



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ARLINGTON, VA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Whatever has brought you to worship with this community today, we're so glad you're here. If you're wondering whether there might be something more for you, we hope you'll come back and find out. One of the things we're committed to is finding how our story connects with God's story. We'd love to have your story become a part of our story. The best way to participate in these conversations is to look for announcements about "Being With" courses in our e-newsletter.

Sounds from children, young and old, are a valuable part of our prayer life – not a distraction from it! Families are encouraged to sit in the front of the sanctuary, allowing children as many opportunities to follow along and participate as possible. Should a break be beneficial at any point in the service, the nursery is available for supervised play, and includes a QR code for streaming of the service on any device.

The root of the word liturgy is "the work of the people." Meaning all that happens in the sanctuary with the community who gathers works because of your participation. The beautiful thing about this invitation to participate is that, who we are and what we bring is enough because God meets us here! So don't worry about "doing" anything "right." Whether you've been to Episcopal services for a long time, or this is your first, we hope you'll worship in the way that is most comfortable to you. The service instructions about standing, kneeling, and other directions are intended to help clue you into the habits of this particular community.

The words of our worship service are lifted from the Episcopal (and before that Anglican) tradition. The thing that sets us apart from other denominations is our dedication to Common Prayer. These same words have been used for hundreds of years by people all over the world, and are still used today. The hope of finding ourselves in the midst of this ancient tradition is that we might both learn from those who have come before, and add our own voices to the heavenly chorus.

We are currently offering communion in both kinds, the bread and the wine. Drinking from a common cup, is an essential symbolic practice, a reflection of our theology. We place great emphasis on offering this meal from a single paten (plate which holds the bread) and chalice to symbolize the unity we find in Christ, despite any perceived divisions. We return to the Eucharistic table again and again, because it is only through Christ that we are able to imagine what being unified might look like. Choosing to intinct the bread in the chalice is the least sanitary option, as we risk having many hands in the chalice. Please either drink from the chalice, or refrain from consuming the wine. Whether you would like to receive bread, bread and wine, or a blessing, please know that you are welcome at the Lord's table.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude	O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf	Rolf Schweizer
Procession	Before the Lord's eternal throne <i>Winchester New</i>	Hymn 391

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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.**

Song of Praise	Stay with me, Taize #8	WLP 826
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Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence~ as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil~ to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 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.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind~ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you~ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Blest be the King whose coming
Valet will ich dir geben

Hymn 74

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Rosemari Sullivan, D.D., M. Div.

The Nicene Creed

BCP pg. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and 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, of one 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 became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.

The Prayers of the People

Common Worship Times and Seasons

Leader In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader Come to your world as King of the nations. Before you rulers will stand in silence Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death. Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Amen.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Silence is kept.

Leader Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God.

People **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another, passing the peace of God.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Light and Lyfe Immortal Carlton T. Russell

Presentation of the Offerings Old 100th Hymn 380
verse 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship Eucharistic Prayer 1

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Celebrant and People

Hymn S-125

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.
Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer Continues

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Post Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending
Helmsley

Hymn 57

Dismissal

Postlude

Rejoice, Rejoice

Mark Sedio

THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S

SUN 12/3	9:30 AM	Holy Eucharist II, Children's Worship
	10:45 AM	Story Core
TUE 12/5	7:30 PM	Executive Committee
THU 12/7	12:15 PM	Prime Time Potluck
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
THU 12/7–FRI 12/8		Office Closed
SUN 12/10	9:30 AM	Holy Eucharist II, Children's Worship
	10:45 AM	Story Core

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8

PRAYER LIST FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Church of North India (United). In the Diocese of Virginia, we pray for Holy Cross, Batesville and St. Stephen's, Heathsville. In the region of Arlington, we pray for our own parish, St. Michael's.

We pray for leaders of churches everywhere, especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mark and Gayle, our bishops; Beth, our rector; Rosemari, our supply priest; and Drew, our seminarian.

We pray for goodwill among nations; for Joe, our President, Antonio, Secretary General of the United Nations, Glenn, our Governor, members of the Arlington County Board, and all those in authority. We pray for the welfare of those serving our nation at home and abroad, especially Jeremy.

In our Parish Family we pray for Leroy, Sarah, Paula, Liz, Norma, Ethan, Beverly, Pat, Martha, Fran, Kathryn, Dwight, Barbara, and Arthur.

In our greater community, we pray for Cindy, George, Emily, Andrew, Cate, Roland, Henry, Susan, Martha, Betty, Laura, Pat, Beth, Jen, George, Peggy, Jon Rucker, Jr., Susan, Keith, Doug, Colby, Sarah, August, Barbara, Alan, Kay, Katie, Paul, Ben, Mae, Steve, Esther, Marina, Gordon, Julie, Steve, Megan, and Marjory.

We remember all those who have died, especially Charlie Clark.

LEADERSHIP DURING TRANSITION

While Beth is on leave, The Rev. Rosemary Sullivan will serve as supply priest. Meaning, Rosemary will be present on Sundays, and available by appointment in the office. Additionally, feel free to be in touch with any of our Wardens, who can help to ensure that your needs are addressed in a timely fashion.

The Rev. Rosemary Sullivan (rosemary@stmichaelsarlington.org), 703-801-6832

Vicki Barnett (vjbwinkin@gmail.com)

Jim Dinan (jhdinan@gmail.com), 703-522-8396

Kaipo McCartney (kaipo_mccartney@yahoo.com), 703-945-5353

The pastoral care emergency line may be used at any time, 703-239-3787

OFFICE HOURS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4

The Rev. Rosemary Sullivan plans to be in the office at St. Michael's from 10 AM-3 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 5 and the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 6. To meet with Rosemary at a different time, please be in touch by email (rosemary@stmichaelsarlington.org) or phone.

Our Parish Administrator will be out of the office Dec. 7-18. Please keep Katrina's family in your prayers, as they travel for her husband's diaconal ordination.

ALTAR FLOWERS DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



During the season of Advent, altar flowers will be replaced primarily with arrangements of greens in keeping with the more contemplative nature of the season. There are no flower dedications during this time.

For the Christmas season, the Flower Guild will decorate the altar and chancel area with beautiful poinsettias. Flower dedications in memory of or thanksgiving for those you would like to honor can be made via SignUp Genius (scan the QR code) or by completing the form at the back of the sanctuary. A donation of \$50 is requested, and can be made online or by check made payable to St. Michael's Church, with "Christmas flowers" in the memo line. Please submit your dedications by December 17 to be included in the Christmas service bulletin.

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A POT OF COFFEE!

Many thanks to the many volunteers who have joined a coffee hour team this past year. Groups of families and individuals have graciously made coffee and tea and provided the basis for our fellowship after services each Sunday for the past year. We are in the process of recruiting members for coffee hour teams for the coming year, and we need you!

Please contact Caroline Haynes (chaynesarmn@gmail.com) for more details about joining a coffee hour team.

STEWARSHIP SEASON: REMEMBERING AND BECOMING ONE

At the end of our campaign, we are incredibly grateful to have received 60 pledges totaling \$335,027. We are hoping for \$20,000 more to reach our goal of "Remembering and Becoming One" by supporting the day-to-day activities of St. Michael's, as well as the outreach we do in the wider beloved community. Thanks to all those who have turned in their pledge! If you haven't yet made a commitment, we will still gratefully accept your pledge.

More information about this year's pledge campaign and how to make a pledge may be found on our website. Please be in touch with our Stewardship chair, Dan Ruff (danruff@gmail.com), to learn more, or with any questions.

DONATE HOLIDAY CHEER TO OUR COMMUNITY NONPROFITS

Living in kinship with our neighbors is your Outreach Committee's guiding principle. We are deeply grateful to be "doers" in partnership with our community nonprofits throughout the year. During the holiday season many of you ask how you can share in St. Michael's generosity. While we encourage you to donate personally to support our partners who are providing food and shelter to our neighbors in need, St. Michael's will also be collecting items that have been specifically requested, see the list below. Additionally, we'll distribute any gift cards that are donated (\$25-\$35 to grocery stores, Target, CVS).

Please bring your donated items and gift cards to the Parish Hall by December 20.

AFAC - Low-sugar Cereal, Canned tuna and chicken

APAH - Gift Cards

Bridges to Independence - Diapers or Gift Cards

Doorways - Disinfecting wipes or Gift Cards

Path Forward - Men's underwear (all sizes) or Gift Cards

Thank you for sharing your gifts during this most holy Advent season.

Contact Linda Kelleher at lindakelleher@gmail.com or 703-346-9808 with any questions.

PRIME TIME LUNCH: IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS

Join us, **Thursday, December 7**, for a potluck lunch in the parish hall. Gathering at 12:15 PM. Lunch at 12:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass. Basic beverages provided. Is there a story behind a favorite Christmas ornament? Bring the treasure and over lunch tell us the story.

Our **1:15 PM** program: Following our tradition of recent years, TJ Burnside Clapp will introduce the holiday season with a festive dramatic reading of selections from the classic "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote. Then we'll enjoy a carol sing-a-long. All are welcome, especially seniors. Contact: Evelyn Bence.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Lector	Lisa Harkins
Ushers	Molly, Nicholas, and Tori Beier
Greeter	Roberta Thibodaux
Acolyte	Michael Cavey
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Linda Kelleher
Altar Guild	Wil Harkins
Flower Guild	Linda Kelleher
Counters	Helen Hines, Karen Ruff
Zoom Coordinator	Corbin Monahan

ST. MICHAEL'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rector	The Very Rev. Beth Franklin
Supply + Priest	The Rev. Canon Rosemari Sullivan, D.D., M. Div.
Music Minister	Mike Schmidt
Children & Families Minister	Karen Ruff
Seminarian	Drew Downey
Treasurer	Janet Hansen
Parish Administrator	Katrina Moore

ST. MICHAEL'S VESTRY

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Molly Beier	Vicki Barnett (<i>Sr. Warden</i>)	Jim Dinan (<i>Jr. Warden</i>)
John Kelleher	Beth Cavey	Lisa Meacham
Kaipo McCartney (<i>Warden</i>)	Bob Moore	Mary Thorne (<i>Registrar</i>)

CONNECT



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ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1132 N. Ivanhoe St., Arlington, VA 22205
703-241-2474 • Pastoral Care (Direct Line) 703-239-3787
www.stmichaelsarlington.org
Office Hours: Tu-Th: 10 AM-3 PM, F: 10 AM-2 PM

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