



St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.”

CHRISTMAS EVE – 10PM

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2023- 10:00 p.m.

Candlelight Eucharist

Prelude Monica Baczuk, flute and Mary Lee Voort, piano

As the procession enters, the people stand and turn toward the entrance in the church

The Christmas Responsories

Minister: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

All: **Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.** (Isaiah 9:6)

Minister: In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9)

All: **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ.** (Ephesians 1:3)

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

Processional Hymn: #138 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"
Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as one of us to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by born that we no more may die
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Steve Bateman

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.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing of the Crèche

Celebrant: In the faith of Christ, and in thy name, O God most holy, do we hallow this crèche of Christmas, to set before the eyes of thy people the great love and humility of Jesus Christ, thine only Son; who for us, and for our salvation, came down as at this time from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary his mother, and was made Man; to whom with thee and the same Spirit be all honour, majesty, glory and worship, now and world without end. Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis #679 *(together, all standing)*

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards all.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray. *(all kneeling)*

All **Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is**

**alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen**

The Readings

At the conclusion of the readings, the reader shall say: The word of the Lord.
And the people shall respond: **Thanks be to God.**

The First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10 (p. 523)

Jacky Hall-Buckland

Gradual Hymn: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

**Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here,
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear,
In him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy One is here.**

**Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire, with splendor he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight - our radiant king of light.
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**

**Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace -
No work too hard for him. In faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

The Gospel: John 1:1-14 (p. 750)

Tim Pope

Reader	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Reader	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People	Glory be to thee, O Lord

Reader	The Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge

Anthem: This Silent Night by Joanne Sherman, arr. Mark Patterson
Monica Baczuk, flute

The Nicene Creed *(together, all standing)*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *(all kneeling)*

Sylvia Besplug

We respond with the words "Lord, grant us peace."

Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

Silence is kept. The celebrant and people say together,

All

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins;

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

Offertory Hymn: #140 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
From heaven's most gracious king!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong:
And we amid our wars hear not
The words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife
To hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours

Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angles sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold:
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

The Rev. Steve Bateman

All **Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving #682 (*all kneeling*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

All #683 **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all, of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

All **We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

Celebrant And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:
All **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 (#685)

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.**

**We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in
our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not
worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the
same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore,
gracious Lord, So to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink
his blood, That we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Communion

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Eucharist.
All (baptized or not) are invited to come forward for a blessing.
If you require a gluten free wafer, please inform the person administering the bread.*

Communion Music

See Amid the Winter's Snow arr Dan Forrest
Karen Hudson, Joanne Collier, Flora MacKay, Andrew Golison,
James Robinson, John Voort, Doug Emek, George Evelyn, Tanner Lapointe

Please take a candle as you return from communion
The candles will be lit and then we sing "Silent Night"

Hymn: Silent Night (*all kneeling*)
Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child;
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia."
Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born."

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Extinguish candles and 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.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn #118 O Come, All Ye Faithful vs. 1, 2, 3 & 5

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him, born the king of angels

Chorus

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb
Very God, begotten not created *Chorus*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above
Glory to God in the highest *Chorus*

Yea Lord we greet thee, born on Christmas morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Chorus*

Dismissal

Celebrant Go forth in the name of Christ,

All **Thanks be to God**

Postlude I Saw Three Ships

arr. L. Larson

Monica Baczuk, flute and Mary Lee Voort, piano

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of the Siewert and Bres family loved ones
by Delynn and Marc Siewert

In loving memory of Bob and Anne Legge and Connie Stroh
by the Legge, Stroh and Ledene families

In loving memory of our parents Roy and Dorothy Meredith
by Sue Meredith and Barb Huntrods and families

In loving memory of James Moch, David and Gladys Carse and Shirley Reidel
by Irene Moch

In loving memory of our mother, Doreen Gray
by Roxanne and Laura and family

SHARING IN MINISTRY TODAY

GOSPELLER: Tim Pope

INTERCESSOR: Sylvia Besplug

LAY ASSISTANTS: Tim Fyfe, Michael Larsen, Greg Young

LECTOR: Jacky Hall-Buckland

MUSICIANS: Monica Baczuk, Joanne Collier, Doug Emek, George Evelyn, Andrew Golison, Karen Hudson, Tanner Lapointe, Flora MacKay, James Robinson, Tim Scott, John Voort and St. Augustine's Senior Choir

SANCTUARY GUILD: Chris Burton, Jackie Hall-Buckland, Karen Larsen, Shannon Lomas, Sue Milne, Shelagh Stefan, Diana Young

SERVER: Nicole MacDonald

SIDESPEOPLE: Linda Bateman, Tim Fyfe, Cathy Gillespie

TECHNICAL CREW: Sound: Brad Gillespie, Richard Williams Videography: Ted Kopciuch

FROM THE CLERGY AND THE WARDENS

We are grateful to all the regular volunteer ministers and staff who have enriched our worship during the Advent and Christmas seasons; We wish to thank our music director, Karen Hudson, our accompanist,

Mary Lee Voort, the Senior Choir, the Handbell Choir under the direction of Barb Hignell, and all those providing additional music; The Children and Family Ministries Coordinator, Stef Collins; Nursery Coordinator, Esther Oluwagbemi; the Administrative Assistant, Rachelle Wiebe; the Vergers, Greg Young and Michael Larsen; the Sound Technicians (Brad Gillespie and team) and the Video Technicians; the Sanctuary Guild; the Lay Assistants; the Lectors; the Intercessors; the Acolyte; the Liturgical Assistants, the Sidespeople; the Count Supervisors; and the Servers. Thanks to Andrew Golison for keeping our sidewalks clear during Christmas and through the entire winter.

To all who have come to St. Augustine's for this liturgy of Christmas;
 To all who are home for a while with family and friends;
 To all for whom this year has been one of crisis, suffering or sadness;
 To all for whom this year has held some especially joyful event or significant achievement;
 To all who have faithfully endeavoured to serve God and have enriched our common life;
 To all who seek the new life of Jesus Christ in their own experience and in the world of our time;
 May the peace and encouragement of Christmas remain with you always.

Christmas Day: Join us for our 11 AM Family Service. (not livestreamed)

Thursday, Dec. 28: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist BCP.

December 31: 8 AM Holy Eucharist BCP. (chapel)

10 AM Service of Morning Prayer. (church, livestreamed)

Rector	The Rev. Steve Bateman
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. Canon Allan McCuaig
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. Canon James Robinson
Children & Family Ministries	Stef Collins
Nursery & Special Events	Esther Oluwagbemi
Music Director	Karen Hudson
Organist	Mary Lee Voort
Administrative Assistant	Rachelle Wiebe
Vergers	Michael Larsen and Greg Young
Rector's Warden	Sylvia Besplug
Acolyte	Tom Warwick
Assistant Rector's Warden	Harriet Edwards
People's Warden	Doug McLaughlin
Assistant People's Warden	Jose Samayoa
Deputy Warden (Worship)	Annette Bright
Deputy Warden (Caring)	Julie & Leonard Lorenz
Deputy Warden (Fellowship)	Karen Hammond
Deputy Warden (Missional Outreach)	Chris Burton
Deputy Warden (Facilities)	Allan Besplug
Deputy Warden (Financial Stewardship)	Eliza Wiederspik
Deputy Warden (Communications)	Pat Hammond



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