

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church



*Third Sunday of Advent*  
*December 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m.*  
*Advent Lessons and Music*



*The Birth of the Messiah*

## LITURGY OF ADVENT LESSONS AND MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Mrs. Debralee LaSeur

PRELUDE

**H56, O come, O come Emmanuel**

*Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in our Diocese of Florida for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**H61, Sleepers, wake**

*Wachet auf*

LIGHTING OF CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH: LIGHT OF JOY

**Narrator:** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, magi from the East came seeking Him and asked, "Where is the One Who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His Star in the East and have come to worship Him.

And the star they had seen went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, the magi were filled with joy.

In gratitude for wise men and seekers everywhere in search of Christ, we light this candle of joy.

Hear the word of the Lord: "I will turn mourning into gladness; I will give you comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will tell you the truth: You may weep and mourn while the world rejoices; you may grieve, but your grief will turn to joy."

For the magi of yesterday who crossed the expanse of nations, and for those today who bridge chasms of the heart, earnestly seeking the Source of everlasting joy, we give thanks.

### **A BIDDING PRAYER**

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem where we behold the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our turning away from Him until the time of our redemption in the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, born a child, living among us, and dying to set us free. Let us give thanks for the yearly remembrance of His birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, we pray for the needs of all people, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which He gives His life, even now here in this country, in this city, and in this congregation.

And because He loves us so much, let us remember in His name the poor, the helpless, those this day who are cold and hungry, the oppressed, the sick, those who mourn, those who are alone, the aged, little children, and all people who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God His mother, Mary, and Joseph journeying on the road to Bethlehem, persons chosen to bear the life of Christ into the world, to raise Him up in the ways of goodness and right, and the whole multitude of persons which no one can number, whose hope remains in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, summing up these petitions, let us pray in the words which our Lord Christ himself has taught us, saying:

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thine 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

May God the Father bless us with His grace, find us receptive to goodness and mercy in His Son our Lord, and bring us all in the power of His Holy Spirit to the joy of His everlasting Kingdom. *Amen.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION		BCP Pg. 323
THE KYRIES		324
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY		Insert
FIRST LESSON	Genesis 2:4b-9 and 15-25	
	<b><i>(God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.)</i></b>	
	Silence to be observed	
	<b>L2, Behold Your God</b>	Louis
SECOND LESSON	Isaiah 40:1-11	
	<b><i>(God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.)</i></b>	
	Silence to be observed	
	<b>L12, We're Marching to Zion</b>	Lowry

THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 7:10-15	
	<b>(God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us")</b>	
	Silence to be observed	
	<b>L4, Better Be Ready</b>	Spiritual arr Dett
FOURTH LESSON	Micah 5:2-4	
	<b>(The one who is to rule Israel will be born in Bethlehem)</b>	
	Silence to be observed	
	<b>H-S186, The Magnificat (Anglican Chant)</b>	Crotch
FIFTH LESSON	Zephaniah 3:14-18	
	<b>(The Lord will be among us, we are summoned to rejoice and sing.)</b>	
	Silence to be observed	
	<b>H67, Comfort, comfort ye my people</b>	Psalm 42
SIXTH LESSON	Luke 1:5-25	
	<b>(An Angel tells Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will bear a son.)</b>	
	Silence to be observed	
	<b>H72, Our glad hosannas</b>	Richmond
HOLY GOSPEL	Matthew 1:18-25	The Reverend Hugh Chapman
SPECIAL ADDRESS/THE SERMON		The Reverend Hugh Chapman
THE NICENE CREED		BCP Pg. 326
CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION		330-332
THE PEACE		
OFFERTORY	<b>When Blossoms Flowered Mid the Snow</b>	<i>Jesu Bambino</i>
DOXOLOGY & PROCESSION	<b>H380, v3, Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow</b>	<i>Old 100th</i>
	<i>Presentation of the Offering – prayer to be said</i>	
	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. <i>Amen.</i>	
PRESENTATION HYMN	<b>L13, My Lord, What a Morning</b>	Spiritual

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCHARIST PRAYER 1 ( <i>remain standing</i> )	BCP Pg. 333
SANCTUS	334
THE LORD'S PRAYER	336
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD	337
AGNUS DEI	
THE INVITATION	

## HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN 1	<b>L17, Rockin' Jerusalem</b>	Spiritual arr Boyer
COMMUNION HYMN 2	<b>L19, Wayfaring Stranger</b>	American Folk Song
MEDITATION HYMN	<b>All Is Well</b> <i>Mira Crowder, soloist</i>	Kirkpatrick and Smith
POST COMMUNION PRAYER		
BENEDICTION		
ANNOUNCEMENTS		
RECESSIONAL HYMN	<b>L14, Soon and Very Soon</b>	Crouch
DISMISSAL		

H=1982 Hymnal (blue)

L=Lift Every Voice & Sing (black, green, red)

## SPECIAL OCCASION PRAYERS

### Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace, which passeth understanding, abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### Anniversary Prayer

God our Father, who made men and women to live together in families: we pray that marriage may be held in honor; that couples may live together faithfully, according to their vows; and that members of every family may grow in mutual love and understanding, in courtesy and kindness, so that they may bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ; for His name's sake. *Amen.*

## SPECIAL PRAYER

### Capital Campaign Prayer

Most gracious Lord Jesus Christ and generous source of all abundance, in gratitude we invite you to expand our hearts as we seek to increase and improve this place of worship, peace, healing, forgiveness, outreach, service and fellowship. May all who enter here be restored and strengthened on their journey of faith. Guide us Heavenly Father, that we may make manifest your vision of a beloved and enlightened church and community, and be a shining example of the living presence of the Holy Spirit. May we and our Capital Campaign be a channel of God's abundant grace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. *Amen.*

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

Joseph Sams (12/18), Adanna Olivia Anwuri (12/19), Prokop Hruda (12/21), Pennela Chapman (12/23), David & Anne Powell (12/22), James & Pamela Fort (12/23).

### Serving today, Sunday, December 17.

**LEM:** Mr. John Grayson

**Gospel Book Bearer/MC:** Mrs. Alexis McMillan

**Crucifer:** Mr. James Fort

**Vestry:** Dr. Shaun Laurie, M.D

**Altar Guild:** Dr. Delores Lawson

**Organist:** Mrs. Debralee LaSeur

**AV:** Thomas Payne

**Lectors:** Ms. Chioma Onyeozili

Mrs. Laureatte Scott

Dr. Neil James

Ms. Chenikka Usher

Ms. Marie Roberts

Dr. Edith Onyeozili

Mr. Christopher White

### Suggested daily Readings for the Season of Advent: December 18 to December 23.

Mon. Isa. 8:16-9:1

Psalm 41, 52

Luke 22:39-53

Tue. Isa. 9:1-7

Psalm 45

Luke 22:54-69

Wed. Isa. 9:8-17

Psalm 119:49-72

Mark 1:1-8

Thurs. Isa. 9:18-10:4

Psalm 50

Matt. 3:1-12

Fri. Isa. 10:5-19

Psalm 40, 45

Matt. 11:2-15

Sat. Isa. 10:20-27

Psalm 55

Luke 3:1-9

## From Crisis to Compassion to Comfort!

*Continued from last week.*

Isaiah 40.1-11 provides a joyful and just refrain that introduces this unanticipated turn of events in Israel's living conditions. The poem opens with a messenger crying out the unexpected message: "Comfort! Comfort"! rings not as a command, but rather as an amazing astonishment. The pathway home now has become a level highway at the sound of the messenger. As was before when Israel's punishment for their disobedience and murmuring was a forty years' incarceration in a desert of disaster. This return will be a pilgrimage along a well-kept thoroughfare.

The focus of the poem quickly turns to the God who delivers, where God commands the whining messenger to proclaim God's entrance onto the scene in Isaiah 40.6-9. Though Israel has sinned, Jehovah has remained true. They are fragile, but God is powerful and providential. The poem focuses on the declaration of the human condition: grass withers, flowers fall, a reality too well known by the ancient audiences. Their years of exile experiences have demonstrated that God does not care whether they live or die, because they are no more than blades of grass crushed by the warrior rushing to glory. But thanks be to God this poem is all about comfort, where the Divine Warrior, with arms outstretched to stay an enemy, instead bends down, and scoops the little lambs to His divine bosom.

Why did God instruct His messenger to begin the poem with the word "Comfort"? No, the poem does not say all suffering and sorrow will cease. He does not deny or change the brokenness of the condition. As the late Rabbi Harold S. Kushner often said: "Pain is the price we pay for being humans." This poem ultimately reminds believers today that the unexpected can happen at any time: God still sends comfort into our short and frail lives.

*Rev. James Vaughn.*

### Advent/Christmas Schedule of Services

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>TIME</u>
12/24/23	Solemn Eucharist	10:00 am
	Christmas Eve Service/Eucharist	8:00 pm
12/25/23	Christmas Day Eucharist	10:00 am
12/26/23	St. Stephen's Day/Said Mass	12:15 pm
12/28/23	Holy Innocents Day/Said Mass	12:15 pm
12/31/23	Christmas 1/Solemn Eucharist	10:00 am

## WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL

We extend a warm welcome to our guests. Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our church family. Please sign the guest register, *include your home address, phone number, and if you would like to receive our newsletter, news of special events and other happenings, please add your email address also.*

### *About Us*

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#### *Our Clergy and Administration*

The Standing Committee  
Diocese of Florida

The Reverend Hugh Chapman

**Rector**

340.513.1123

[Frhugh\\_chappy63@yahoo.com](mailto:Frhugh_chappy63@yahoo.com)

#### *Our Vestry & Staff*

Dr. Shaun Laurie, M.D., **Senior Warden**

850.570.5789

Charlie Clark, **Junior Warden**

850.631.0780

Linda Billups

Kimberly Douglas

Margaret Edwards, **Vestry Clerk**

Laureatte Scott, **Treasurer**

Dr. Kathleen Rodgers, **Financial Secretary**

Ivana Kenny Carmola and

Debralee LaSeur-Helfand, **Organists**

Chris White, **Drummer/Choral Director**

John Grayson, **LEMs Coordinator**

J. Byron Green, **Outreach Coordinator**

Elizabeth Humes, **Administrative Assistant**

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*Find us on Facebook*

*OUR VISION* is to be a cornerstone for serving the spiritual needs of the greater Tallahassee community, extending an eternal invitation to join our caring parish, and to enrich the spiritual life of all people as we journey with Christ.

*OUR MISSION* is to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ by feeding the mind, body, and spirit of our community in fellowship and service.