



St. Michael's Cathedral

The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th, 2025

9:00 A.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 Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. John. Maxwell, M. A.

Dean

The Very Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey D. Gibson

Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Re-Shan A. White, B.A.

Hon. Assistant Curate

The Rev'd Richard O. Alleyne, B.A.; MSc.

Organist/Choirmaster

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

Organist

Mr. Eric Cobham, B.Sc., BMus

Administrative Assistant

Ms. Armel Marshall, B.Sc., Cert SM: Cert HRM

Vergers

Mrs. Chloe Grant

Assistant Vergers

Mr. Ezra P. Mayers

The Nativity of Our Lord: YEAR A–
CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

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

Deacons: The Rev'd Re-Shan A. White

The Rev'd Richard O. Alleyne

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dr. Sherlock Bradshaw

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

The Opening **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.*

Opening Sentence “***Christmas***”

Page 97

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

THE INVOCATION

Page 101

PRESIDENT:

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL:

Blessed Lord and Father, we have assembled in your Name and in fellowship with one another. Enable us by your grace to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word. Teach us to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, confessing our sins, may worthily offer to you our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Page 101

ALL:

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

THE KYRIES

Page 102

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Page 102

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.

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

The Collect: “*Christmas Day*”

Page 158

Let us pray.

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

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector: Mrs. Valdine Browne

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

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

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

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

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

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;

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

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

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

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

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

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

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

Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4

Lector: Ms. Sandra Fields

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

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

LECTOR: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual **Hymn ~ 82**

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

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,

while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

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

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

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

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Gospeller: The Rev'd Re-Shan A. White

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 favours!"

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.

GOSPELLER: The Gospel of Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ our Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
one in Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered, died and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in fulfilment of the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.

With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and
glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS “B”

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Intercessor: Mrs. Juno Burrows

The Bidding: The Rev'd Richard O. Alleyne

Lord, we pray for your Church, that we may have the love and the faith to seek you in our everyday lives.

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

DEACON:

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.

DEACON:

Let us therefore confess our sins.

ALL:

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

THE ABSOLUTION

Page 124

PRESIDENT:

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

ALL: Amen.

THE GREETING OF THE PEACE “A”

Page 124

PRESIDENT:

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

ALL:

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

PRESIDENT:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

ALL: And also with you.

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP:

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 ~ 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 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 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.**

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

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

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



**The Administration of Communion/Spiritual
Communion**

The Communion Hymn ~ 70 & 665

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 ~ 665

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,

where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly Maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

THE POST COMMUNION "A"

Page 147

ALL:

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

THE BLESSING "*Christmas*"

Page 149

Christ, who by His incarnation gathered into one, all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with His joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Recessional **Hymn** ~ 68

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

Refrain:

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

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

Refrain

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

Born to give them second birth.

Refrain

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

THE DISMISSAL

DEACON:

The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

DEACON:

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

ALL:

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Postlude

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



The Nativity of Our Lord ~ Christmas Day

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

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

The Hebrew scripture lection heralds **a time of great joy as the Lord saves the people and brings deliverance to Jerusalem.** The long exile is at an end. The messenger proclaims the good news. "The Lord reigns." The

watchmen of the city respond with shouts of triumph to see God's salvation.

Psalm 98

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

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

Comment: *"God has spoken by a Son"*

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

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Comment: *"The birth of the Messiah revealed to shepherds"*

The Gospel presents **the story of the birth of Jesus amid humble human circumstances.** A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the City of David, where the newborn child is laid in a stable manger. An angel then appears to shepherds and announces the joyful news of the Saviour's birth. They came to Bethlehem to see for themselves the promised child, sharing with Mary and Joseph the words of the angels. Mary treasures the words of the shepherds, who return to their fields filled with wonder,



The Bishop of Barbados

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

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WEST INDIES



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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE & GREETINGS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL MAXWELL

(To Be Shared In All Churches On Christmas Day, December 25,
2025)

Dear Family of God,

As we gather to celebrate another Christmas, we hear again the angel's message to the shepherds of

“I bring you news of great joy for all people: today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” This is the good news of great joy we continue today celebrate every Christmas.

Christmas carries many signs of joy - the lights, the family gatherings, the act of gift-giving, and even the familiar tastes of black cake, ham, and sorrel. These enrich our Christmas celebrations, but we need to be often reminded that they are not its foundation. They are not the reason for the season. They simply point us toward a greater and deeper truth.

The real joy of Christmas is found in the astonishing reality that the God of the universe stepped into our world in human form. This is why we sing, “Joy to the world, the Lord has come.” In Jesus Christ, God comes near - revealing His heart, inviting us into relationship, and calling us to live by His Kingdom values of righteousness, peace, love and joy. Through His coming, He offers a joy that is steady, life-

giving, and transformative. We receive and experience that joy when we, on earth, receive our King.

As God's people, we must remember that our joy does not depend on circumstances or seasonal comforts. It rests in the unchanging truth of who Christ is and what He has done for us. Our joy is anchored in Emmanuel, God with us, and grounded in the salvation He brings, the peace He gives, and the hope He offers. We rejoice because Christ has come, Christ is present with us, and Christ will come again. When our eyes remain fixed on Him, we discover a joy that strengthens us in hardship, steadies us in uncertainty, and sends us into the world as witnesses of His love.

However, even today, not everyone feels joyful; for some are grieving. Some are facing financial strain. Some feel the weight of loneliness or fractured relationships. Some are battling a terminal illness and experiencing the pains and stress of their infirmity. Others are simply weary in body, mind, or spirit. If that is our experience at this time, the message of Christmas is especially for us. Jesus came not only for those who celebrate easily, but especially for those who long for inner joy and peace. He came for the burdened, the wounded, the heavy-laden and the brokenhearted. He is Emmanuel in every season, including the difficult ones and the changing scenes of life.

This is where the Church must reflect His heart. Since Christ came near to bring joy and to lift the sorrowing, we are called to embody and extend that same joy God extends to us, by having compassion for others, being present and available to them and extending love in action. May we, this Christmas and the coming year, as God came to be with us, draw near to those who especially feel alone, listen to those who are hurting, extend generosity to those in need, and create space and a welcome for those who feel out of place. Joy becomes

visible when God's people live as Christ lived - present, caring, and willing to serve.

So let us not leave this joy at the manger or pack it up with the decorations. Let us share it into our homes, workplaces, and communities. Let us choose joy in knowing God is with us when challenges arise. Let us speak joy when others are discouraged – especially our youth; and let us live joy in ways that help people recognize the presence of God in our lives. May our lives become invitations—silent or spoken—that proclaim the good news: “Joy to the world, the Lord has come.”

On behalf of my wife Chandra and our boys – Michael John, Christopher and Kalan, I wish you and yours a blessed and joyous Christmas and God's continued presence, protection and peace in the coming year 2026.

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 2026 Stewardship Envelopes will soon be 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 THE WEEK

“How the Word penetrates us.”



Congratulations to all those persons celebrating birthdays this week 21 to 27, December 2025

21 Mrs. Gloria P. Collins

22 Mrs. Lynette A. M. Francis-Thornhill

Ms. Cerys Francis-Thornhill

25 Mrs. Coral H. Martin

27 Ms. Tricia Collins



May God bless and strengthen you.





SICK: Please remember the sick or injured of our Parish and wider community, especially Daphne Browne, Margaret Browne, Darwin Clarke, Heather Coward-Downes, Alice P. Hall, Martin Haynes, Beverley Hinds, Jonathan Holder, Marcia Hoyte, Selina Jones, Judy King, Helena Lyte, Marlene Moore, Marcia Oxley, Gloria Regis, Sylvester (Blues) Sargeant, Sheila Sealy, Claudette Sealy, Phyllis Springer, Winifred Trotman, The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Sir Wilfred Wood, Basil Worrell, and Ernesta Yarde.



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

- Ms. Shelley Alleyne, oldest daughter of Mr. Victor Gittens, member of the Parochial Church Council. After a period of illness, Ms. Alleyne died on Saturday, December 13, 2025 in Orlando, Florida, USA.
- Mrs. Colleen Byer, former Leader of the Cathedral's Mothers' Union. Mrs. Byer died on Wednesday night, December 17th after a period of illness and hospitalization.

We thank God for their lives, work and witness; and pray for the Gittens, Alleyne and Byer families as they mourn. **May you know the blessedness of those who mourn.**



Flowers:

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

- Mrs. Margaret Watson (widow) and family in memory of her late husband Arlington DaCosta Watson's 86th birthday. "Forever remembered, forever missed and loved."
- The family of the late Ms. Vernise Peggy Griffith in her memory.
- Mr. Adrien Jones and Mrs. Beverley Jones in memory of their loved ones.
- Donation of flowers from Nonna Lisa and Joel (visiting from Finland) in memory of their late mother Juliette Varyrynen.



2026 Calendars: Diocesan Calendars are available at the price of \$7.00 each from designated persons.



VACATION: Members are asked to note that The Dean has been invited to preach at a wedding overseas. Consequently, he has taken vacation and will be away from pastoral duties between December 19, 2025 to January 3, 2026. During this time The Rev'd Erma Ambrose, Rector of St. Paul will serve as Priest-in-Charge of the Cathedral Parish.



**Daily Book of Common Prayer Readings
December 21 – 27, 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	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	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	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	Psalms 97, 98 Proverbs 8:22-30 John 13:20-35	Psalm 145 Isaiah 44:1-8 1 John 5:1-12
Saturday	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:.....

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Topic:

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Preacher:

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Points to Ponder:

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What was God saying specifically to me during the Sermon?

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CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

President and Preacher: The Rev'd Michael A. R. Haynes

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

**The Rt. Rev'd Michael B. St. J. Maxwell,
Bishop of Barbados**



Sunday, December 28, 2025

The First Sunday after Christmas

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

President: The Rev'd Michael A. R. Haynes

Preacher: The Rev'd Richard O. Alleyne

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher: The Rev'd Jilian S. Crawford



Old Year' Night, Wednesday, December 31, 2025

11:00 P.M. ~ Watchnight Service

The Rev'd Canon George W. Knight



Sunday, January 4, 2025

The Second Sunday after Christmas

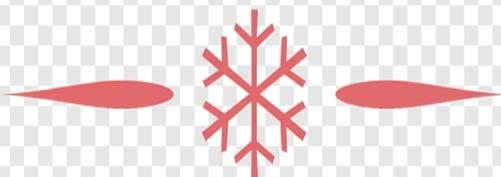
7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist





Season's
GREETINGS



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL
Church Wardens:

Ms. Deidre Cox Mr. Victor Sylvester

Secretary: Ms. Donnah Russell

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Juno Burrows

Treasurer: Mr. David Murray

Assistant Treasurer: 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. Margaret King-Austin
Church Army:	Captain Donnah Russell, J.P.
Woman's Auxiliary:	Vacant
Ushers Guild:	Mrs. Juno Burrows
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

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

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