



**St. Michael's Cathedral**

Services

for

The Fourth Sunday of Advent ~Year A

Sunday, December 21, 2025

7:00 A.M. & 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 M. Marshall, B.Sc., Cert HRM; Cert SM**

*Verger*

**Mrs. Chloe Grant**

*Assistant Verger*

**Mr. Ezra P. Mayers**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: YEAR A

7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist

President:

The Rev'd Michael A. R. Haynes

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

9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist

President and Preacher:

The Rev'd Jilian S. Crawford

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

Gospeller: The Rev'd Richard O. Alleyne

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Dr. Sherlock Bradshaw

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

9:00 A.M. ~ Lighting of the Advent Wreath

ADVENT 4 — LOVE

**The Leader reads a sentence:**

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. (*Isaiah 52:10*)

*He/She then lights the appropriate number of candles in silence*

**Leader:** Our Lord says, 'surely I come quickly.'

**Response:** Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

*After a short pause the Leader says:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Response:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Leader:**

We bless you, Eternal Father, giver of all good things; for you have drawn us away from the darkness of sin and led us forward in the light of Christ. Grant us to purify ourselves as He is pure and to be found like Him when we see Him as He is, Christ our King.

**All: Amen.**

The Opening **Hymn ~ 34**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;  
born a Child and yet a King;  
born to reign in us for ever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,

rule in all our hearts alone:  
by thy all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

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**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

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Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Collect: *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* Page 158

**PRESIDENT:** The Lord be with you.

**ALL:** **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16**

**Lectors: 7:00 A.M. ~ Mr. Victor Small**

**9:00 A.M. ~ Mrs. Margaret Fraser-Morrison**

A reading from the Word of God written in the Book of the prophet Isaiah, the seventh chapter, beginning at the tenth verse.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

**LECTOR:** The Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \* the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \* give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Glory be 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.*

*(Please remain seated)*

**Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7**

**Lectors: 7:00 A.M. ~ Ms. Deidre Cox**

**9:00 A.M. ~ Mr. Leighton Waterman**

A reading from the Word of God written in Paul's letter to the Romans, the first chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**LECTOR:** The Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual **Hymn ~ 40**

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:

let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
thy welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with thy beloved name.

*Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

**Gospeller: The Rev'd Richard O. Alleyne**

GOSPELLER: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

**ALL: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.  
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but

before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**GOSPELLER:** The Gospel of Christ.

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

**The Sermons: 7:00 A.M. ~ The Rev'd Re-Shan A. White**  
**9:00 A.M. ~ The Rev'd Jilian S. Crawford**

**Walk up Collection for Jamaica relief:**

**Hymn 467**

God moves in a mysterious way  
his wonders to perform;  
he plants his footsteps in the sea,  
and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines

of never-failing skill  
he treasures up his bright designs,  
and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
the clouds ye so much dread  
are big with mercy, and shall break  
in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
but trust him for his grace;  
behind a frowning providence  
he hides a smiling face.

Blind unbelief is sure to err  
and scan his work in vain;  
God is his own interpreter,  
and he will make it plain.

*Words: William Cowper (1731-1800), 1779*

## **The Nicene Creed**

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,

begotten, not made,  
one in Being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven:

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

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

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

*(Please sit or kneel as able)*

**Intercessors: 7:00 A.M. ~ Mrs. Joyanne Blackman-Jarvis  
9:00 A.M. ~ Ms. Donna Inniss**

**DEACON**

**The Bidding:**

Lord, whose Son Jesus Christ came as Emmanuel, God with us, we pray for your Church, that we may live out our vocation in the consciousness of His presence with us in each moment of our 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 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 and special intentions offered.*

**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**

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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. (*1 John 1:8, 9*)

*A period of silence shall be kept.*

DEACON:

Let us therefore confess our sins.

**Form B**

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**ALL:**

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we have not loved ourselves as we ought. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, 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 “C”**

Page 125

**PRESIDENT:**

The Kingdom of God is Justice, peace, and joy, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:**

**They who thus serve Christ are acceptable to God and approved by others.**

**PRESIDENT:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

*(During the singing of this hymn worshippers, are encouraged, as inspired, to share tangible expressions such as a hand shake, etc.)*



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** ~ “*Ye who own the faith of Jesus*”  
*Vs. 5 & 6 Omitted.*

1 Ye who own the faith of Jesus  
Sing the wonders that were done,  
When the love of God the Father  
O'er our sin the victory won,  
When he made the Virgin Mary  
Mother of his only Son.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

2 Blessèd were the chosen people  
Out of whom the Lord did come,  
Blessèd was the land of promise  
Fashioned for his earthly home;  
But more blessèd far the Mother  
She who bare him in her womb.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

3 Wherefore let all faithful people  
Tell the honour of her name,  
Let the church in her foreshadowed  
Part in her thanksgiving claim;

What Christ's Mother sang in gladness  
Let Christ's people sing the same.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

4 Let us weave our supplications,  
She with us and we with her,  
For the advancement of the faithful,  
For each faithful worshipper,  
For the doubting, for the sinful,  
For each heedless wanderer.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

7 Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,  
Praise thy Saviour and thy Son,  
Praise the everlasting Spirit,  
Who hath made thee ark and throne;  
O'er all creatures high exalted,  
Lowly praise the Three in One.  
*Hail Mary, full of grace.*

*V. S. Stuckey Coles (1845-1929)*

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER “B”

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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 ~ “Advent”**

Page 127

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in Him of eternal life; that when He shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold His appearing. *(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 “C”**

Page 137

**PRESIDENT:**

We give thanks to you Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in  
creation;

in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets:  
and, above all in the Word made flesh,

Jesus your Son.

For in these last days, you sent Him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In Him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

For, on the night that 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:

Therefore, Father, according to His command:

**ALL:**

**We remember His death;  
We proclaim His resurrection;  
We await His coming in glory.**

PRESIDENT:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the Body of Christ  
and His Blood of the New Covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in His sacrifice  
that we, made acceptable in Him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,

and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation:

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All: 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 “C”**

Page 145

**PRESIDENT:**

This is the true bread which comes from heaven

**ALL:**

**Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **The Invitation “C”**

Page 146

**DEACON:**

Draw near and receive the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ with faith and thanksgiving.

**ALL:**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, most merciful Father, trusting in our own righteousness, but only in your boundless mercy. We are not even worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the Lord ever the same, ever merciful. Grant therefore, Lord of grace and love, that we may so eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and drink His blood, that with bodies and souls made clean from every stain of sin 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 ~ 751 & 752

The God whom earth and sea and sky  
adore and laud and magnify,  
whose might they own, whose praise they tell,  
in Mary's body deigned to dwell.

O mother blest, the chosen shrine  
wherein the Architect divine,  
whose hand contains the earth and sky,  
vouchsafed in hidden guise to lie:

blest in the message Gabriel brought;  
blest in the work the Spirit wrought;  
most blest, to bring to human birth  
the long-desired of all the earth.

O Lord, the virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Words: Venantius Fortunatus (530-600),  
from Quem terra, Pontus, aethera, Latin;  
translation: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.*

### Hymn ~ 752

Virgin-born, we bow before thee;

blessèd was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, maid and mother mild,  
blessèd was she in her Child.

Blessèd was the breast that fed thee;  
blessèd was the hand that led thee;  
blessèd was the parent's eye  
that watched thy slumbering infancy.

Blessèd she by all creation,  
who brought forth the world's Salvation,  
and blessèd they - for ever blest,  
who love thee most and serve thee best.

Virgin-born, we bow before thee;  
blessèd was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, maid and mother mild,  
blessèd was she in her Child.

*Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)*

## THE POST COMMUNION "C"

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**ALL:**

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to you,**

**and to the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING ~ “*Advent*”

Page 149

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**ALL: Amen.**

## NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Recessional **Hymn ~ 46**

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him  
pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshippers:

with what rapture, with what rapture, with what  
rapture  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

*Words: John Cennick (1718-1755), and Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## THE DISMISSAL

DEACON: Go in peace and serve the Lord

**ALL: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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



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 Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

Comments: *“The sign of Emmanuel”*

In this first lesson we hear **that the prophet Isaiah insists  
that King Ahaz of Judah will receive a sign from God,  
whether he wants it or not, the sign of a young woman**

**bearing a son to be called Emmanuel.** Ahaz was more inclined to depend on political alliances than on the Lord. Isaiah prophesied that, by the time the infant began to make his own choices, the Lord would destroy Judah's immediate enemies. Christians have seen the ultimate fulfilment of these prophetic words in the birth of Jesus.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

A lament and a plea to the Lord, the shepherd of Israel, that God will turn away divine anger and restore the people.

Second Reading (The Epistle): Romans 1:1-7

Comments: *"Paul's greeting to the church at Rome"*

**Paul greets the new disciples in Rome and summarises the gospel message.** The prophecies concerning one to be descended from King David in human terms, and declared Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit by the resurrection from the dead, have been fulfilled. The Lord Jesus Christ has given grace and the commission of apostleship to bring peoples of all nations to faith and obedience.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Comments: *"A God near at hand"*

The Gospel tells **the story of the birth of Jesus.** While she was betrothed to Joseph, Mary finds that she is bearing a child. But an angel tells Joseph not to fear: this is the work of the Holy Spirit. The baby is to be named Jesus, which means "The Lord saves." The evangelist perceives this birth to be the fulfilment of an ancient prophecy which told of a virgin who would bear a son. The narrative makes clear the divine origin of this child who will save the people from their sins.

## 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](mailto: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.



**FLOWERS:** As usual, there will be no floral arrangements during the Advent season; however, members are encouraged to make donations for the supply of flowers for Christmas. Contributions may be made in celebration of a personal event, in commemoration of a departed loved one, or any other occasion in the life of a family. Thanks for your consideration.



**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.

**THEME FOR THE WEEK**

*“The center of life is the listening for the coming of the Saviour.”*



**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.***



**DIOCESAN NEWS**

**Diocesan Calendars: The 2025 Diocesan Calendars are now available at the price of \$7.00 each.**



**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 following:



- 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<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Orlando, Florida, USA.
- Mrs. Colleen Byer, former Leader of the Cathedral's Mothers' Union. Mrs. Byer died on Wednesday night, December 17, after a period of illness and hospitalization.

We thank God for her life, work and witness; and pray for the Gittens and Alleyne families as they mourn.

**May the bereaved families know the blessedness of those who mourn.**



## **CATHEDRAL MINISTRIES**



**Today, Sunday, December 21, 2025**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Year A**  
**7:00 A.M. ~ Holy Eucharist**  
**9:00 A.M. ~ Sung Eucharist**



**DEACON'S 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. Towards that end, members are hereby reminded to bring non-perishable food items for the cupboard. Monetary donations would also be appreciated. Please help those in need. Sincere thanks to all.



**DIOCESAN PROGRAMME:** The Christian Formation Commission of the Diocese has produced a document entitled, “**The Path to the Manger: A time of Anticipation and Preparation for the Birth of Jesus Christ**”. It has been designed “to inspire reflection, strengthen faith, and renew our shared commitment to walk faithfully with Christ – the Light of the World.” Its use is highly recommended.



**Hurricane Appeal:** As members are aware, Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 system, dealt a devastating blow to Jamaica. In keeping with the call of The Rt. Rev'd Michael Maxwell, the Bishop of Barbados, an appeal was launched to provide financial relief. Already, the sum of over one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) has been collected across the Diocese. Members of the Cathedral Church are hereby invited to give generously towards this cause on Sundays, December 21st and 28th, 2025. Please use the envelopes in the Stewardship package for Mission or Provincial Sunday.



**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

**11:45 P.M.** Blessing of the Crib, The Lighting of the Christ  
Candle and Sung Eucharist

President: The Rev'd Canon George W. Knight



**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



**The First Sunday After Christmas Day,  
December 28, 2025**

**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's Night, Wednesday, December 31, 2025**

**11:00 P.M.** Watchnight Service

The Rev'd Canon George W. Knight



**Daily Book of Common Prayer Readings  
December 21 to 27, 2025**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Morning Readings</b>	<b>Evening Readings</b>
The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Psalms 24, 29 Genesis 3:8-15 John 3:16-21	Psalms 8, 84 Isaiah 42:1-22 Revelation 12:1-10
Monday	Psalms 23, 121 Job 42:1-6 1 Peter 1:3-9	Psalm 27 Isaiah 43:8-13 John 14:1-7
Tuesday	Psalms 66, 67 1 Samuel 2:1b-10 Like 1:26-38	Psalms 116, 117 Isaiah 11:10-16 Titus 2:1-10
Wednesday	Psalms 45, 46 Baruch 4:36—5:9 Galatians 3:23—4:7 Matthew 1:18-25	Psalm 89:1-29 Isaiah 59:15b-21 Philippians 2:5-11
Thursday	Psalms 2, 85 Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4 John 3:31-36	Psalms 110:1-5(6-7), 132 Zechariah 2:10-13 1 John 4:7-16
Friday	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
Saturday	Psalms 97, 98 Proverbs 8:22-30 John 12:20-35	Psalm 145 Isaiah 44:1-8 1 John 5:1-12

## OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

### Church Wardens:

Ms. Deidre Cox      Mr. Victor Sylvester

**Secretary:** Ms. Donnah Russell, J.P.

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Juno Burrows

**Treasurer:** Mr. David Murray

Assistant Treasurer: Ms. Harriett 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

<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Mr. John Moore
<b>Mothers' Union:</b>	Mrs. Margaret King-Austin
<b>Church Army:</b>	Captain Donnah Russell, J.P.
<b>Woman's Auxiliary:</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Ushers Guild:</b>	Mrs. Juno Burrows
<b>Guild of Servers:</b>	Mr. Jerry Alleyne
<b>Health Ministry:</b>	Dr. Wendy Sealy
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Mrs. Harriett Blackman
<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Mrs. Shirley Hurley
<b>Guild of St. Raphael:</b>	Mr. Darwin Clarke



### **CONTACT US**

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

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