



**Deconsecration of St Michael's Church,  
and the Dedication of the  
New Worship Space  
St Michael's, Merritt  
Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3 p.m.**



## THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

*In the old church building*

*(Please leave chairs for those who need them)*

### WELCOME

**HYMN:** “*Spirit of Gentleness*”    Songs for a Gospel People

**Refrain:** *Spirit, spirit of gentleness.*

*Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.*

*Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.*

*Wind, wind on the sea.*

1. You moved on the waters,  
You called to the deep,  
Then You coaxed up the mountains.  
From the valley of sleep,  
And over the eons You called to each thing,  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

*Refrain*

2. You swept through the dessert,  
You stung with the sand,  
And You gifted your people  
with a law and a land,  
And when they were blinded with their idols and lies,  
Then You spoke through Your prophets  
To open their eyes. *Refrain*
3. You sang in a stable,  
You cried from a hill,  
Then You whispered in silence  
when the whole world was still,  
And down in the city You called once again  
When You blew through Your people  
On the rush of the wind. *Refrain*
4. You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow  
the captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions Your people arise. *Refrain*

Prayer (*The people remain standing*)

**Bishop:**

The Rt. Rev Barbara Andrews

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are gathered here in this place that has rooted and grounded us in God's love. A place in which we, and those who have gone before us, have celebrated the mysteries of our faith, shared one another's joys and sorrows, and encountered God in word, sacrament and one another.

**Deacon:**

The Rev Craig Fairley

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving for the grace bestowed upon us and upon our forebears, saying, blessed be God forever.

For the baptisms celebrated here,

**Blessed be God for ever.**

For those times in which we were forgiven, comforted and consoled here,

**Blessed be God for ever.**

For the power of God's word proclaimed here in scripture and in preaching,

**Blessed be God for ever.**

For the prayers said here for healing, and the sick who have come here for comfort,

**Blessed be God for ever.**

For those times in which we gathered here for the sacred, for the Easters, Sundays, and Holy days on which we worshipped faithfully; for the confirmations, ordinations, feasts of saints and martyrs celebrated; for the marriages and the funerals held here in hope.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

O God in whom we find our refuge and our home: through greatness surpasses that of any temple made by human hands graciously provided from your abundance, this place in which our forebears met your divine presence.

Shelter and guide all those who will use this place to offer hospitality, teaching and support to the wider community. Protect us as we take leave of it, and move to our new place of worship, where, with all your saints, we may praise and honour your Holy Name.

This we ask in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Lay Ministers of Word and Sacrament:**

**Al MacKay Smith:** We come giving thanks that the Light and Love of the Compassionate One always brings new life out of death, and in the many “closings” or “endings” experienced on this our planet, in the nations, our communities, places of worship, and in our personal lives.

Source of all love and all life, **hear our prayer.**

**Glenis Holmes:** May God’s blessing, wisdom, compassion and guidance be upon the Anglican Communion worldwide, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Territory of the People and Barbara our bishop, all the clergy who have served in this place, and the people of St Michael’s, Merritt.

Source of all love and all life, **hear our prayer.**

**Frances Depper:** We come giving our heartfelt thanks for the vision, faithfulness, generous spirit, and ministry to the town of Merritt and the surrounding area that has flowed from this church and the people of this parish of St Michael’s over the past 105 years.

Source of all love and all life, **hear our prayer.**

**Angela Ross:** We give thanks for the unsung heroes of St Michael’s who have given so much to enhance the life and ministry in this place of worship over the past 110 years.

Source of all love and all life, **hear our prayer.**

**Audrey Campbell:** We give thanks for the work of skilled woodworkers and artisans who created, repaired and maintained this beautiful place of worship over the years.

Source of all love and all life, **hear our prayer.**

**Al Mackay Smith:** We give thanks for the many blessings we have received over the years, and pray for faithfulness and courage as we move forward in hope.

Source of all love and all life, **hear our prayer.**

**The Reverend Canon Dan Krausert:**

**Holy God, We, with the saints of generations past, have come to praise your name and give you thanks for the gifts of grace received here in St Michael's.**

**Be present, wherever we may be, to guide and to care for us, to inspire and to bless us.**

**This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*During the hymn, the Altar frontal will be removed*

**HYMN: CP 399 "Now Thank We All Our God" Verses 1 & 2**

1. Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God,  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and nourish us with grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

## SECULARIZING THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL

We who are gathered here know that this building, which has been consecrated and set apart for the ministry of God's Holy Word and Sacraments, will no longer be used in this way, but will be used for other purposes.

To many of us this building has been blessed by cherished memories, and we know some will suffer a sense of loss.

We pray we will be comforted by the knowledge that the presence of God is not tied to any place or building.

It is the intention of the Territory of the People for the congregation which worshipped here to now continue their ministry of Word and Sacrament in their new place of worship, always remembering they belong to God's family.

Let the Declaration of Secularization now be read.

**Regional Dean:**

The Rev Jo Ann Hinter

**Bishop:** Let us pray.

Lord God, in your great goodness you once accepted to your honour and glory this building, now secularized.

Receive our praise and thanksgiving for the blessings, help and comfort which you bestowed upon your people in this place.

Continue we pray, your many mercies in your Church, that we may be conscious at all times of your unchanging love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that among the swift and varied changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Doxology: CP 399 “Now Thank We All Our God” - Verse 3**

3. All praise and thanks to God  
eternal now be given,  
to Spirit and to Word,  
who reign in highest heaven  
and ever faithful God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

*The Bishop and Congregation gather outside the main entrance. The Wardens (elected leaders of the congregation) extinguish the lights, lock the door, and return the keys to the Bishop.*

## **THE PROCESSION TO THE NEW PLACE OF WORSHIP**

*The Bishop and the Wardens lead the congregation to the new place of worship. At the entrance:*

**Wardens:**     **Welcome!** We are delighted by your presence here and hope you will feel at peace in this place.

Here we are learning what it means to be a welcoming community; we are helping people find their place in a community of worship and spiritual growth; and we are paying attention to the world around us and looking for opportunities to help and make a difference.

*The Bishop and people take their places*

**Bishop:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**People:**                 **And also with you.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
we have gathered here today to hear God’s word  
and to eat and drink at the table of the kingdom.  
Today we lift our hearts in thanksgiving  
and our voices in praise.  
This is a day of joyful celebration!

We have come to pray for God's blessing on this house of worship and service (which we name St Michael's Anglican Church and Community Centre.) As the pilgrim people of God we now join in song.

**HYMN: MV 1**                      *"Let Us Build A House"*

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.



4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond  
the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the  
Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of  
God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in  
this place.
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs  
and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as  
words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith  
and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in  
this place.

## **Collect**

The Reverend Barbara Liotskos

Almighty God, watchful and caring,  
our source and our end,  
all that we are and all that we have are yours.  
Accept us now,  
as we give thanks to you for this place  
where we have come to praise your name,  
to ask your forgiveness,  
to know your healing power,  
to hear your word,  
and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son.  
Be present always to guide and to judge,  
to illumine and to bless your people.  
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Reading from Isaiah (40:28- 31)

Patricia Conn

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will be faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Canticle 17 The Beatitudes Matthew 5.3–12

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, \***  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn, \***  
**for they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are the gentle, \***  
**for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right, \***

**for they shall be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful, \***  
**for mercy shall be shown to them.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart, \***  
**for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, \***  
**for they shall be called children of God.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right, \***  
**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you \***  
**and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake.**

**Rejoice and be glad, \***  
**for your reward is great in heaven.**

"I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (3:16–19, 20-21)

**Gradual Hymn:** "Seek Ye First" Songs for a Gospel People

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu Alleluia

*Refrain:*

Al - le - lu - ia  
Al - le - lu - ia  
Al - le - lu - ia  
Al - le - lu Al - le - lu - ia

2. We do not live by bread alone  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu Alleluia...

*Refrain*

3. Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you  
Allelu Alleluia ...

*Refrain*

## **The Gospel**

The Reverend Craig Fairley, Deacon

The Lord be with you,

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John (1:1-5)

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon:**

The Reverend Canon Trev Whiting

**The Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Dedication of the Church

**Bishop:** Dear friends in Christ, pray that God will bless this place.

*Silence is kept.*

Remember before God with thanksgiving our forebears in faith.

*Silence is kept.*

Remember those who by witness, generosity, and work have prepared our way to this holy house, and pray that God will bless them.

*Silence is kept.*

Pray that God will bless us who worship here, and those who come after us, our children and successors in the pilgrimage of faith.

Pray that God will bless all those who gather here to be nourished and strengthened.

*Other prayers may be added.*

*Silence is kept, then the bishop continues:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Bishop, and Wardens process to the font.*

**Hymn: CP 430** Verses 1-2 “Will You Come and Follow Me”

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

*Water is poured into the font.*

**Bishop:** We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all here who pass through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Bishop and the Wardens proceed to the lectern.*

**Hymn: CP 430** “*Will You Come and Follow Me*” Verse 3

3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

**Bishop:** Blessed are you, Lord our God: creator of the universe, your Word brings order out of chaos, light out of darkness; your Word gives abundant life.

We give thanks for your word proclaimed by the prophets, for the word of judgement in times of oppression, for the word of hope to those in exile, for the word of freedom to those who are enslaved. Most of all we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, the pattern of your new creation, in whose death we die to destruction, and in whose new life we hope and live.

We give thanks for the words of human speech that give voice to thought and feeling.

We give thanks for the words which here proclaim the story of your eternal Word.

Open our ears to hear and our hearts to love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn: CP 430 "Will You Come and Follow Me" Verse 4**

4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

*The Bishop says:*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, you are light in our darkness and the lamp of our journey.

We give you thanks for the light of wisdom, shining in the hearts of faithful men and women. We give thanks for the light of interpretation, making the pathway clear. Most of all we give you thanks for your Wisdom among us, for Jesus Christ, in whom your saving will is known. Inspire with your Holy Spirit all who teach and interpret in his name.

Give open and discerning minds to all who listen with attention.

Make us all the agents of your light in the darkness of our times for his sake, who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Bishop and Wardens proceed to the Holy Table.*

**Hymn: CP 430** “*Will You Come and Follow Me*” Verse 5

5. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**Bishop:** Blessed are you, Lord our God, giver of bread, giver of wine. You spread a table before us in the wilderness. You call us from a world of discord to be your holy people; you call us from the exile of sin to be a royal priesthood. Now give your blessing to all who gather here, and give your blessing to this place.

May it be a sign of our unity, the house of our new vision, the womb of our witness.

May we learn peace from the care we bring each other, may we learn justice from the holy food we share.

Unite us in the mission of your Son whose saving love extends to every person, whose presence reaches into every place, Jesus Christ, who makes all things new, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Sharing of the Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**



## **HYMN: MV79**

*“Spirit, Open My Heart”*

### **Refrain:**

*Spirit open my heart  
To the joy and pain of living  
As you love may I love  
In receiving and in giving  
Spirit, open my heart*

1. God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.

### *Refrain:*

2. Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.

### *Refrain:*

3. May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Let us pray:

**O Lord our God,  
Your Son Jesus Christ is our lasting companion.  
Grant that as we know Christ in the holy food of this  
Eucharistic feast,  
so may we know him who dwells continually in the  
world.  
We ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**Bishop**           The Lord be with you.

**People**           **And also with you.**

**Bishop**           Lift up your hearts.

**People**           **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Bishop**           Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People**           **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Bishop**           Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth; heaven itself cannot contain  
you, but you dwell with lowly people and humble hearts.  
Through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
you have called us to be your holy temple, living stones,  
raised to the glory of your service, built upon Christ, the  
foundation of our faith. Now in this house we join our voices,  
with all your people of every time and place,  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**People:**   **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Bishop:**       We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in  
creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word  
spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word  
made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent  
him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour  
and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy  
to stand before you. In him, you have brought us  
out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness,  
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**People**            **We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

**Bishop:**            and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Bishop:** As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth  
as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin  
against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are  
yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the  
one bread.**

## The Communion

*Communion Assistants: Audrey Campbell, Rev Craig Fairley,  
Rev Dan Krausert, Rev Barbara Liotskos*

**Celebrant:** The gifts of God for the People of God.  
All are welcome at God's table.

**Thanks be to God**

## Communion Hymns:

**Psalms 104** *"I Will Sing Unto the Lord as Long as I Live"*

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live,  
I will sing praise to my God, while I have my being;  
My meditation of Him shall be sweet  
I will be glad, I will be glad in the Lord.  
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, Praise ye the Lord,  
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, Praise ye the Lord,  
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, Praise ye the Lord,  
Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, Praise ye the Lord,

**Communion Hymn:**               *"In the Garden"*

I come to the garden alone  
while the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses.

*Refrain:*

*And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.*

1. He speaks, and the sound of His voice,  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.

*Refrain*

2. I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling.

*Refrain*

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray:

**God of Love and Compassion,  
we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the  
Body and Blood of your Son,  
and for uniting us through him  
in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit.**

**We thank you for the grace that we and our ancestors  
have known in this church of St Michael's  
and ask that in the days ahead,  
we may continue to serve you wherever we are, trusting  
in your enduring love and faithfulness. Amen.**

## The Bishop's Blessing

**Bishop:** You are the people of God, a holy nation,  
a royal priesthood,  
the temple of God's presence.  
May God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you in this calling, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn: *"Our God Reigns"*

1. How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him  
Who brings good news, good news;  
Announcing peace, proclaiming news of  
happiness:  
Our God reigns, our God reigns!

*Refrain: Our God reigns! Our God reigns!  
Our God reigns! Our God reigns!*

*Refrain*

2. Ends of the earth see the salvation of our God  
Jesus is Lord... is Lord.  
Before the nations He hath bared His holy arm.  
Our God reigns, Our God reigns!

*Refrain*

3. Break forth with joy, once desolate Jerusalem.  
Your Lord has come... has come.  
He has redeemed and comforted His people.  
Our God reigns, Our God reigns!

*Refrain*

Dismissal: The Rev. Craig Fairley

**Deacon:** Go into the world seeking the life of the Spirit.

**People:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*All are warmly invited to stay for refreshments!*

## **Music Ministry:**

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Guitarists and Vocals: Patricia Conn, Fran Depper,  
Glenis Holmes, Al Mackay-Smith

Pianists: Carmen Fairley and the Very Rev Ken Gray

## ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

of the Nicola Valley Pastoral District, Merritt, B.C.

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At the turn of the century, Merritt was a little village in a far corner of the Diocese of New Westminster. The area was known as the Nicola Missionary District. The faithful members of the Church of England in Canada were eager to have a parish and a priest to minister to them. They had the corner of the streets we now know as Chapman and Granite Avenue. They proceeded to build a parish hall. The hall was ready for use in the fall of 1908, and on November 8<sup>th</sup> of that same year the Parish of Saint Michael's was formed.

The first parish priest was the Rev. Thomas Walker. He was appointed and arrived preaching his first sermon on the first Sunday of August, 1910. He lived in the area known as Lower Nicola and rode his bicycle to church. In 1911, while riding to Merritt he was seriously injured and died shortly afterwards.

The first Wardens of the new parish were Dr. George Henry Tuthill, Vicar's Warden and Mr. H. Cleasby, People's Warden.

Bishop A.U. de Pencier of New Westminster then appointed the Rev. J. Thompson, Vicar of Nicola, to St. Michael's and the first Confirmation service was held on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1913 in the parish hall. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1913, the Bishop laid the cornerstone for the new church to be erected at the left of the parish hall. The building was finished and opened by the Venerable Archdeacon Heathcote on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1913, beginning the long history of the parish of St. Michael's.

During the winter of 1917-18, it was so cold the church could not be used and the vicar erected a portable altar in the parish hall, where services again took place. On Whitsunday a Memorial Cross was consecrated by Bishop de Pencier – a gift from the wife of the Rev. N. J. Thompson, vicar, in memory of her family, the Whittakers.



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Upon the decision of the Bishop of New Westminster, the Rural Deanery of Ashcroft, Kamloops and northern parishes were to become a new diocese. The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railroad had a great bearing on this issue.

The new Diocese of Cariboo came into being at a Synod held at St. Alban the Martyr parish, Ashcroft, B.C. on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914. Merritt parish then became a parish of the new Diocese of Cariboo.

The church was debt-free by 1928 and on January 14<sup>th</sup> the building was solemnly consecrated by Bishop Walter Adams under the dedication of St. Michael's.

During the height of the Depression the parish could not raise the parish apportionment of \$240.00 as the village was so devastated by hard times. Later on, during the latter part of the War Years, the Chancel was added. Many gifts were received – fair linen, beautifully hand embroidered; alms basin and offertory plates were given and dedicated. On Remembrance Day, 1944 the Honour Roll was unveiled. October 1948 arrived and the church and hall were recipients of two new sawdust burners. A new vicarage was badly needed but all efforts seemed to fail. It was not until the incumbency of the Rev. Nelson Atkinson the present parish house was erected at 2015 Cleasby Street, the street named after the Cleasby family who were among the early Anglicans to the area.

For a few years during the 1970s and up to 1985 there were two priests serving the Anglicans of the Nicola Valley. One was for the Merritt Parish and the other was for the Shulus Indian Mission which served the parishes of five Indian Reserves. In 1985, lack of money necessitated some changes to the nature of the ministry provided by St. Michael's Church. There would only be one priest serving the area. This area included the parish of St. John the Baptist at Nicola; St. Michael's, Merritt; All Saint's, Shulus; St. Philip's, Canford; and St. Catherine's, Shackan.

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The priest would be assisted by lay people who had received special training in conducting services. Since 1978, certain parishioners had been licensed to conduct the services of morning and evening prayer when a priest was not available, and to administer the chalice at Holy Communion services. In 1985, from the group of people, two people from St. Michael's and two people from Shulus received further training and were licensed by the Bishop as Eucharistic Ministers, to conduct services of Holy Communion, administering the Reserve Sacrament, that is, bread and wine which have been consecrated at a previous service and carefully stored in a special cupboard called an Aumbrey, which is located near the altar. The materials for the Aumbrey in St. Michael's Church were given as a memorial gift by the priest at the time and his wife, Rev. Adrian and Mrs. Freda Voysey. The Aumbrey was crafted from wood by Craig Fairley, one of the Eucharistic Ministers.

At the present (1986), St. Michael's Church is served by a dedicated parish council, two A.C.W. groups, an Altar guild and a Sunday school. There are regular joint activities at which people from all the churches in the Nicola Valley Pastoral District come together for worship and fellowship.

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Faithful to the church of God in this area and in their own time are the following priests, who served St. Michael's Parish, Merritt, BC:

Thomas Walker 1910-1911

James Thompson 1911-1915

A. Harold Plummer 1915-1916

Norman John Thompson 1916-1918

James Thompson, former vicar, 1918-1926

Arthur G. Reeves 1926-1929

G. C. Gardner 1929-1930

John A. Lloyd 1931-1934

J. E. Barrett 1934-1937

L. A. C. Smith 1937-1940

G. Parrot 1941-1943

E. Frampton 1943-1944

Cyril E. Williams 1944-1948

F. W. Baker 1948-1949

Percy H. R. Ashley 1949-1950

Nelson H. Atkinson 1956-1960

Donald C. Brown 1960-1965

Cecil R. Day 1965-1968

Michael C. W. Piddington 1968-1975

Selby E. Irwin 1975-1977

Terrence G. Neilson 1977-1980

Adrian C. Voysey 1980-1985

Terrence G. Neilson 2 months

Daniel Krausert 1986-1998

Trev Whiting 1998-2000

Mike Watkins 2001-2005

Bp. Gordon Light interim 2006-2007

Daniel Krausert 2007-2008

Terrence G. Neilson interim 2008-2009

Dan Hines ministry developer 2010-2013

Bp. Barbara Andrews interim 2014

Peter van der Leelie 2015-2018

Bp. Barbara Andrews interim 2 months 2018

Barb Liotskos interim 2018 -

