

# ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

*St. Michael and All Angels Anglican/Episcopal Church  
aspires to be a beacon of inclusive Christian spiritual growth and  
service in the city of Cuernavaca, Mexico.*

January 8, 2023

Epiphany 1



Minerva #1  
Colonia Delicias  
Cuernavaca, Morelos

## **WELCOME TO SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**

**We extend a warm welcome** to you all and, as we celebrate our life and mission in Christ, we ask the blessings of God on our parishioners and those who are worshiping here for the first time. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or a blessing at the altar. Please join us for continued fellowship and refreshments in the Parish Hall after the Service.

**In the Anglican Communion:** We pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya, the Most Revd. Enrique Treviño, our Presiding Bishop and the Diocese of Cuernavaca, for the Congregation of San Miguel Arcangel, The President of Mexico and all World Leaders

**We keep in our prayers:** Andrea, Carlos, Charlie, Dennis, Eduardo, Hank, Jorge, Gonzalo, Harriet, Maria Luisa, Marisela, Raymundo, Salvador, Sheila, Nicole, René, Paul and Anita and William.

**If you are interested** in reading, greeting, or donating flowers for the altar, or bringing sweets or other treats for the coffee hour, please sign up on the list at the back of the church. Also if you would like to serve at the altar or help with communion, please speak to the Rev. Douglas Carter.

**St. Michael's is a self-supporting Parish** in the Diocese of Cuernavaca. Every year we give to support the Churches in the Diocese and numerous charities in the State of Morelos. We rely on the generosity of our members and visitors to implement the goals of our ministry.

**Donations for niches:** Information is available about the niches for both animal and human remains. Many thanks and blessings to the Funeraria Hispano-Mexicana and their staff for their continued support in this project.

**We still need flower donations for Sunday services.** We have vases available and garden flowers or street corner flowers are more than welcome. Let us know whether they are in Memory of or Thanksgiving for a person or occasion. If we have that information in time it will be included in the Sunday Bulletin.

**This is the second and last Sunday** of having Nathan with us. Thank you, Nathan. Doug returns tomorrow.

**By popular demand Tom Esakin** is continuing his Buddhist Meditation Practice and Dhamma Talks the first three Wednesdays in January, 6-7PM

**Reader 'Carol Hopkins**

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude:

Processional Hymn

# 616 vs, 1,3,5

Holy Baptism

p. 299-311

Gloria

S280

### The Collect

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### Old Testament - Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

### Psalm 29 - Responsively by half verses at the asterisk\*

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \*worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; \*the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord \*all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

### **The New Testament - Acts 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### **Gradual Hymn**

# 448 vs. 1-3,6

### **The Gospel - Matthew 3:13-17**

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Nathan Speck-Ewer

### **The Nicene Creed**

p. 385

### **The Prayers of the People**

Form 2 p. 392



Not only did Dave not think that I was crazy, but he shared his own spiritual experience of praying for his mother after she had a terrible car accident that could have taken her life. On his way to the hospital, he felt compelled to pray for her. He stopped at a grove of cottonwood trees to pray, and suddenly, he felt transported. The leaves of the cottonwood trees began to glow. He got the unmistakable sense that his mother would eventually heal and be fine. She did.

I knew then that Dave was the one for me. Throughout our long marriage, we talked about God, life's purpose, the afterlife, and unconditional love. Music lifted our souls. And every summer Dave went hiking in his favorite mountains, the eastern Sierras. He read from his well-worn Bible every day. Dave read every edition of *Guideposts* magazine cover to cover. He shared the dog-eared pages and underlined passages with me. This precious man was my true soulmate.

Then, in June of 2013, Dave was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. It was inoperable. They gave my dear husband three months to live, best case scenario fourteen. We vowed to fight it with everything we could. But most of all, we prayed.

We had three more years together. One day in January 2016, Dave fell into a coma. His sons and I rushed him to the hospital. The nurses set up a bed for me in his room. Finally acknowledging that God would soon be calling my beloved husband home, I fervently prayed for a deathbed vision that would comfort him and bring him peace.

The next morning, I found Dave sitting up in bed, smiling. He was pointing to the ceiling. Speaking was difficult; while he understood everything I said, I didn't know what he was trying to tell me. Then he asked clearly, "You can't see that? It's real." My prayers had been answered. He was having a heavenly vision. I wanted to hear everything about it.

"What do you see?" I asked.

He pointed from one edge of the ceiling to the other and said, "Mountains." Dave's spiritual home. "White, feathers, music."

"Angels?" I asked.

"Yes, angels!"

"Are they singing?"

"No."

"Are they playing instruments to make the music?"

"Yes."

"Is it beautiful?"

He gave me a big smile and said, "Oh, yes."

Three months later, on April 30, Dave was taking his final breaths. He could no longer talk. His eyes were wide, moving from one end of the ceiling to the other.

“Are you seeing your mountains again?” I asked Dave. He nodded. Yes.

“Do you think God is calling you home?” Yes.

“Do you want to go home? Yes!

Within a few hours, he was gone from this life. Only then did I allow myself to break down.

The angels knew how much my husband loved instrumental music. They knew he loved the mountains. They chose to give him this experience in a way that would bring him the most comfort and help guide him in his transition.

By bringing my husband comfort, they brought me comfort as well.

## **Make Praise a Habit for the New Year** by Susanna Foth Aughtmon

New Year’s Eve gives us the opportunity to celebrate blessings and new beginnings with those we love.

Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy! Psalm 98:4 (NLT)

New Year’s is a big deal for our family. My brother and sisters and I rarely get to see each other as the years have scattered us far and wide. But each year we congregate at my parents’ house for the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day. There are about twenty of us including in-laws and kids. We look forward to our time together all year long.

On our last night together, we want to do it up right. We want to soak up every minute. Ringing in the New Year involves sparkling cider, delicious appetizers, and the end-of-the-year countdown. If we are lucky, my brother, Chris, will serve up his gourmet pizza with imported olive oil and cheeses.

My sister, Jenny, makes her famous meatballs that all the boy cousins fight over. We play games. We laugh hard. And we relish the fact that we are all together. The night’s celebration ends with watching the New York City ball drop on TV amidst shouting and lots of hugging.

There are moments in life that need to be heralded with joy. Jesus is so good to us. There are a million reasons to celebrate this New Year—all of the obstacles we have overcome in the last year. The joy and healing that Jesus has brought about in our hearts. His faithfulness and bountiful provision. The cherished relationships He has brought into our lives. The goodness of being alive. The prospect of a new, untarnished year in front of us. The promise that Jesus will be with us in every circumstance, no matter what. So many reasons to bring in the New Year with a shout of praise!

Faith Step: Do a countdown of the top ten things you are thankful to Jesus for as you go into this New Year.

## **Ministry**

<b>Bishop:</b>	The Rt. Revd. Enrique Treviño Cruz
<b>Rector:</b>	The Rev. Douglas Carter
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Judy Frothingham
<b>Junior Warden:</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Alistair Richardson
<b>Secretary:</b>	
<b>Vestry:</b>	Roxana Villa Michel Brownlee (Diosesan Representative), Erik Friend, Debbie Jeffress, Charlie Detweller, Chris Jones, Judy Frothingham, Alistair Richardson
<b>Music Ministry:</b>	Andrea Carr and Gabriel Vargas (Assistant)
<b>Choristers:</b>	Patricia Bridger, Susan Kirago, Andrea Rogel, Kay Godrey Suzie Jeffress, Ian Thomas, Jim Blanchard, Lucia Rogel
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Debbie Jeffress, Kristen and Marisela Lathrop.
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Jorge Bredée, Erika Mayen
<b>Support Team:</b>	Remigio Garcia, Guadalupe Estrada Gallardo, Adriana Estrada Gallardo, Cati Rodriguez

## **Schedule of Services**

**Sunday - 10:45:** Holy Eucharist  
**4:00:** San Pablo Service in Spanish

**In case of a pastoral** or spirit related issue you can contact The Rev. Douglas Carter at the Casita and Church Office at **777 316 2841** or Cell **777-389-6981**.

**Please sign up to be:** a Greeter or Reader; to supply flowers for the Altar; or to bring coffee time cookies/cake. Information can be found on the table at the back of the Church.

**Any news, dedications or special prayers** you would like included in the bulletin and/or service, please contact Helen at **helen.millan@gmail.com** or Cell: **777 374 4697**.

**Mexican peso check donations** should be made payable to St. Michael and All Angels A.C. **US dollar check donations** should be made payable to just St. Michael and All Angels.

**If you require a US tax deductible receipt**, U.S. dollar check donations should be made payable to DFMS which must be accompanied by a letter which Alistair Richardson, our treasurer will prepare for you.