



# St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023, 7:00 pm

Eve of Our Lord's Birth  
**The Holy Eucharist**  
December 24, 2023

**Prelude**      Silent Night

J. Mohr and F. Gruber.

Tabitha Ball, trombone and Mary Lee Voort, piano

**Processional Hymn: #123    Once in Royal David's City**

*verse 1 sung by Alethia Monti*

Once in royal David's city,  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her Baby,  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little Child.

**He came down to earth from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy,**

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high;  
When like stars his children crowned,  
All in white shall wait around.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Rev. Steve Bateman

**Children's Focus**

## 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.**

## Glory to God

*Celebrant* **Glory to God in the highest,**  
*All* **and peace to his people on earth.**  
**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## 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 Proclamation of the Word

*At the conclusion of each reading, the reader shall say:* The word of the Lord.

*And the people shall respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 489)

Rachel Robinson

## Gradual Hymn: Light of the Stable

Hail, hail to the newborn King,  
Let our voices sing Him our praises.  
Hail, hail to the guiding light  
that brought us tonight to our Savior.

### Chorus

Halle, hallelujah, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, hallelujah, halle, hallelujah.

Come now where it shines so bright  
to the knowing light of the stable.  
kneel close to the Child so dear  
cast aside your fear and be thankful. *Chorus 2x*

<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 2:1-20 (p. 724)	René Boéré
<i>Reader</i>	The Lord be with you.	
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>	
<i>Reader</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.	
<i>People</i>	<b>Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.</b>	
<i>Reader</i>	The Gospel of Christ.	
<i>People</i>	<b>Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.</b>	

**Sermon** The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge

**Anthem:** Shepherd's Song Molly Ijames

### 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)*

Flora Mackay

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

### **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.**

### **Offertory Hymn #126 Away in a Manger**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.**

Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

### #125 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet tomorrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you.

### 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.

#### Eucharistic Prayer 3.

*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.**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give  
you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the  
mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the  
Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision  
of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our  
voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise 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 forever. 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*      We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

*All*                      **God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*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:** Gesu Bambino

## O Holy Night

Erinn Roberts, mezzo soprano and Mary Lee Voort, piano

Pietro Yon

Adolphe Adam

**Please take a candle as you return from communion**

The candles will be lit and then we sing “Silent Night”

### 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. 1-3)**

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

*Refrain* 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 *Refrain*

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

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Go forth in the name of Christ.

*All* Thanks be to God.

### **Postlude**

## **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:** René Boéré

**INTERCESSOR:** Flora Mackay

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR:** Catherine Ball, Brenda Boere, Chris Fyfe, Andrew Golison, Karen Kay, Lloy Legg, Jayla Matchett, Alethia Monti, Cooper Roberts, Erinn Roberts, McKay Roberts, Reid Roberts, James Robinson, Judith Robinson, Rachel Robinson, Marc Siewart, Shelagh Stefan, Dorothy Tipper, Hope Wauters, Rob Wauters

**LAY ASSISTANTS:** Brenda Boéré, Chris Burton, Bev Dorchak, Judith Robinson

**LECTOR:** Rachel Robinson

**MUSICIANS:** Tabitha Ball, Steve Bateman, Karen Hudson, Jayla Matchett, Alethia Monti, Erinn Roberts

**SERVERS:** Emily Bright, Michelle Bright, Jayla Matchett

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

**SIDESPEOPLE:** Bob Gschaid, Juanita Loucks, Jayla Matchett

**TECHNICAL CREW:** Sound: Michael Larsen, Drusilla Pearson Videography: Kimoya Edwards, Tim Fyfe

## 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.

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**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. (in person, livestreamed)

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Associate Priest  
Rector Emeritus  
Rector Emeritus  
Children & Family Ministries  
Nursery & Special Events  
Music Director  
Organist  
Administrative Assistant  
Vergers  
Rector's Warden  
Acolyte  
Assistant Rector's Warden  
People's Warden  
Assistant People's Warden  
Deputy Warden (Worship)  
Deputy Warden (Caring)  
Deputy Warden (Fellowship)  
Deputy Warden (Missional Outreach)  
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The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge  
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Esther Oluwagbemi  
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Mary Lee Voort  
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