



Christmas 2

January 3, 2021 9:30 AM

St. Augustine's Church

A House of Prayer for all People

Prelude

Entrance

Once in a royal David's city

102

1. 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.

2. 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 Savior holy.

3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above,
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born;

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

***Celebrant:* Let us pray together.**

Collect

Tender and precious God, from ancient times the promise of your salvation has sustained your people. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to

**treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels,
lead us to praise his holy name. Amen.**

First Reading – Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 1-8

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for your courts; my heart
and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *
by the side of your altars, O God of hosts,
my Ruler and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house; *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you; *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height; * the
God of gods will be revealed in Zion.
- 7 O God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God, *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

People: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

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. We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Nicholas, our Bishop; for the people of God, gathered from every nation under heaven; may we proclaim in every language, the dawning of a new age. In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria. In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Church of the Epiphany, Rumford.

*whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

The Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Alleluia.**

Dismissal response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia



St. Augustine's Church

The Episcopal Center at The University of Rhode Island
15 Lower College Road, Kingston, RI 02881
401-783-2153

E-mail: staugustinesadmin@necoxmail.com

Website: www.staugustineuri.org

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, *Bishop*
The Diocese of Rhode Island

Bishop's Committee

Jane Bates, Carolyn Davis, Vicki Escalara,
Roy Heaton, Annie Kammerer, Annette LaRosa,
Margaret Rostrup, Patricia Steere, Richard Youngken

Staff

The Rev. Beth Sherman, *Vicar and Chaplain*

The Rev. Robert P. Izzi, *Deacon*

Mr. Rod Luther, *Director of Music*

Ms. Cheryl Petrosinelli, *Parish Administrator*

The Rev. Susan Stiles, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. L. Gail Wheelock, *Deacon*