



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

Diocesan Bishop

The Right Reverend Michael B. St. J. 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., B.Mus.

Organist

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

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Arlene Miller

Vergers

Mrs. Chloe Grant

Assistant Vergers

Ms. Harriet Lowe

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

11:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

*Sung Eucharist with Evensong as The Ministry of the
Word*

President and Preacher:
The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude

Welcome

Opening **Hymn ~ 91** "While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,

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)

OFFICIANT:

Opening Sentence

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. *Psalm 51.17*

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness

and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*A general Confession to be said of the whole
Congregation after the Minister, all kneeling, as able.*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest alone, standing: the people still kneeling, as able.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Versicles and Responses (*Ferial*)

V. O Lord, open thou our lips.

R. And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

V. Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 8 *Domine, Dominus noster*

1. O Lord our governor,* how exalted is your name in all the world!
2. Out of the mouths of infants and children* your majesty is praised above the heavens.
3. You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries," to -quell the enemy and the avenger.
4. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,* the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
5. Thou madest him lower than the angels: to crown him with glory and worship.
6. Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands: and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet;
7. All sheep and oxen: yea, and the beasts of the field;
8. The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea: and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.
9. O Lord our Governour: how excellent is thy Name in all the world!
10. O Lord our Governour,* how exalted is your name in 'all the world!

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.

The First Lesson: Numbers 6:22-27

Lector: Ms. Mary Haynes, S.C.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Lector: Here ends the reading

All: Thanks be to God

Office **Hymn ~ 95** The year is gone, beyond recall,

The year is gone, beyond recall,
with all its hopes and fears,
with all its bright and gladdening smiles,
with all its mourners' tears;

thy thankful people praise thee, Lord,
for countless gifts received;
and pray for grace to keep the faith
which Saints of old believed.

To thee we come, O gracious Lord,
the new-born year to bless;
defend our land from pestilence;
give peace and plenteousness;
forgive this nation's many sins;
the growth of vice restrain;
and help us all with sin to strive,
and crowns of life to gain.

From evil deeds that stain the past
we now desire to flee;
and pray that future years may all
be spent, good Lord, for thee.

O Father, let thy watchful eye
still look on us in love,
that we may praise thee, year by year,
with angel-hosts above.
All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.

*Words: anonymous, from Lapsus est annus: REDIT ANNUS ALTER, Latin;
Translation: Francis Pott (1832-1909),
And Editors of Hymns Ancient and Modern*

Magnificat (*Chant*)

1. My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my Spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
2. For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
3. For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed:
4. For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is Name.
5. And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
6. He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud, in the imagination of
their hearts.
7. He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

8. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
9. He remembering his mercy: hath holpen his servant Israel.
10. As he promised to our forefathers: Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Luke 2:15-21

Lector:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Lector: Here ends the reading

All: Thanks be to God

Nunc Dimittis (*Chant*)

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
2. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:
which thou hast prepared before the face of all
people.
3. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy
Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall
be: world without end. Amen.**

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the Holy Catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

THE KYRIES

Page 102

The Lord be with you
And with thy Spirit.
Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ALL:
Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

R. And grant us thy salvation.

V. O Lord, save this Nation.

R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

V.. Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

R. And make thy chosen people joyful.

V. O Lord, save thy people.

R. And bless thine inheritance.

V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**R. Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect: The Holy Name of Jesus Christ

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

The Third Collect, for aid against all Perils.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

V. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen

Hymn ~ 400 “We have a gospel to proclaim “

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a saviour’s name;
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him king:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Words: Edward Joseph Burns (1938-)

Words © Edward Joseph Burns.

.The Sermon: The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

After a period of prayerful silence, the Officiant says, Let us pray together,

ALL:

Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it in his honour and glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

The Greeting of Peace “A”

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 with you

ALL: And also with you.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Offertory Hymn ~ 311 “GOD is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year,”

GOD is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year,
God is working his purpose out and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west where'er man's foot hath trod,
by the mouth of many messengers goes forth the voice of God,

"Give ear to me, ye continents, ye isles, give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled with the glory of God as the waters
cover the sea."

What can we do to work God's work, to prosper and increase
the brotherhood of all mankind, the reign of the Prince of peace?
What can we do to hasten the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters
cover the sea?

March we forth in the strength of God with the banner of Christ
unfurled, that the light of the glorious Gospel of truth may shine
throughout the world. Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin, to set
their captives free, that the earth may be filled with the glory of
God as the waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters
cover the sea.

Words: Arthur Campbell Ainger (1894)

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER "B"

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

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:

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”

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 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 for 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

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 it is
in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against
us. Save us from the 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

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 Invitation to Communion “A”

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

**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**

Communion Hymn ~ 253 “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds”

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;

but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

*Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.,
as in Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised, 1950*

Communion Hymn ~ “There is a Name I love to hear”

There is a Name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest Name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus!
O how I love Jesus!
O how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me.

It tells me of a Saviour's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea.
Refrain

It tells me what my Father hath
In store for every day
And, though I tread a darksome path,
Yields sunshine all the way.
Refrain

It tells of One Whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part
That none can bear below.
Refrain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you.

PRESIDENT: Let us pray

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

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 upon you and your household and remain with you always.

ALL: Amen.

The Recessional Hymn ~ 94 “Father, let me dedicate, “

Father, let me dedicate,
all this year to thee,
in whatever worldly state
thou wilt have me be:
not from sorrow, pain or care,
freedom dare I claim;
this alone shall be my prayer,
glorify thy name.

Can a child presume to choose
where or how to live?
Can a Father's love refuse
all the best to give?
More Thou givest every day
than the best can claim
nor withholdest aught that may
glorify thy name.

If in mercy Thou wilt spare
joys that yet are mine;
if on life, serene and fair,
brighter rays may shine;
let my glad heart, while it sings,
thee in all proclaim,
and, whate'er the future brings,
glorify thy name.

If thou callest to the cross,
and its shadow come,
turning all my gain to loss,
shrouding heart and home;
let me think how thy dear Son

to his glory came,
and in deepest woe pray on,
“glorify thy name.”

Words: Lawrence Tuttiet (1825-1897)

THE DISMISSAL

THE PRESIDENT: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you.

THE 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 today.



THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME

THEME FOR THE WEEK

“There is power in the name of Jesus”

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.

CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES

**Sunday, December 31, 2023
11:00 P.M. ~ Watch Night Service**



**Monday, January 1, 2024
The Feast of the Holy Name
7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist**



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 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
Guild of St. Raphael:	Mr. Darwin Clarke



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