



St. Michael's Cathedral

The Nativity of Our Lord ~
Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024
11:45 P.M.

“To be a guiding light of Christ’s grace, justice, freedom and love”.

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

Diocesan Bishop

The Right Rev'd Michael B. St. J. Maxwell, M.A.

Dean

The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson

Precentor

The Rev'd Canon George Knight, B.Min.

Assistant Priest

The Rev'd 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



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2024
CHRISTMAS EVE**

11:45 P.M. ~ SUNG EUCHARIST

PRESIDENT AND PREACHER:

The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson

Con-Celebrant: The Rev'd Canon George Knight

Lay Eucharist Minister: Mrs. Judy King

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

The Introit **Hymn ~ 642 & 61**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

*Words: vs.1-2 Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, C1885 and vs.3
John T. McFarland (1851-1913), from Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892, alt.*

Hymn ~ 61

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.'

He spake; and straightway the celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
 the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluias rang:
 God's highest glory was their anthem still,
 peace upon earth, and unto men good will.

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.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRESIDENT:

The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

ALL:

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

The Christ Candle is now lit with the words:

PRESIDENT:

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace
and truth.

The four other candles are lit from the center and all say:

ALL:

**We beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the
Father.**

PRESIDENT:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL:

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PRESIDENT:

All praise to you, Eternal Father, giver of all good things; you have filled our hearts with joy at the wonder of your love. Christ, your Son from eternity, now is born in time. Alleluia, Christ is born!

ALL:

Alleluia, Christ is born!

THE COLLECT: “*Christmas Day*”

Page 158

Let us pray.

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector: Dr. Sherlock Bradshaw

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

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 *Cantate Domino*

Page 594

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from
day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but
idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendour of his
sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honour and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honour due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is
King!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

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: Titus 2:11-14

Lector: Ms. Margaret Aimey

A reading from the Word of God written in the Epistle of Paul to Titus, the second chapter, beginning at the eleventh verse.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Gradual 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 HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

The Gospeller: The Rev'd Canon George Knight

GOSPELLER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter, beginning at the first verse.

ALL: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid

him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he
favors!"

GOSPELLER: This is the Gospel of Christ.

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

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

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 fulfillment 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 PRAYERS “B”
Intercessor: Ms. Danita Layne

Page 107

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 the 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.*

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.

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.

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

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. *(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.**

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 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

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

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 **Hymns ~ 70 & 91**

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 blessed 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.

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look, now! For glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
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)

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)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Page 147

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 “*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 upon you and your household and remain with you always.

ALL: 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 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.



CHRISTMAS DAY I

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Comments: *“A child is born for us”*

From the Hebrew Bible we hear a **hymn of thanksgiving and hope offered at the birth of a new king in Jerusalem.**

The prophet hails the one born to be the ruler of his people. His reign will end oppression and bring justice, righteousness, and a lasting peace. Christians see these words coming to fulfillment in Jesus.

Psalm 96:

A song of praise to the Lord in which the whole heavens and earth are invited to join.

Second Lesson (The Epistle): Titus 2:11-14

Comments: *“The grace of God has appeared”*

This New Testament reading speaks of **the two comings of Christ: first in his sacrificial ministry for all people and then in glory.** He has enabled his disciples to free themselves from ways of evil. Disciplined and eager to do good, they look forward to the fulfillment of the hope God has given to the world in Jesus.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Comments: *“God with us”*

The Gospel presents **the story of the birth of Jesus.** He is born amid very humble human circumstances. A government registration programme requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Because there was no other place for them to stay, Mary lays her new son in a stable manger. An angel then appears to shepherds and announces the joyful news of the Saviour’s birth.



Bishop of Barbados

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

Office: “Diocesan Secretariat”
Ivan Harewood Centre
Church Hill
Christ Church, BB17068
BARBADOS
WEST INDIES



Residence: #89 Warrens
Terrace
St. Michael
Barbados
West Indies

Telephone: (246) 426-2761
Fax: (246) 426-0871
Website: www.anglican.bb

Telephone: (246) 546-7694
Email: bpmichaelbarbados@gmail.com
Email: bishop@anglican.bb

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE & GREETINGS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL MAXWELL

(To Be Shared in All Churches on Christmas Day, December
25, 2024)

Dear Family of God,

Today, we commence the season of Christmas to celebrate that moment in history when our God came to us in human form through the birth of Mary’s boy child, Jesus Christ. I pray that our hearts, at this time, are filled with the joy of the Lord as we celebrate God’s glorious and gracious act of repairing the breach that existed between God and us and our relationships with each other. This separation was caused, not by God but due to the sins of the first Adam and his descendants. To repair that breach, and to restore us to a wholesome relationship with Him and one another, God came to earth that first Christmas in His Son Jesus Christ. He was born as a human being, becoming as St. Paul says, the “last Adam,” revealing to us who we were created and called to be from the beginning of creation – beings to reflect God’s image and likeness and to be his faithful stewards.

In coming to us in Jesus Christ at Christmas, God clearly revealed that He did not forsake us or hold our sins against us even though we often abandoned Him and the level of relationship He created us to have with each other. That first Christmas, He came out of love to save and restore us to be the best that He created us to be. This is what we celebrate at Christmas, the depth of God's love for us and His desire to restore His relationship with us by being born like one of us. He also came to be the last Adam who inaugurated the kingdom of God, renewing God's creation and calling us to share in the same, providing us the opportunity to experience peace and mutual love in our relationship with Him and His creation.

As believers in Christ, we thank God this day for being such a loving, merciful and missionary God who offered His Son to reveal all of this to us and to be the means through which our relationship with Him has been restored. We thank Him this day because in sending us Jesus Christ as the last Adam, we now seek, with the aid of His Holy Spirit, to pattern our lives after His earthly, sinless, selfless life, recognising ourselves to be God's sons and daughters and brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we celebrate once again the Birth of the Christ Child, praising God with joyful carols and thanksgiving in our hearts, may we be inspired to live as His new creation, patterning our lives after Jesus, the last Adam. May we, like Him, reflect the image and likeness, the nature and Spirit of God within us, in the way we love our Father in heaven and one another in thought, word and deed.

On behalf of my wife Chandra, and our boys – Michael John,

Christopher and Kalan, I wish you and yours, a blessed and joyful Christmas and God’s continued favour and peace in the coming year 2025.

I am your friend and bishop,
+Michael Barbados

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Financial Stewardship: The ministry, mission and maintenance of the Cathedral is supported primarily by its members’ contributions weekly and monthly. However, contributions are appreciated from anyone. An invitation is extended to all visitors and well-wishers to support the financial needs 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.

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

Meantime, the 2025 Stewardship Envelopes are available for collection.

“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)

THEME FOR CHRISTMAS

“The mystery of the Nativity fulfils the expectancy of our Advents all year long.”



FLORAL TRIBUTES:

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

- Mr. Adrien Jones and Mrs. Beverley Jones in memory of their loved ones.
- Mr. Franklyn S. Archer
- Ms. Delores Hinds and family, in remembrance of their loved ones; the late Gladstone and Olga Holder.

2025 Calendars: Diocesan Calendars are available at the price of **\$7.00 each** from designated persons.

Congratulations to all celebrating birthdays this week 22 to 28, December 2024

Mrs. Tricia Collins ~ 27



May God bless and strengthen you.





SICK: Please remember the sick or injured of our Parish and wider community, especially Margaret Browne, Colleen Byer, Courtney Carrington, Darwin Clarke, Heather Howard-Downes, Alice P. Hall, Jonathan Holder, Marcia Hoyte, Selina Jones, Jeffrey Mascoll, Marlene Moore, Blair Murray, Clyde Outram, Sylvester (Blues) Sargeant, Sheila Sealy, Claudette Sealy, Phyllis Springer, Winifred Trotman, Ernesta Yarde and George Yearwood.



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

- Mrs. Celia Gill (New York)
- Mrs. Marjorie Maxwell (St. Paul)
- The Rev'd R. Roosevelt Taitt (General Licence)

We thank God for their lives, work, and witness among us.
May you know the blessedness of those who mourn.



CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES

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

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

President and Preacher:

The Rev'd Stephanie-Ann Wedderburn

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

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



Sunday, December 29, 2024

The First Sunday after Christmas

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Choral Matins

with the administration of Holy Communion



Tuesday, December 31, 2024

11:00 P.M. ~ Watchnight Service



Sunday, January 5, 2025

The Second Sunday after Christmas

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist



Daily Book of Common Prayer Readings
December 22 – 28, 2024

Day	Morning Readings	Evening Readings
The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Psalms 24, 29 Isaiah 42:1-12 Ephesians 6:10-20	Psalms 8, 84 Genesis 3:8-15 John 3:16-21
Monday	Psalms 61, 62 Isaiah 11:1-9 Revelation 20:1-10	Psalms 112, 115 Zephaniah 3:14-20 John 5:30-47
Tuesday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Psalms 45, 46 Isaiah 35:1-10 Revelation 22:12-17, 21 Luke 1:67-80	Psalm 89:1-29 Isaiah 59:15b-21 Philippians 2:5-11
Wednesday <i>The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Day</i>	Psalms 2, 85 Zechariah 2:10-13 1 John 4:7-16	Psalms 110:1-5(6-7), 132 Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4 John 3:31-36
Thursday <i>Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</i>	Psalms 28, 30 2 Chronicles 24:17-22 Acts 6:1-7	Psalm 118 Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15 Acts 7:59—8:8
Friday <i>Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	Psalms 97, 98 Proverbs 8:22-30 John 13:20-35	Psalm 145 Isaiah 44:1-8 1 John 5:1-12
Saturday <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	Psalms 2, 26 Isaiah 49:13-23 Matthew 18:1-14	Psalms 19, 126 Isaiah 54:1-13 Mark 10:13-16

SERMON NOTES

Sermon

Text:.....
.....
.....

Topic:

.....
.....
.....

Preacher:

.....
.....
.....

Points to Ponder:

.....
.....
.....

What was God saying specifically to me during the Sermon?

.....

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, J.P.

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Juno Burrows

Treasurer: Mr. David Murray

Assistant Secretary: Ms. Harriet Clarke

Synod Representatives

Ms. Cyrilene P. Forde

Mr. Darnley King

Mr. Samuel Maxwell, J.P.

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, J.P.

Woman's Auxiliary: **Vacant**

Ushers Guild: Mrs. Juno Burrows

Outreach Committee: Mrs. Delores Hinds

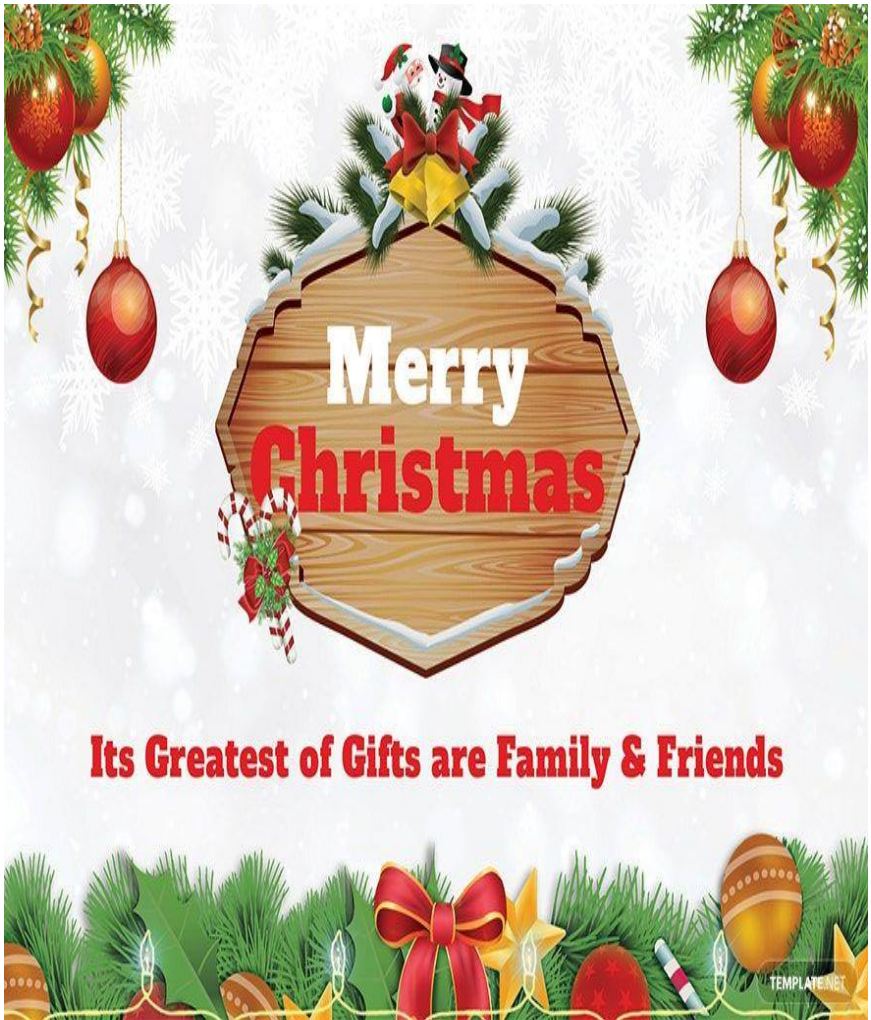
Guild of Servers: Mr. Jerry Alleyne

Health Ministry: Dr. Wendy Sealy

Sunday School: Mrs. Harriett Blackman

Flower Guild: Mrs. Shirley Hurley

Guild of St. Raphael: Mr. Darwin Clarke





CONTACT US

<http://www.saintmichaelscathedral.bb>
stmichaelcathedral@caribsurf.com
[Facebook.com/saintmichaelscathedral](https://www.facebook.com/saintmichaelscathedral)

Address:

St. Michael's Row, Bridgetown

Office Hours:

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

Telephone: 1 (246) 427-0790 (Office)

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