



The Feast of the Nativity

December 24, 2020, 9:00PM

St. Augustine's Church

A House of Prayer for all People

Congregational Singing of Carols

Opening Hymn

O Come All Ye faithful

83

1 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,
Christ the Lord.*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;

Refrain

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Celebrant Unto us a child is born;

People **Unto us a son is given!**

Celebrant Let us pray together.

Collect

God of all ages in the birth of Christ your boundless love for people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader Hear what the spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

1. Sing to the LORD a new song; *sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
2. **Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
3. Declare his glory among the nations *and his wonders among all peoples.
4. **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *he is more to be feared than all gods.**

5. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

6. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7. Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

8. Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *bring offerings and come into his courts.

9. Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *let the whole earth tremble before him.

10. Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

11. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, *when he comes to judge the earth.

13. He will judge the world with righteousness *and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 4 See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Gospel – Luke 2:1-20

Please stand as you are able.

Deacon The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He

went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Beth Sherman

Hymn

The First Nowell the angel did say

109

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

The Prayers of the People

Reader With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray.

We thank you, loving God, for the light that shines in the darkness, for the Christ who came into the world in a stable, and who uses us to be instruments of his peace. Open our eyes that we may see your presence all around us. Open our hearts that you may come into our lives and make them new.

God of all children everywhere, we remember how you entered the world as a child, give us grace to see the least among us, that we may listen for your voice in their voices and look for your presence in your midst.

Bless this congregation here present, and all whose lives are closely linked with ours, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and may celebrate you in our daily lives.

Comfort and heal all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your help again.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honor the dignity of all God's children in all parts of the earth.

God of resurrection and life eternal, we remember all those who have died, especially those in whose memory the flowers are given, that they may rest in your loving kindness.

By your grace, transform our prayers from words to deeds, that we may live as holy people in the dawn of your peace, redeemed from all that divides us.

Collects The Vicar

Celebrant **Summing all of our prayers, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night* 111

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, 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.

Blessing

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter
the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God, Creator,
Redeemer and Life Giving Spirit be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn

Joy to the World

100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousnes,
and wonders of his love.

Deacon Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Christmas Flowers

In loving memory of Frank and Janice DiMasi, *by Carol Berggren*

In loving memory of those lost to the corona virus, *by Carolyn Davis*

In loving memory of Ed Gavitt and in thanksgiving for our children, *by Nancy Gavitt*



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