening Sentence "***Christmas***" Page 97

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Alleluia. *Galatians 4:4-5*

THE INVOCATION Page 101

PRESIDENT:

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

Blessed Lord and Father, we have assembled in your Name and in fellowship with one another. Enable us by your grace to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word. Teach us to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, confessing our sins,

may worthily offer to you our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Page 101

ALL:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE KYRIES

Page 102

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Page 102

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One;
you alone are the Lord:
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect: “*Christmas Day*”

Page 158

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector: Mrs. Juno Burrows

A reading from the Word of God written in the Book of Isaiah, the fifty-second chapter, beginning at the seventh verse.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace,

who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

Page 596

1 Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.

- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the
sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the
house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before
the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4

Lector: Mrs. Juno Burrows

A reading from the Word of God written in the Letter to the Hebrews, the first chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual **Hymn ~ 82**

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-14

Gospeller: The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

GOSPELLER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter, beginning at the first verse.

ALL: Glory to Christ Our Saviour

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

GOSPELLER: The Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon: The Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. J. Maxwell

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen or unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
one in Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in fulfilment of the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and
glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS “B”

Intercessor: Ms. Donna Inniss

LEADER:

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

ALL: That we all may be one.

LEADER:

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;

ALL: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

LEADER:

We pray for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons;

**ALL: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word
and Sacraments.**

LEADER:

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world.

ALL: That there may be justice and peace on earth.

LEADER:

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

ALL: That our works may find favour in your sight.

LEADER:

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

ALL: That they may be delivered from their distress.

LEADER:

Give to the departed eternal rest;

ALL: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

LEADER:

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

ALL: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

LEADER:

Let us pray for our needs and those of others.

Silence may be kept.

ALL:

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords to your will; and the good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ACT OF PENITENCE

Page 123

PRESIDENT:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A period of silence shall be kept.

PRESIDENT:

Let us therefore confess our sins.

ALL:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are sorry and repent of all our sins. For your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Page 124

PRESIDENT:

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

THE GREETING OF THE PEACE “A”

Page 124

PRESIDENT:

We are the Body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptised into one Body and have all been made to drink of the one Spirit.

ALL:

Let us then pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life.

PRESIDENT:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

ALL: And also with you.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Offertory **Hymn ~ 77**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God in the highest:'

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

*Words: anonymous, from Adeste, fideles, 18th century,
Latin; translation: Frederick Oakley (1802-1880), alt.*

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER “B”

Page 126

PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE:

Father, we offer you these gifts which you have given us: this bread, this wine, this money. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice. As this bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, so may we and all your people become channels of your love; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Page 126

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PRESIDENT: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRESIDENT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRESIDENT:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father almighty, everlasting God:

PROPER PREFACE ~ “Christmas”

Page 127

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING “A”

Page 131

PRESIDENT:

All Holy and glorious Father,
Our Creator God,
we give you thanks

because in your loving wisdom
you brought all things into being,
and are truly worthy of praise
from every creature you have made.

Again and again
we have turned away from you;
yet in every age your steadfast love
has called us to return,
to live in union with you:
for it is your eternal purpose
to put new life into all things
and make them holy.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ
Who took our human nature upon Him
you have redeemed the world
from the bondage of sin:
and by the power of your Holy Spirit
you have gathered a people to yourself,
to make known in every place
His perfect offering which He made
to the glory of your Name.

Hear us, therefore, Father,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
And grant that these gifts of bread and wine
may be unto us His Body and Blood.

For, on the night He was betrayed
He took bread,
and when He had given thanks to you,
He broke it and gave it to His disciples
and said: “Take this, and eat it:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And after supper
He took the cup of wine:
and when He had given thanks,
He gave it to them and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the New Covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

PRESIDENT:
Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

PRESIDENT:
And so, Heavenly Father,

rejoicing in His Holy Incarnation;
His Blessed Passion and His Perfect Sacrifice
made once for all upon the Cross;
His Mighty Resurrection from the dead;
His Glorious Ascension into heaven;
and looking for His Coming in glory;
we offer to you this Bread and this Cup.

We pray that you will accept this sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving;
and grant that all who eat and drink of the Body and Blood
of your Son, our great High Priest,
may be renewed by your Holy Spirit,
and be one Body, one Spirit, in Him.

Let faith and love increase in us.
Unite us with all Bishops,
all other ministers of your Word and Sacraments,
and with the whole people of God, living and departed,
whom you have made for yourself.

Confirm us in holiness,
that we may be found ready to join the company
of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Apostles,
and all your saints,
when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again:
Forever giving you thanks and praise
through Him from whom all good things do come.

With Him and in Him and through Him,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father Almighty,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
in songs of everlasting praise:

ALL:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Page 144

PRESIDENT:

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

ALL:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name;

your kingdom come;

your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD "A"

Page 145

PRESIDENT:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

ALL:

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

THE COMMUNION

The Invitation “A”

Page 145

PRESIDENT:

My brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near and receive His Body which He gave for you, and His Blood, which He shed for you. Remember that He died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

ALL:

Grant gracious Lord that we may so eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and drink His blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI

Page 147

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**



**The Administration of Communion/Spiritual
Communion**

The Communion **Hymn** ~ 88

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,

and offered there, in his presence,
gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
sing praise to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

*Words: anonymous
18th-century English carol*

THE POST COMMUNION “A”

Page 147

ALL:

Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we who share His Body live His risen life; we who drink His cup bring life to others; we upon whom your Spirit shines give light to the world. Help us to continue in faithful witness to your Word, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING “*Christmas*”

Page 149

Christ, who by His incarnation gathered into one, all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with His joy and peace; and

the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Recessional **Hymn ~ 68**

Hark! The herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788),
with others*

THE BLESSING

Page 152

PRESIDENT:

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

ALL

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Postlude

*(Worshippers are invited to sit silently and listen to the
voluntary, however, those who wish to leave at this point
may do so quietly.)*



The Nativity of Our Lord ~ Christmas Day

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Comment: *"Heralds announce God's salvation"*

The Hebrew scripture lection heralds **a time of great joy as the Lord saves the people and brings deliverance to Jerusalem.** The long exile is at an end. The messenger proclaims the good news. “The Lord reigns.” The watchmen of the city respond with shouts of triumph to see God’s salvation.

Psalm 98

A song of thanksgiving and praise to the victorious Lord, who has made righteousness known and shown faithfulness to God’s people.

Second Reading (**The Epistle**): Hebrews 1:1-4

Comment: *“God has spoken by a Son”*

In this lesson, **the Letter to the Hebrews begins with a declaration of Jesus’ sonship. He is far above all angels at the right hand of God.** Previously God had spoken through the prophets, but now the will of God is expressed in the Son, through whom the world was created and who bears the stamp of divine being. After making purification for sins, he has taken his seat of greatest honour.

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-14

Comment: *“The Word became flesh”*

The gospel opens with, **a hymn to the expression of God’s very being, God’s Word, who has now become flesh and lived among us.** Through the Word all things have their life. The Word is the light of all humankind, and was witnessed to by John the Baptist. Although the world made by the Word did not recognise the Word, those who believe in the Word have been given the right to become children of God.

Bishop of Barbados

The Right Reverend Michael Bruce St. John Maxwell, M.A.

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BISHOP MAXWELL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE NATION

Dear Family of God,

I greet you with the love, joy, peace and hope of Christmas as we begin this season to commemorate and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Despite all that continues to unfold around us and affect us in our troubled world today, particularly due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its ripple effects, we as Christians continue to observe and joyously celebrate Christmas because of the good news such a commemoration always has to offer for all phases and stages of life.

This Christian season reminds us and reinforces that the God we serve is not a Creator who simply formed us out of the dust, placed us in this world and left us to navigate our lives without His divine assistance but that He is One who, because of His endless love, is ever mindful of us and deeply

concerned about our wellbeing. It is because of that great love that He came to be One with us in the person of His Son Jesus on that first Christmas morn. On that morn, He was born in a messy stable, in circumstances that were certainly symbolic of the unstable and troubled world and era into which He came. He entered at a time, very similar to ours at present, when there were persons isolated from mainstream society due to incurable diseases or mental and spiritual illnesses, when there was great disparity between the wealthy and the needy, the practice of idolatry, the level of immorality was on the rise and political oppression and greed were the order of the day under the Roman Empire. It was into such a world that Jesus was born in that messy stable to be God's anointed and to offer guidance, deliverance, transformation, peace and hope (that confident expectation of a good future) so long as we rest our lives in Him. In fact, Jesus came to reveal that this is the loving and liberating nature of our God who desires, and will give His all, to change our circumstances in life for the better; but it is for us to receive God's Christmas gift and desire that change as well.

One of the primary reasons we therefore celebrate this season is because of the love God demonstrated in sending His Son, not to condemn or to destroy the world for its waywardness but to offer us the opportunity to reset our lives - to be regenerated or reborn to a newness of life. He has provided the means for us to realign ourselves with our created purpose because for some time this world has been "malfunctioning" due to human error. It is therefore, my friends, incumbent upon us as Christians to celebrate this season even at this time when our world appears to be in disarray, when hope seems to be waning or in some instances lost, because we have the confidence that our God is the same yesterday, today and

forever. He continues to be here with and for us to strengthen, guide, support and deliver us. As He works through His Son and the Holy Spirit for the resetting of our lives, our God empowers us to stand strong and address and overcome the ills of our times and to live in true love for, and at peace with, Him and each other. The word 'RESET' (with which we shall become very familiar in the coming year) when used as an acronym can highlight for us the loving mission of God that commenced that first Christmas morn as He came in Jesus Christ to R - Reach (out to) us, E - Enlighten us (through the Word made flesh), S - Sanctify us (by His sacrificial death), E - Empower us (through His Enabling Spirit) and T - Transform us (through the spiritual renewal of our minds). In Jesus Christ, God has provided the means of erasing our human errors and granting us a reset of our lives to bring forth peace on earth and love and goodwill to be shared among all peoples. That's the gift of Christmas we celebrate at this time!

I therefore urge us, my friends, not to lose hope in the face of a world currently in turmoil, heightened by the pandemic, climatic and economic crisis that continue to unfold, because we are reminded in this season that God still comes to us, abides with us, to freely offer in love the resetting of our lives and our world. May this Christmas season be one in which we all sincerely, joyously and graciously celebrate, and accept anew, God's gift of our incarnate Lord to do His work in our lives. May our hearts be always open to be visited, taught, blessed, guided, strengthened and restored by Jesus to a life of righteousness, peace, joy and love; and be assured that our Creator God offers us once again, amid these challenging times, the opportunity to also reset our Church and our Republic to be aligned with His divine purposes.

I wish you, and those near and dear to you, on behalf of my family and myself, a blessed and peaceful Christmas season and God’s continued blessing for the year 2022.

Your Friend and Bishop,

+Michael Barbados

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Financial Stewardship: The ministry of the Cathedral is supported primarily by its members’ contributions weekly and monthly. However, if you would like to support the stewardship of this sacred place, please donate to St. Michael’s Cathedral, Bridgetown, St. Michael.

Friends and well-wishers may write to stmichaelcathedral@caribsurf.com or call 1 246-427-0790 for more details. Meantime, donations can be made through online payments to St. Michael’s Cathedral, CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Bridgetown Branch, Account # 2719302; Transit # 09606.

Meantime, the 2022 Stewardship Envelopes are available.

Special projects at this time are:

- i. Ash-fall Clean-up (cost: \$15,000.00; donations as at September 30th, 2021: **\$4,961.00**);
- ii. Online Ministry – estimate under consideration.

Donations may also be made in marked envelopes and placed in the Offering Box or brought to the Administrative Office. All donations are appreciated.

Gift List: In addition to monetary gifts, members and well-wishers are also encouraged to donate towards the Vestments, Paraments and Linens of the Cathedral. The following are needed at this time:

1. Rose Cope and Stole - \$1,200.00
2. Pulpit and Lectern Hangings (Blue/Rose/Purple)
3. Altar Frontals
4. Altar Linens (corporals, purificators, towels)
5. Video Equipment (cameras, cabling and monitors)
6. Trays

Acknowledgement: Thanks to Mrs. Erla Wedderburn for the donation of a set of Glass Decanters. They were given in thanksgiving of her 82nd birthday.

Sincere thanks to all for their generosity; and may God bless everyone, as together, we work to be faithful stewards of His bounty.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)



THE DAILY OFFICES: The recitation of Morning and Evening Prayer forms part of the discipline of clergy and laity. The Daily Office can also serve as a personal or family discipline. The Daily Lectionary for Cycle C begins on page 738, in the Book of Common Prayer. Note further that this year is Year 2, and the readings for Saturday are Psalms 2

and 85; Micah 4:1-5,5:2-4; 1 John 4:7-16; for Sunday, December 26th, 2021, the readings are 1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28, Psalms 93 and 96, and Colossians 1:9-20, and for the rest of the week as follows on page 739.

THEME FOR THE WEEK
“How the Word penetrates us”



Congratulations to all those persons celebrating birthdays this week 26th to 31st, December 2021

Ms. Olga Marshall ~ 30th

Mr. Wilbur Belle ~ 31st

Mrs. Jeanette Rollock ~ 31st



May God bless and strengthen you.



Please remember the sick or injured of our Parish and wider community, especially Mr. Aldon and Mrs. Margaret Browne, Ms. Elsie Brunson, Mrs. Colleen Byer, Ms. Eudora Cooper, Ms. Alice P. Hall, Mr. Jonathan Holder, Mrs. Olga Holder, Ms. Marcia Hoyte, Ms. Selina Jones, Mr. Blair Murray, Mrs. Eleanor Small, Ms. Phyllis Springer, Ms. Winifred Trotman, Ms. Marcia Watson and Ronald Wilkinson.

I pray to the Almighty
to bring you healing
and a speedy
recovery...
**Get Well
Soon...**



Sick & Shut-in Monica Asgill, Eudine Best, Monte
Blenman, Rodney Bramao,



Elmina Branch-Butler, Elsie Brunson,
Clarissa Carrington, Dorothy Carrington,
Olive Clarke, Gloria Griffith, Ismay
Cave, Mr. Justice Errol Chase, Mildred
Cox-Inniss, Ruby Downes, Muriel Foster,

Gwendolyn Franklyn, Beryl Giles, Olga Holder, Muriel
Hutson, Dorothy Jarvis, Milroy King, Ina Lashley, Olga
Marshall, Ernesta Mayers, Lawrence Mayers, Audrey
Miller, Sheila McCollin, Marlene Moore, Dorothy Morris,
Edise Morris, Ivan Newton, Rosalind Nurse, Elnor
Patterson, Marie Prescott, Sheila Sealy, Veronica Sealy,
Phyllis Springer, Mary Walcott, Joan Walrond, Lucille
Ward, Marcia Watson, Audrey Weekes, Aileen White,
Ezekiel Wood, Ernesta Yarde and Eudora Yearwood.



Bereavement: We extend sincere
condolences to the family of the late Ms.
Margaret Archer, Sister of Mrs. Chloe Grant,
Vergers of St. Michael's Cathedral, and Aunt

of Mr. Renaldo Grant; and the family of the late Charles
Gibson. We thank God for their lives, work, and witness
among us.

May you know the blessedness of those who mourn.



Flowers:

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

- The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn
- Mrs. Shirley Hurley
- Mrs. Jeanette Rollock, for her birthday.
- Mr. Adrien Jones and Mrs. Beverley Jones in memory of their loved ones.
- Mrs. Patricia Collins and Ms. Tricia Collins for their birthdays.
- The Maxwell Family, in commemoration of Major Lubin "Charlie" Maxwell's birthday.
- Mrs. Velda Alleyne and family, in memory of her son Mr. Jeffrey DaCosta Johnson.
- Ms. Sherry Cumberbatch, in memory of her brother Ian Storey who died on December 24th, 2000.
- Ms. Eula Maureen Linton on the anniversary of her confirmation on 15th December 1962 ~ 59 years ago.



CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES
Today, Saturday, December 25th, 2021
The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

4:00 P.M. ~ Nine Lessons and Carols

Online: <http://tiny.cc/smccarolservice2021>



Sunday, December 26th, 2021
The First Sunday after Christmas

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist



Wednesday, December 29th, 2021

10:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist



Friday, December 31st, 2021
11:00 P.M. ~ Watchnight Service



Sunday, January 2nd, 2022
The Second Sunday after Christmas

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Warden Emeritus

Mr. Arlington DaCosta 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



CONTACT US

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<http://www.youtube.com/c/SaintMichaelsCathedralBarbados>

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St. Michael's Row, Bridgetown

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Monday – Friday: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

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