



St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



Advent Carol Service

Third Sunday in Advent

December 12th, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Welcome to St. Augustine's Church

We are part of the worldwide Anglican Church, although many of us come from a variety of Christian backgrounds or none. We are located near the centre of Lethbridge, Alberta but our congregation is spread all over the city and region. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to join our church family as we learn to follow Jesus.

***Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.***

—Isaiah 7:14

It is a particular joy to welcome you to this service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of love and redemption. The liturgy itself embodies the sense of Advent movement in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.

This service will be sung and played by the Senior Choir and musicians of St. Augustine's Church.

*Joanne Collier, Music Director
Mary Lee Voort, Organist and Pianist*

Thank you to our Technical Support Team for this service:

*Sound - Barry Adams. Brad Gillespie
Video - Tim Fyfe, Ayo Aramide*

*The Order of service is set forth in this service booklet.
Please join in singing the carols and in saying the parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude

Mary Lee Voort

Carol **“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

ARR. LLOYD LARSON

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the world began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of all things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow’rs, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Welcome

Carol **#101 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”**

CRÜGER

**Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.**

A Bidding for Advent *(all kneel)*

My sisters and brothers in Christ,
in these days of shadow and of hope
let it be our duty and delight
to listen to the story of our faith,
and hear again the prophets' words of blessing and doom.
And, as we prepare to celebrate again
the birth of Jesus Christ as a baby,
let us remember that he also comes
to judge the just and the unjust,
and to establish the reign of equity and peace.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us receive with joy the promise of the coming of the one who will judge with righteousness and equity.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the poor, the oppressed, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.
And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever,

let us pray for the rulers of the nations,
for peace and justice on earth,
for the unity and mission of the Church,
that we may be a sign of the age to come.

With longing in our hearts for God's reign of peace,
let us hear again the story of Christ's coming,
and join with Mary and Joseph,
and all our forebears in faith,
in offering our worship.

FIRST LESSON • Genesis 1:1-5

Judith Robinson

God creates light, and separates it from darkness

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light

was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Advent candle is lit.

God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.

Hymn #96 - Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

**Creator of the stars of night,
thy people’s everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst, in love’s redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a virgin-mother’s womb.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.**

Interlude “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

*St. Augustine’s Handbell Choir
Barb Hignell, director*

The Prophet foretells the coming of God's kingdom

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord — and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #88 "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

STUTTGART

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever: now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Carol "Advent Prayer - Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL
ARR. HAL HOPSON

O, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O Come, Emmanuel (*O God with us*)
O Adonai (*O Lord*)
O Clavis David (*O Key of David*)
O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*)
O Rex gentium (*O King of the nations*)

THIRD LESSON • Luke 1:26-38

Sylvia Besplug

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is to bear a son, Jesus

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

#155 "From East to West, from Shore to Shore"

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**From east to west, from shore to shore, let every heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore, the Christ, the everlasting King.**

**For this how wondrously he wrought! A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought, the chosen vessel of his grace.**

**Ascenting to the angel's word, she chose what God the Spirit willed,
And suddenly the promised Lord that pure and hollowed temple filled.**

Carol

"Gaudete! (O, Rejoice!)"

PIAE CANTIONES
ARR. SHELDON CURRY

Gaudete, Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete !
(O rejoice! O rejoice for Christ is coming from a Virgin maid, we say, O, rejoice!)

Dawning now the day of grace, day so long expected;
let us raise our song of praise, Hope is resurrected!
Gaudete, Gaudete ! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete !

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.
Gaudete, Gaudete ! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete !
God is born in common stall, miracle of nature,
open hands to one and all, sov'reign Holy Stranger.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

Therefore let our gathering sing the lustrous story;
Praising God with heart and voice, greet the Son of Glory!
Gaudete, Gaudete ! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete !

John the Baptist announces the coming of Christ

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol

"Prepare the Way"

JOSEPH P. MARTIN

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a royal way;
gather the people to sing and pray;
lift up your voices with joyful praise,
prepare the way of the Lord.

Let all of creation with song rejoice.
Sing every nation with heart and voice.
Sharing the promise with joyful noise.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Keep awake, be ready dawn will soon be here.
Light will shine upon us, grace will dry each tear.
Hope, peace and love will fall from heav'n above.
Joy will come with morning,
prepare, the time is near.

**On Jordan’s bank, the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.**

**To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore earth’s own true loveliness once more.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Interlude “Advent Anticipation” *St. Augustine’s Handbell Choir, Barb Hignell, director*

FIFTH LESSON • Matthew 25:1-13

Alan Besplug

The Parable of the wise and foolish Virgins

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us;
the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
"The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light; the bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share.**

**Zion hears the watchmen singing.
Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Song incarnate Word, alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.**

SIXTH LESSON • Revelation 21, 22

The Reverend Steve Bateman

The Seer sees the New Jerusalem and hears the Church's plea for her Lord's return

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Then he told me, "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free

gift of the water of life. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

"Silence to Song" with Brandon DeGorter, alto sax

JOSEPH P. MARTIN

Lord, we wait in silence for Your song,
Praying for the coming of the dawn.
In the stillness of this place, we are list'ning for Your grace.
Lord, sing Your music clear and strong.
In the prophets' words we hear Your theme.
In the ancient scrolls we find our dream.
And across the sands of time, we can hear Your voice sublime,
Singing words of mercy to redeem.

Emmanuel! God with us!
Our captive hearts have cried for so long.
Emmanuel! God with us!
Bring music to our night,
Teach us how to sing Your light.
Come, sing our silence into song, Emmanuel!

In the distance we can hear the angels.
On the near horizon there is gold.
We can hear the stars of dawn as they fill the air with song,
and share with all the coming of the Son.

Emmanuel! God with us!
Bring music to our night,
Teach us how to sing Your light.
Come, sing our silence into song, Emmanuel!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!
Shall sing to thee, O Israel!
Lord, come and sing our silence into song.

Silence is kept

Advent Responsory

My soul waits for the Lord; in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord; in his word is my hope.

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

In his word is my hope.

There is forgiveness with you; therefore shall you be feared.

In his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning.

In his word is my hope.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.

In his word is my hope.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

My soul waits for the Lord; in his word is my hope.

Collect for Advent *(all kneel)*

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

With longing in our hearts for the reign of Christ,

let us offer our prayer

to the Source of our salvation.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing *(all stand)*

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope,

and untiring in love all the days of your life;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah! See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly! Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Postlude

Mary Lee Voort

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Thank you for joining us and may God bless you this Advent season.



Advent & Christmas Events and Services

Sunday School Program

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10:00 am

Christmas Eve

Thursday, Dec. 24

- ❖ Family Holy Communion (candlelight) @ 7:00pm
- ❖ Late Night Holy Communion service (candlelight) @ 11:00pm

*PLEASE NOTE THAT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES.*

To register please visit our website or call the church office.

Christmas Day

NO SERVICE

First Sunday in Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 26 @ 10:00am

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 2 @ 10:00am

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