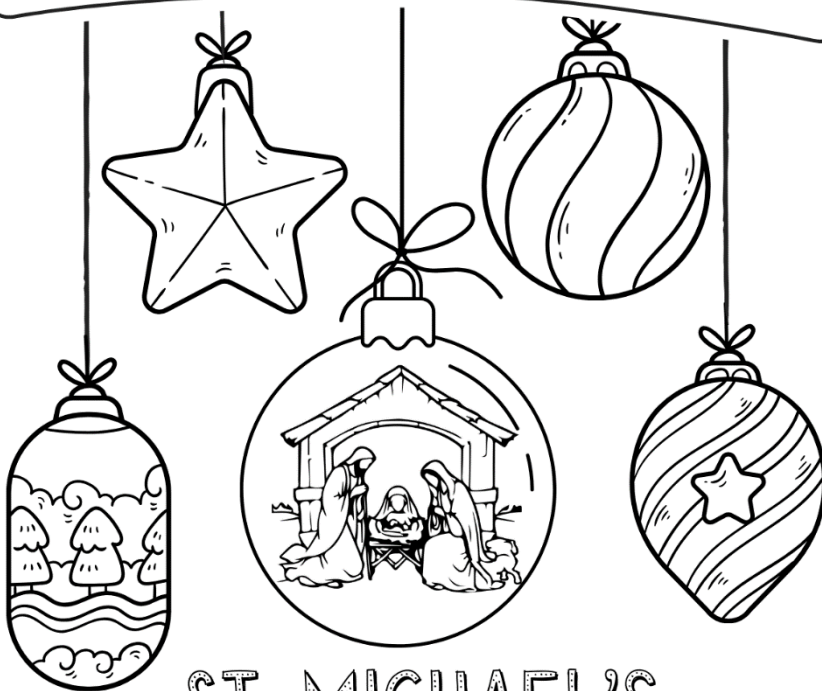


TOTS AND TODDLERS
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 24, 2023

If you are four days old, forty years old, or quit counting years ago; if you've never stepped foot in a church, if you're of another faith tradition, agnostic, spiritual but not religious, unsure, or a cradle Episcopalian; if you are single, married, divorced, partnered, or separated; if you are female, male, transgender, gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, straight, or questioning; if you are Republican, Democrat, Independent, or not registered to vote; if you have or had addictions, phobias, traumas, hardships, or a record; if you own your home, rent, live with your parents, live with roommates, crash on friends' couches, or are unhoused; if you are fully-abled or differently-abled; if you are joyful or sad or curious or unsure or struggle; and if you need to remember you are loved just as you are, **YOU ARE WELCOMED HERE AT ST. MICHAEL'S.**

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR WORSHIP TONIGHT ON CHRISTMAS EVE! We worship each Sunday in-person at 8:30 am, at 10:30 am, and live-stream via our YouTube Channel and social media accounts at 10:30 am. We have a mid-week service on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm.

Music for this service is found in *The Hymnal 1982* (the hymn book in the pews).

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA! Check in on Facebook (St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church), post pictures on Instagram (stmichaelslex) or tweet a prayer or line from a hymn and tag @stmichaelslex on Twitter. Join us on YouTube at www.youtube.com/c/StMichaelsLexington.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - Gendered restrooms are off the main lobby. Gender-neutral restrooms are across from the Bellefonte entrance.

KEEP IN TOUCH - Please fill out a blue Connect Card found in the pews or on the table in the lobby and leave it in the offering plate or with an Usher. You can use it to sign up to receive our weekly online newsletter, St. Michael's Matters, or you can send an email to mail@saint-michaels.org and we will add you to our list. Information about church events is available on our website, www.saint-michaels.org, as well.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - We humbly acknowledge the ancestral and contemporary homelands of the Indigenous peoples of Eastern Kentucky: the Adena and Hopewell Cultures, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Chickasaw, the Osage, and the Shawnee people - the traditional custodians of the land on which we are worshipping today. We honor and recognize the Indigenous peoples who lived and live on this land. We recognize and lament the church's part in the colonialism and oppression of Native peoples, and we commit to action and awareness of our historical and current participation.

OUR PRAY-GROUND is a space in the Church where children can experience worship with our community while their parents, grandparents, or guardians sit with them. Jesus welcomed children to be children, and we at St. Michael's welcome them as they participate in worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE IS AN EXCITING NIGHT! -We welcome the energy, joyful noises, and enthusiasm children bring to Church tonight and every time we gather at St. Michael's, so it's okay if they wiggle, play, talk, and explore the Church!

CHRISTMAS

AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

- DEC 24 6:30 pm Choral Christmas Mass
OUR CHOIR LEADS US IN THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS
- 10:30 pm Contemplative Christmas Mass with Holy Eucharist
A QUIET, REFLECTIVE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS
-
- DEC 25 10:00 am The Holy Eucharist of Christmas Day
COME AS YOU ARE, COFFEE WELCOMED!



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas



WWW.SAINT-MICHAELS.ORG

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SERVICE

All stand as are able at the sounding of the bell.

GATHERING MUSIC

Christmas Medley

Mark Hayes

CAROL AS WE ENTER

O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv 1-3

Hymnal 83

OPENING PRAYERS

The Ven. Laurie M. Brock, Rector

I welcome you on behalf of St. Michael's Episcopal Church as we gather with Christians across the world to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on this holy night. We have come together as the family of God, in God's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service, we hear and receive the Good News of the birth of Christ, and we offer to God our thanksgiving in our prayers and in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the Good News of God's love to a needy world;

for the world, which is already Christ's, that all people may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for justice, freedom, and peace everywhere;

for those in need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful, and those who mourn, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all;

and for those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of God, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Worshippers are invited to sit for the readings and stand to sing the carols.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 9:2-4, 6-7

Hunter Brannan, Lector

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

HYMN

The First Noel, vv 1-3

Hymnal 109

A READING FROM TITUS 2:11-14

Rebecca Murray, Lector

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

All stand as are able.

THE PEACE

Priest Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All children and adults are invited to participate in our telling of the Christmas Story. During the Anthem, if you haven't gotten a costume and would like one, please see our Pageant Director in the lobby.

ANTHEM

Baby, What You Goin' To Be?

Natalie Sleeth

Baby, lyin' in a manger, slumberin' so sweetly, what you goin' to be? Baby, all the world is watchin', all the world awaits to see. Baby, sleepin' in a stable, underneath the heaven, what you goin' to say? Baby, did you bring the Good News? Did you come to light our way?

Baby, gazin' at the cattle, lookin' at the shepherds, what you goin' to do? Baby, will you be the Master? Will you bring the Kingdom, too? Baby, hope of all the people, what you come to do here? What you come to say? Baby, can you be the savior, come to save the world one day? Baby, lyin' in a manger, will you save the world one day?

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

During the Christmas Pageant, we'll sing the following carols:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

Away in a Manger

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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy perfect light.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Magi, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-Child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Joy to the World

Hymnal 100

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

He Who Shepherd Men Came Praising

Paul Manz, Op. 17

MANY THANKS TONIGHT TO WINGSWEPT FARM (www.wingsweptfarm.com) Chris and Stephanie Brannan, owners and trainers, for our pony stars of tonight’s Christmas Pageant! Wingswept Farm offers English saddle riding lessons (with a heated indoor arena when it’s cold outside) for all ages and abilities. Check out their website or call or text 859-490-0197 for more information or to schedule a lesson to learn to ride horses!



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS MAY BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR MADE

ONLINE - St. Michael's website allows you to make a one-time or recurring gift from your bank account or your credit card.

WITH TEXT TO GIVE - Text your offering amount in the message part to 833-917-0602. The first time you text, you'll receive a link to fill in credit card information to complete your donation. You can then text "repeat" to make the donation recurring.

BY MAIL -to St. Michael's, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40503.

BY QR CODE - Open your smartphone's camera app and center over this code and a link will pop up. Click on the link to make your online gift.



Our offerings tonight are designated to help those in need – especially children in Lexington who are food insecure and those seeking recovery in our community.



**St. Michael's
Episcopal Church**

Clergy and Staff

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