



St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



"From the Mouths of Children... A Telling of the Christmas Story"

Sunday 10:00 am Service

December 13, 2020

**The Holy Eucharist
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020**

Prelude

Mary Lee Voort

Announcements

Br. Jason Carroll

Children's Focus

Opening Hymn #120 "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem"(v.1, 2, 3)

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
As love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray. *(All kneel)*

All **God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

Gospel Reading

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew and Luke

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

Charis Legg: Luke 1:26-31

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Alice Doherty: Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Charis Legg

Luke 2:8-16

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Alice Doherty

Matthew 2:1-13

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says, The Gospel of Christ.

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

Video: "From the Mouths of Children... A Telling of the Christmas Story"

Homily:

The Rev. Steve Bateman

Anthem:

"What Child is This?"

sung by Erinn, Cooper, McKay, and Reid Roberts

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say, *(together, standing)*

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 Prayers of the People *(all kneeling)*

Greg Young

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Falkland Islands and their Bishop Timothy Thornton.

In our companion diocese of the Windward Islands we pray for the parish and people of St. David and St. Paul on Grenada and their clergy Edward Mark, Priest in Charge.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the parish and people of Holy Trinity, Rocky Mountain House and their clergy Richard Lemmon (Hon) and St. Cuthbert & St. George, Sundre and Lay Minister Gerald Ingeveld and Rev. John Gishler (Hon). We also pray for our Bishop, Archdeacons and Regional Deans (BARDS).

Parish Cycle of Prayer: In our own parish we pray this day for those involved in livestream of our services, musicians, videographers, and sound technicians.

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept. The celebrant and people say together,

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, and one of the ministers addresses the people:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

All **God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Rev. Steve Bateman

(Please remain standing)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **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.**

Celebrant

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,

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

Celebrant 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 (*all kneeling*)

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant God of promise,
You prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All **Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the lamb**

Celebrant The gifts of God, for the people of God

All **Thanks be to God**

The Communion

Celebrant Please join me in an act of Spiritual Eucharist

Gracious God, I repent of my sins, and steadfastly believe that Jesus Christ has suffered death upon the cross for me, and that he shed his blood for my redemption. I earnestly remember the benefits I have because of his death and give him my heartfelt thanks. I eat and drink the body and blood of our Saviour Christ profitably to my soul's health, although I do not receive the sacrament with my mouth.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer pp 584

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray. *(All kneeling)*

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. Amen

(All stand)

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: #128 “The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy”

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy, the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer! O yes, believer!
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom!

The angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born,
The angels sang when the baby was born, and proclaim him the Saviour Jesus. **Refrain.**

The wise men went where the baby was born, the wise men went where the baby was
born,
The wise men went where the baby was born, and they say that his name was Jesus.
Refrain.

Dismissal

Postlude

Flowers at the altar are in loving memory of all past and present members of the A.C.W.
of St. Augustine’s and Bob and Mildred.

Christmas Pageant Cast:

Story tellers: Abi, Islay, George, Josh, Alethia, Finn, Winry, Mark, Elizabeth, Levi, Brady, Willow, Luke, Tabitha, Rory, Leo, Annie.

Music Pieces: by Jayla (Clarinet), Mark (Piano)

Away in a Manger Angels: Alethia and Annie (Vocals) Accompanied by Mary-Lee Voort (Piano) and Karen Hudson (Vocals)

THANK YOU

All of our Sunday School Families who struggled through technological barriers in order to submit videos of your precious children telling us the most precious of stories, to Ceri Penner and Sara Gateman for helping me to plan and navigate this new terrain – a virtual Christmas Pageant! Thank you to our dear music director Joanne Collier for leading, organizing and editing the musical pieces, Mary-Lee Voort and Karen Hudson for the accompaniment of our little Angels, to Brother Jason Carroll and David Hignell for taping our musical pieces, and a very special thank you to Stef Collins for spending many hours piecing together and editing all of our submissions into such a beautiful offering of love, hope and joy to our Church Family in celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Thank you all for being so generous with your gifts!

With sincere thanks and a heart bursting with gratitude,
Wendy

Thank you to our technical crew this morning.
Sound: David Hignell, Brad Gillespie, Michael Larsen
Videography: Michaela Gateman and Orion Legg