



St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



CHRISTMAS DAY

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December 25, 2023, 11:00 AM

Prelude

Mary Lee Voort

Opening Hymn: #118 O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

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

All **Glory to God in the highest, 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.**

Children's Focus

The Rev. Steve Bateman

Collect of the Day

Celebrant *Let us pray (all kneeling)*

All **Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully
restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son
Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now
lives 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)

Gradual Hymn: #137 What Child is This?

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (p. 724)

Reader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

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

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

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge

The Apostles' Creed *(all standing)*

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)*

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: #148 See Amid the Winter's Snow

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

The Rev. Steve Bateman

God of peace, your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you. May all we offer you today renew us as members of your household. We ask this in his name. 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."

All

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
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 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.**

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.*

Prayer after Communion *(all kneeling)*

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May Christ, who made us your children, welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen**

Celebrant Glory to God, *(all standing)*
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

Closing Hymn: #154 Joy to the World

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Jayla Matchett, steel pan

From the Clergy and 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.

Rector
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)
Deputy Warden (Facilities)
Deputy Warden (Financial Stewardship)
Deputy Warden (Communications)

The Rev. Steve Bateman
The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge
The Rev. Canon Allan McCuaig
The Rev. Canon James Robinson
Stef Collins
Esther Oluwagbemi
Karen Hudson
Mary Lee Voort
Rachelle Wiebe
Michael Larsen and Greg Young
Sylvia Besplug
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Doug McLaughlin
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