Tots and Toddlers Service (filmed)
December 2, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Please join us immediately following the service for cocoa and treats in the Parish Hall!

SPECIAL THANKS TONIGHT TO WINGSWEPT FARM, (www.wingsweptfarm.com) Chris and Stephanie Brannan, owners and trainers, for George the Donkey and Molly the Pony, who help make our Christmas Pageant more joyful! 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!

To make your offering to support St. Michael’s Mission and Ministry, you can use our QR Code. Scan this code and it will bring up a secure online giving form on your smartphone or tablet. Fill out the secure form and you have just supported the mission and ministry of St. Michael’s! Thank you for supporting the work of God at St. Michael’s.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLERGY STAFF

Rev. Laurie M. Brock, Rector
Ms. Ruth Witt, Organist-Choirmaster
Ms. Loretta Gomez-Haley, Administrative Assistant
rector@saint-michaels.org
music@saint-michaels.org
mail@saint-michaels.org
GATHERING MUSIC

The Choir of St. Michael’s

The Snow Lay On the Ground
Do You Hear What I Hear?

Douglas
Simone

When the bell rings, all stand as are able.

CAROL AS WE ENTER

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYERS

I welcome you on behalf of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church as we gather with Christians across the world in celebrating 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 its people may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom, and peace everywhere;

for all in special 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 9:2-7

KYRAN DAVIS, READER

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 all the boots of the trampling warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Sussex Carol
arr. David Willcocks

A READING FROM TITUS 2:11-14

AIDAN LAWLESS, READER

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

What Can I Bring Him?
Michael McCabe

HYMN

The first Noel, vv 1-2
Hymnal 109

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 2:1-20

ANNA BAKER AND THE REV. LAURIE BROCK

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 favors!"

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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

HYMN Silent Night, vv 1&2 Hymnal 111

All continue to stand as are able.

THE PEACE

Celebrant 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.

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Your offerings tonight support ministries serving those in need in Lexington, especially children in need of nutritious food who are helped through the Backpack Ministry of God’s Pantry. To donate via credit card, see QR Code on page 8 of the bulletin.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

All children and adults are invited to participate in our telling of the Christmas Story. During the Christmas Story, 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.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

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

POSTLUDE Aria Pastorella Georg Muffat