

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

welcomes you to the celebration of

The Holy Eucharist
on the
First Sunday after Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31, 2023
7:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M.



'MORE THAN A BABY'

**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

**His Excellency The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson
Acting President of Barbados**

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.

Vergger

Mrs. Chloe Grant

Freelance Assistant

Ms. Harriet Lowe

Sunday December 31, 2023

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

President: The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

Preacher: The Rev'd Erma Ambrose

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Mrs Judy King

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

Welcome

The Opening **Hymn ~ 70 (verse 4 omitted)**

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-glorious King!'
the world is solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled;

and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and man, at war with man, hears not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet-bards foretold,
when, with the ever-circling years,
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears (1810-1876)

Opening Sentence “***Christmas***”

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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.

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(Please sit)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Lectors: 7:00 A.M. – Mr. Victor Gittens

9:00 A.M. – Mrs. Juno Burrowes

A reading from the Word of God written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the sixty-first chapter, beginning at the tenth verse.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of
the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 147:13-21

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- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;*
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;*
he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders;*
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth,*
and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool;*
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

- 20 He declares his word to Jacob,*
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation;*
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

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: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Lectors: 7:00 A.M. - Mr. Victor Small

9:00 A.M. - Ms. Margaret Aimey

A reading from the Word of God written in the Letter of Paul to the Galatians, the third chapter, beginning at the twenty-third verse.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual **Hymn ~ 91**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
‘Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

‘To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.’

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

‘All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;

good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18

Gospellers:

7:00 A.M. ~ The Rev'd Erma Ambrose

9:00 A.M. ~ 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

GOSPELLER: The Gospel of Christ.

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

The Sermon:

7:00 A.M. ~ The Rev'd Erma Ambrose

9:00 A.M. ~ The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

(Please stand, as able)

The Nicene Creed

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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.**

INTERCESSION “B”

Page 107

**Intercessor: 7:00 A.M. - Mrs. Joyanne Blackman-Jarvis
9:00 A.M. - Ms. Danita Layne**

Lord of all, we pray for your Church, that renewed by the great mystery of Christmas, we may live out our faith in love and in joy.

Lord in your love.

ALL: Hear our prayer.

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.

(Please stand, as able)

THE GREETING OF THE PEACE “A”

Page 124

PRESIDENT: We are the Body of Christ. By the one Spirit we were all baptized 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.

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP: “Let there be peace on earth”

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator
Children all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

Words: Jill Jackson; Melody: Sy Miller (1945)

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

(During the singing of this hymn, an offering will be collected. The Ushers will begin their collection from the west end of the Cathedral and move towards the altar, where the offering will be received by a server. The cooperation of everyone is requested.)

The Offertory Hymn ~ 83 (verses 2 and 6 omitted)

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed!
When the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel-hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord;
whom the writings of the Prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected:
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

Now let old and young men's voices,
join with boys' thy name to sing,
matrons, virgins, little maidens
in glad chorus answering;
let their guileless songs re-echo,
and the heart its praises bring,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant, and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

*Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius
(348-413), from Corde natus ex parentis,
Latin; translation: John Mason Neale (1818-1866),
and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)*

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. (*go to page 131*)

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!**

(Please sit or kneel)

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

7:00 A.M. ONLY ~ Communion Hymn ~ 58

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure:

Refrain:

repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men.'

The Word becomes incarnate,
and yet remains on high;
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky:

Refrain

While thus they sing your Monarch,
those bright angelic bands,
rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
ye oceans, clap your hands:

Refrain

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,

the infant born in Bethl'em,
the Saviour and the Lord:

Refrain

*Words: Germanus, from Greek; translation:
John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. as in Hymns Ancient and
Modern, revised, 1950*

9:00 A.M. ONLY - The Communion Hymn ~ 81

O come, Redeemer of mankind, appear,
thee with full hearts the Virgin-born we greet;
let every age with rapt amazement hear
that wondrous birth which for our God is meet.

Not by the will of man, or mortal seed,
but by the Spirit's breathed mysterious grace
the Word of God became our flesh indeed,
and grew a tender plant of human race.

Lo! Mary's virgin womb its burthen bears;
nor less abides her virgin purity;
in the King's glory see our nature shares;
here in his temple God vouchsafes to be.

From His bright chamber, virtue's holy shrine,
the royal Bridegroom cometh to the day;
of twofold substance, human and divine,
as giant swift, rejoicing on his way.

Forth from His Father to the world he goes,
back to the Father's face his way regains,
far down to souls beneath his glory shows,
again at God's right hand victorious reigns.

With the Eternal Father equal, thou
girt with our flesh dost triumph evermore,
strengthening our feeble bodies here below
with endless grace from thine own living store.

How doth thy lowly manger radiant shine!
On the sweet breath of night new splendor grows;
so may our spirits glow with faith Divine,
where no dark cloud of sin shall interpose.

All praise and glory to the Father be,
all praise and glory to his only son,
all praise and glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
both now, and while eternal ages run.

*Words: Ambrose of Milan (339-397),
From Veni Redemptor gentium, Latin;
Translation: David Thomas Morgan (1809-1886)*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER “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*”

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with His grace to trust His promises and obey His will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Recessional **Hymn ~ 60**

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:

Refrain

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

Refrain

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,

in the temple shall appear.

Refrain

Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:

Refrain

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)

THE DISMISSAL

PRESIDENT:

The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you.

PRESIDENT:

Go in Peace and serve the Lord

ALL: In the name of Christ. Amen.

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

Thank you most sincerely for worshipping at the Cathedral this morning.

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

THEME FOR CHRISTMAS
“UNDESERVED GRACE”

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Comment: "Clothed in garments of salvation"

In our Hebrew Bible reading, **the prophet joyfully responds on behalf of all of God's promises for a redeemed Jerusalem.** He is a messenger to those who are poor and have suffered many troubles. Now he feels himself clothed in salvation and integrity, like a bridegroom or bride, in the sight of all people, this nation shall become like a fresh garden. The prophet will not keep silence until the deliverance of Jerusalem is known throughout the world.

Psalm 147:13-21

Comment: "The splendour of the Lord is over earth and heaven.

A hymn of praise to the Lord, who rules over nature and has shown faithfulness to Jerusalem and God's people Israel.

Second Reading Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Comment: "Children and heirs of God"

In this epistle lesson, **Paul explains what the role of the law has been and how, in our new relationship of faith, we have become sons and heirs of the Father.** Before the coming of Christ and Justification by the faith, we were like small children who had to be closely watched. God's own Son was born a subject of the law; through him we now are given the status of sons coming into their maturity. We are enabled, through the Spirit of his Son, to call upon

God with the same Aramaic word for Father that Jesus is remembered to have used, Abba.

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18

Comment: “The word became flesh”

The gospel opens, **a hymn to God’s Word, the expression of God’s very being and the creative power of all life, who has now become flesh and lived among us.** The Word is the light of all humankind, and was witnessed by John the Baptist. Although the world made by the Word did not recognize the Word, those who did believe in the Word have been given the right to become children of God. The law came through Moses, but grace and truth come through the only Son, who makes the Father known.

CATHEDRAL NEWS

BICENTENNIAL GIFT: As the Anglican Church in Barbados prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2024, so too will the St. Michael Parish Church celebrate the 200th anniversary of its designation as the Cathedral of the Diocese. Gifts in celebration of this significant milestone would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes are available for everyone’s convenience. Thanks for your generous gift.

DEACONS’ CUPBOARD: Members are reminded to support the Deacons’ Cupboard ministry, through which the Cathedral is able to provide relief to persons in need of food. Please remember to bring non-perishable food items for the cupboard. Monetary donations would also be appreciated. Please help those in need. Sincere thanks to all.



SICK: Please remember the sick and injured of our parish and wider community, especially Margaret Browne, Elsie Brunson, Colleen Byer, Courtney Carrington, Darwin Clarke, Henderson Downes, Alice P. Hall, Jonathan Holder, Marcia Hoyte, Selina Jones, Helena Lyte, Jeffrey Mascoll, Marlene Moore, Blair Murray, Roland McCollin, Clyde Outram, Veronica Sandals (USA), Sylvester “Blues” Sargeant, Sheila Sealy, Phyllis Springer, Winifred Trotman, Ernesta Yarde and George Yearwood.

BEREAVEMENT: We extend sincere condolences to the families of the late:

- Mr. Troy Arthur-Shaw
- The Most Rev'd The Hon. Orland Lindsay, Retired Bishop of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba and Retired Archbishop of the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

May the deceased rest in peace. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (*Matthew 5:4*)

BAPTISM: THE GATEWAY TO HOLY COMMUNION

Since Advent Sunday, December 3, 2023, all baptized members of the Church, as inspired, may come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

VACANCY: The Cathedral is in need of someone to serve as Assistant Verger. The successful candidate will be expected to assist the Verger with the Worship, the Custodial Care, and other related duties in the Cathedral. Applications should be addressed to The Dean, Cathedral House, Spry Street, Bridgetown, St. Michael by December 31, 2023.

BIRTHDAYS: Congratulations to all those celebrating their birthday this week: December 31, 2023 - January 6, 2024:

- 2nd Ms. Merlene O. Barrow, Dr. Sherlock Bradshaw
- 3rd Ms. Alson M. Gittens
- 5th Mr. Paul V. E. Blackman
- 6th Mrs. Monica Y. Downes-Smith
Mr. Ronaldo N. Grant



FLORAL TRIBUTES: Sincere thanks to all who have donated towards the flowers at Christmas for the festival, birthdays and in memory of their loved ones,

STEWARDSHIP: The envelopes for 2024 will be available for collection from today Sunday, December 31, 2023.

ACTING PRESIDENT OF BARBADOS: Members are asked to note that The Dean, the Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson was sworn in as Acting President of Barbados on Thursday, December 21, 2023. He will serve during the absence of Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason, President of Barbados who, is on vacation leave from December 21, 2023 to January 3, 2024. During this period, The Rev'd Erma Ambrose will serve as Priest-in-Charge of the Cathedral. The Rev'd Canon George Knight and the Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn will continue to serve in their usual capacities.

DIOCESAN CALENDARS: The Diocesan Calendars for 2024 are available from the Cathedral Office during the week and on Sundays from the designated persons, at the price of \$6.00 each.

BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Greetings on this Christmas Day, as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is my hope that at this very moment you are filled with the Christmas spirit of love, joy and peace.

The words of the angels, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”, which were offered in the hearing of the shepherds that proclaimed our Saviour’s birth, are also proclaimed to us on this day. The lyrics of, what can very well be considered, the first ever Christmas carol sung conveyed one of the great messages of Christmas, of how God offered us His Son to be our Prince of Peace, that whosoever believeth in Him and accept Him as their Saviour will know and experience the peace that only God can give to all those who have found His favour.

As I had mentioned in my message on our 2023 Diocesan calendar, we aspire for peace and live in a world that is crying out for peace. Many people, ourselves included, are praying and hoping for peace as we live in a world that appears to be lost and confused. Our world is plagued even now with many conflicts and wars and rumors of wars such as the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War, the most recent Israel-Hamas conflict; and now within our Caribbean region, which we pride in ourselves to be a zone of peace, there is the border dispute between Guyana and Venezuela.

Then there are the interpersonal tensions; those between people of different faiths and even with those of no faith, people of varying political persuasions, those who are conservative and those who are liberal, employers and employees, parents and children, husbands and wives, clergy and congregations, and the list goes on. With all that is going on, we may very well be struggling with the Christmas message of Jesus truly coming into this world to bring peace; and whether there will ever be peace on earth.

Well, as we all know, the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart; hearts that lack peace with God, peace with others, peace with creation and peace within. God came in Jesus to provide the means and to make our hearts right. He came and offered us His love and mercy, and to show us how to do the same that will transform our hearts to experience the peace He created the world to have at the beginning of time.

May this Christmas, my friends, be a time when we are especially inspired to open our hearts and welcome such a transformation to take place as we accept and glorify Jesus as our Prince of peace; and endeavor to pattern our lives after His. I pray that this Christmas, as we once again thank God for sending us His Son, to enable us to experience peace, that such peace will truly dwell in our hearts, in our relationship with Him, in our families and homes, in our churches among our brothers and sisters, in our places of learning and employment, in our districts, among our nations and throughout our lives.

May we be at peace, pursue the things that make for peace and build up the common life. Let there be peace on earth

and let it begin with us as we commit ourselves to following daily the Prince of Peace.

On behalf of my family, I wish you and yours a blessed and peaceful Christmas season and God's favour for the year 2024. I am your friend and bishop,

+Michael Barbados.



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES IN
THE CATHEDRAL**

Sunday December 31, 2023

The First Sunday after Christmas Day

7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

11:00 P.M. Watch Night Service

President and Preacher:

The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn



Wednesday, January 3, 2024

10:00 A.M. A Public Service of Healing

Daily Book of Common Prayer Readings
December 31, 2023 - January 6, 2024

<i>Day</i>	<i>Morning Readings</i>	<i>Evening Readings</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Psalms 93, 96</i> <i>1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28</i> <i>Luke 2:22-40</i>	<i>Psalm 34</i> <i>Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12</i> <i>Colossians 1:9-20</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Psalm 103</i> <i>Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12</i> <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	<i>Psalm 148</i> <i>Genesis 12:17:1-12a,</i> <i>15-16</i> <i>Revelation 19:11-16</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Psalm 34</i> <i>1 Kings 19:1-8</i> <i>John 6:1-14</i>	<i>Psalm 33</i> <i>Genesis 12:1-7</i> <i>Ephesians 4:1-16</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Psalm 68</i> <i>1 Kings 19:9-18</i> <i>John 6:15-27</i>	<i>Psalm 72</i> <i>Genesis 28:10-22</i> <i>Ephesians 4:17-32</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Psalms 85, 87</i> <i>Joshua 3:14—4:7</i> <i>John 9:1-12, 35-38</i>	<i>Psalm 89:1-29</i> <i>Exodus 3:1-12</i> <i>Ephesians 5:1-20</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Psalms 2, 110:1-5</i> <i>(6-7)</i> <i>Jonah 2:2-9</i> <i>Ephesians 6:10-20</i> <i>John 11:17-27, 38-44</i>	<i>Eve of Epiphany</i> <i>Psalms 29, 98</i> <i>Isaiah 66:18-23</i> <i>Romans 15:7-13</i> <i>Collect for Epiphany</i>
<i>The Epiphany</i> <i>of Our Lord</i> <i>Saturday</i>	<i>Psalms 46, 97</i> <i>Isaiah 49:1-7</i> <i>Matthew 12:14-21</i>	<i>Psalms 96, 100</i> <i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i> <i>Revelation 21:22-27</i>

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 Secretary: Ms. Harriet Clarke

Synod Representatives

Mr. Darwin Clarke

Mr. Samuel Maxwell, J.P.

Dr. Wendy Sealy

Alternative Synod Representative

Ms. Donna Inness



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

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Telephone: 1 (246) 437-4265 (Dean's Residence)