

St. Michael's Parish

Litchfield, Connecticut



Choral Evensong

for

Advent Sunday

3rd December, 2023

Four O'Clock in the Afternoon

Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong has its origins in 16th Century English Cathedral and Collegiate Churches who were the post Reformation inheritors of the Benedictine monastic tradition of signing the daily offices of Matins, Lauds, and Prime to begin the day and Vespers and Compline to end it. Evensong is the conflation of the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline and has only changed one word through the centuries and across the Atlantic –

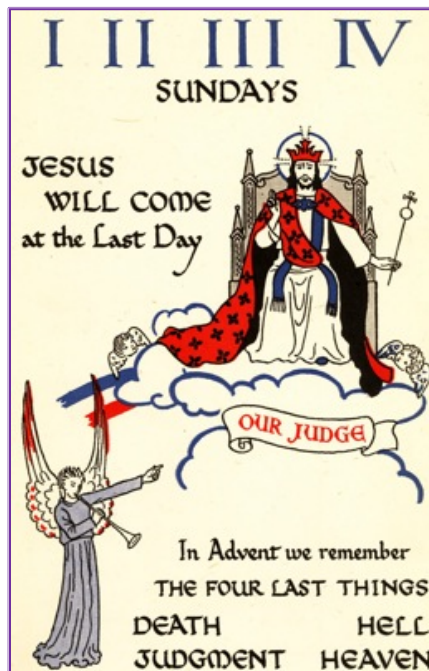
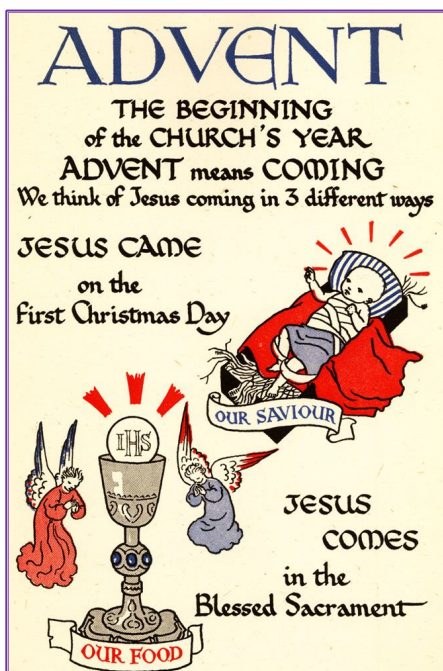
“King” was replaced with “State” in 1776

here at St. Michael’s and the other Colonial churches.

Today we continue in the tradition of the English Cathedral which stood at the heart of the community as its biggest building and most beautiful room – inspirations in stone and glass that come to life with the songs of the “Clerks in Holy Orders and the Lay Clerks” offering the prayers of the faithful morning and night. And with your voice in the Lord’s Prayer, Creed, and Hymn, Etc.!

Sit back. Allow the prayers of the ages to wash over you and lift you up. Join in the chant of the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed and the Office Hymn.

And join us for refreshments in the Community House immediately following the service.



All stand as the Choir and Clergy enter

When all are in place, remaining standing, the Officiant begins

℣. *O Lord, Open Thou, our lips

℟. And our mouth shall shew fourth Thy place

℣. *O God, make speed to save us.

℟. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

Praise ye, the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

The Psalter

All are seated as the Choir chants the psalms to a tune by Bairstow

PSALM 111. *Confitebor tibi*

I WILL give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart*
secretly among the faithful, and in the congregation.

2 The works of the Lord are great*
sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

3 His work is worthy to be praised and had in honour*
and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4 The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done his marvellous works*
that they ought to be had in remembrance.

5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him*
he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.

6 He hath shewed his people the power of his works*
that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

7 The works of his hands are verity and judgement*
all his commandments are true.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever*
and are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption unto his people*
he hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his Name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*
a good understanding have all they that do thereafter; the praise of it endureth for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son*
and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be*
World

PSALM 112. *Beatus vir*

BLESSED is the man that feareth the Lord*
he hath great delight in his commandments.
2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth*
the generation of the faithful shall be blessed.
3 Riches and plenteousness shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for
ever.
4 Unto the godly there ariseth up light in the darkness*
he is merciful, loving, and righteous.
5 A good man is merciful, and lendeth*
and will guide his words with discretion.
6 For he shall never be moved*
and the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.
7 He will not be afraid of any evil tidings*
for his heart standeth fast, and believeth in the Lord.
8 His heart is established, and will not shrink*
until he see his desire upon his enemies.
9 He hath dispersed abroad, and given to the poor*
and his righteousness remaineth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.
10 The ungodly shall see it, and it shall grieve him*
he shall gnash with his teeth, and consume away; the desire of the ungodly shall
perish.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son*
and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be*
World without end, Amen.

PSALM 113. *Laudate, pueri*

PRAISE the Lord, ye servants*
O praise the Name of the Lord.

2 Blessed be the Name of the Lord*
from this time forth for evermore.
3 The Lord's Name is praised*
from the rising up of the sun unto the going down of the same.
4 The Lord is high above all heathen*
and his glory above the heavens.
5 Who is like unto the Lord our God, that hath his dwelling so high*
and yet humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth?
6 He taketh up the simple out of the dust*
and lifteth the poor out of the mire;
7 That he may set him with the princes*
even with the princes of his people.
8 He maketh the barren woman to keep house*
and to be a joyful mother of children.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son*
and to the Holy Ghost*
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be*
World without end, Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 1:1-9

All remain seated for the Reading.

THE vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of

cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Here endeth the Reading

The Magnificat – Song of Mary

All stand for the first Cantic

✠MY soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-4, 22:27, 22:1-5

All are seated for the Reading

B of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Here endeth the Reading

The Nunc Dimittis *Song of Simeon*

All stand for the second canticle

✠LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Turning East, all chant the Apostles' Creed on one tone

Officiant All

I BELIEVE in God: the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
I AND in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I BELIEVE in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Officiant and Choir then begin the prayers

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with thy spirit.

℣. Let us pray.

All who are able, kneel; the choir remains standing

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All then chant the Lord's Prayer on one tone

Officiant All

OUR Father: which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Officiant stands and continues with the choir

℣. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

℟. And grant us thy salvation.

℣. O Lord, save the State (*formerly King*).

℟. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

℣. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

℟. And make thy chosen people joyful.

℣. O Lord, save thy people.

℟. And bless thine inheritance.

℣. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

℟. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

℣. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

℟. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

ALmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Second Collect for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Gratia Domini *spoken*

THE GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

All Amen.

2 Corinthians 13.

All then stand to sing the Office Hymn

Christ Mighty Saviour

Hurd, D (b.1950)

Mighty Saviour



1 Christ, might - y Sa - vior, Light of all cre - a - tion, you make the
2 Now comes the day's end as the sun is set-ting: mir - ror of
3 There - fore we come now eve - ning rites to of - fer, joy - ful - ly
4 Give heed, we pray you, to our sup - pli - ca - tion: that you may
5 Though bo - dies slum - ber, hearts shall keep their vi - gil, for ev - er



1 day - time ra - dant with the sun - light and to the night give
2 day - break, pledge of re - sur - rec - tion; while in the hea - vens
3 chant - ing ho - ly hymns to praise you, with all cre - a - tion
4 grant us par - don for of - fens - es, strength for our weak hearts,
5 rest - ing in the peace of Je - sus, in light or dark - ness



1 glit - ter - ing a - dorn - ment, stars — in the hea - vens.
2 choirs of stars ap - pear - ing hal - low the night - fall.
3 join - ing hearts and voic - es sing - ing your glo - ry.
4 rest for ach - ing bo - dies, sooth - ing the wear - y.
5 wor - ship - ing our Sa - vior now — and for ev - er.

Welcome & Brief Words

Fr Montgomery

Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Psalm 42

All remain seated. An offering is collected to support the Parish's ministry of worship, care and community outreach. If you like you can make a tax deductible electronic donation by scanning the QR code below!



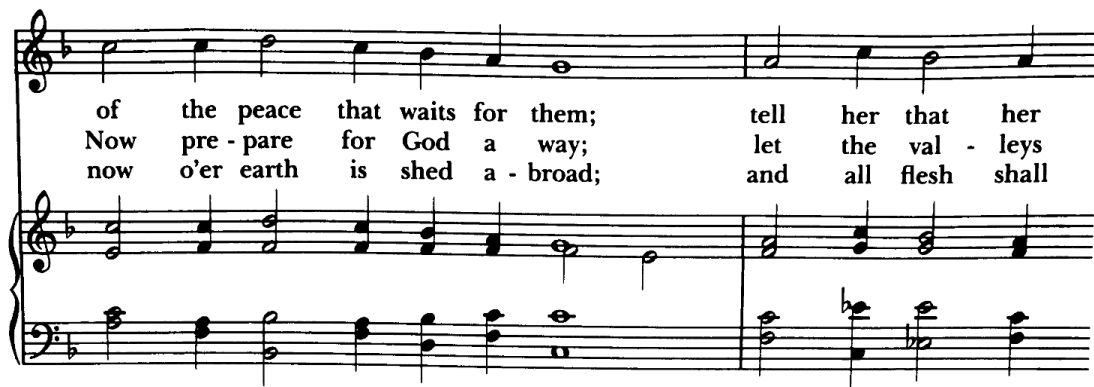
Thanks for helping us help!

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

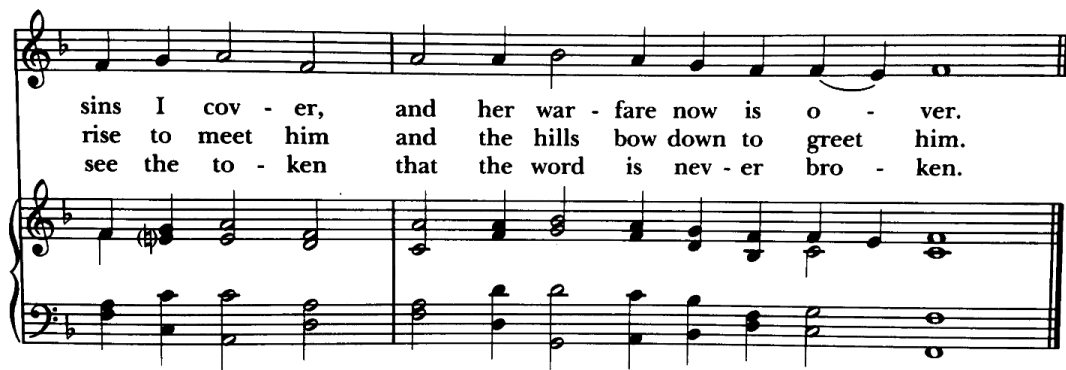
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Final Prayers & Blessing

A General Intercession

ACCCEPT, O Lord, our intercessions for all mankind. Let the light of thy Gospel shine upon all nations; and may as many as have received it, live as becomes it. Be gracious unto thy Church; and grant that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may serve thee faithfully. Bless all in authority over us; and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain thy true religion and virtue. Send down thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, upon all our relations, friends, and neighbours. Reward all who have done us good, and pardon all those who have done or wish us evil, and give them repentance and better minds. Be merciful to all who are in any trouble; and do thou, the God of pity, administer to them according to their several necessities; for his sake who went about doing good, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men; [* particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for thy late mercies vouchsafed unto them.] We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

All Amen.

All kneel as they are able, or remain seated, for the blessing

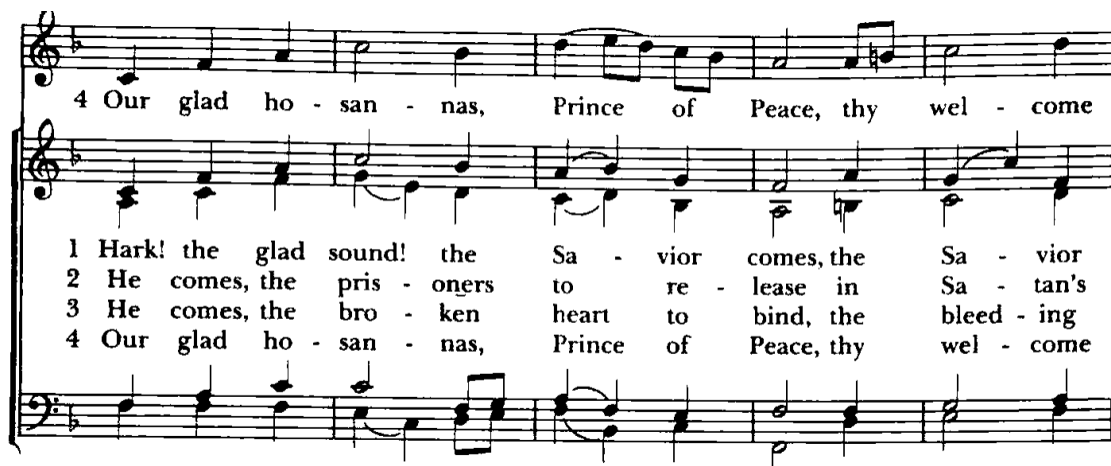
The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty the ✠Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

All stand and sing the retiring hymn overleaf

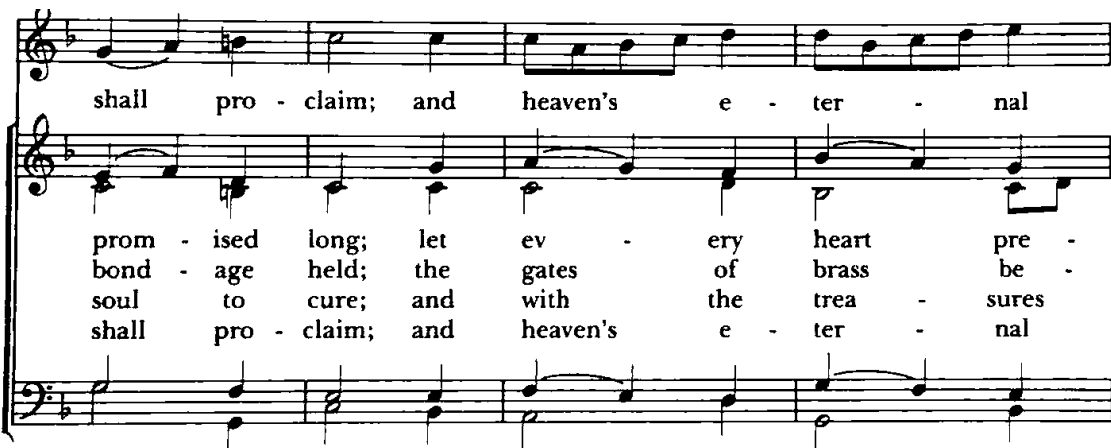
Hark, the Glad Sound the Saviour Comes

Richmond



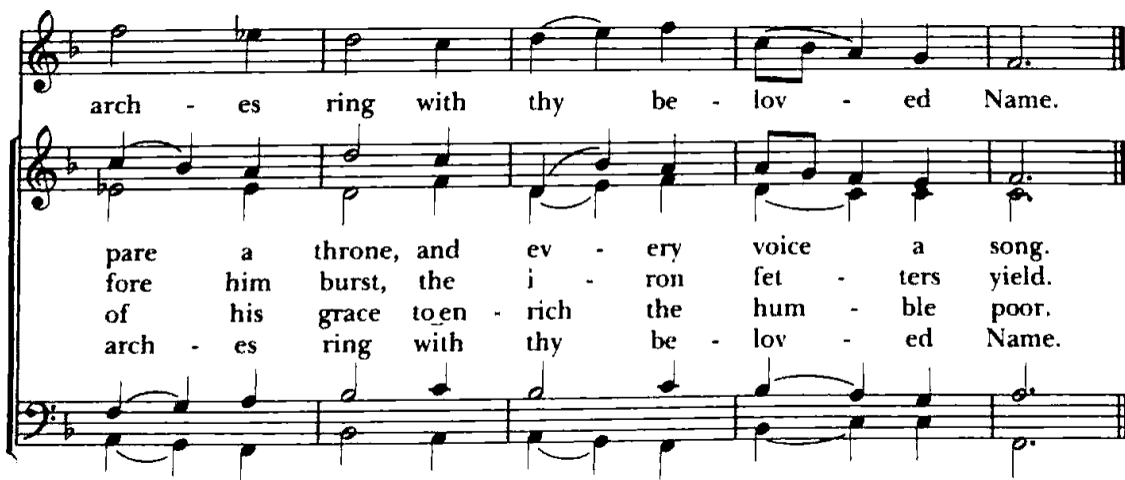
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come



shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal



arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

*All are invited to gather in the Community House across
 the Drive for refreshments*



SAINT MICHAEL'S LITCHFIELD

Nurture Your Spirit

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Leadership

The Church Universal

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The Most Reverend Michael Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church USA
The Right Reverend Jeffrey Mello Bishop of Connecticut
The Right Reverend Laura Ahrens Bishop Suffragan in Connecticut

The Parish

The Reverend Ian Bruce Montgomery Priest-in-Charge

Staff

Bob Bernabeo Parish Administrator, Daniel Scifo Director of Music, Paula Scifo Bookkeeper

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Altar Guild Sara Gadomski, Bible Study (Thursday) Bob Rumsey, Children & Youth Michael LaHart, Coffee Hour Meredith Penfield, , Dragon Ladies Peg Sullivan, EFM Melissa Kneuer, Finance Miles Borzilleri, Flower & Brass Guilds Nancy Post, Lay Visitors Martha Babbitt, Music Peg Sullivan, Newcomers Curry Walker, Personnel Perry Brown, Property Richard Quay Ushers Miles Borzilleri

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Fr Montgomery, Chairman

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