

The Reverend Ian Bruce Montgomery  
*Priest-in-Charge*

*Demands my soul, my life, my all*

These words are from the hymn which begins with the first line, “When I survey the wondrous cross” and is often sung to the fine tune, Rockingham, as we did on the Feast of Christ the King. And they point to what we are called to give of our selves to God in thanksgiving for his saving, transforming love poured out on the cross. Our souls, our lives, our all.

A preacher from my young adulthood, Arthur “Skip” McNulty of Calvary Church, Pittsburgh, put it this way, “At best, in this world, we rent.” At best, in this world, we rent. We brought nothing into the world, as we note in the burial rite, and we take nothing out of it. We OWN nothing. We create nothing. There is no such thing as a “self-made” man or woman. ALL we have is from God who created us and redeemed us and sustains us. So we owe all to God because all that we have IS from God.

In other words we are not owners of our selves and our stuff. On God’s behalf we are temporary stewards during our time on earth. We are called to take what we are given and what comes to us through our education and industry and care for it, grow it, and share it. Share it with our families for their (and our) care and comfort. Share it with our community to support the commonweal. Share it through our Parish Church to support the ministry of Christ that is, can, and will occur at and from it. To support the budget of St. Michael’s.

As members and friends of St. Michael’s we are invited....we are called, to be good stewards of our buildings, grounds, and ministry through regular worship, joining in the ministry of the church, and through pledging generously to the support of the annual parish budget. And from those to whom much has been given, much is expected. And over the centuries, much has been received. Gratefully!

Please show your faith and hope in our future together by pledging generously to the 2023 Parish Budget. Possibly joyously more than you ever have before. And continue in a long line of stewards who have built, maintained, and continuously renew our Parish church and community day by day over nearly 300 years.

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

In Christ,



#### **Holiday Services**

Advent Lesson and Carols, Sun 4 Dec, 10am  
Christmas Eve, 4pm & 10pm  
Christmas Day, 10am only  
Holy Name of Jesus, Sun 1 Jan, 8am & 10am  
Epiphany Pageant, Sun 8 Jan, 10am