



Christmas I

December 26, 2021 9:30 AM

St. Augustine's Church

A House of Prayer for all People

Prelude

Entrance

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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Celebrant: Unto us a child is born;

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

Celebrant: **Let us pray together.**

God of the refugees, sharing the exile road which all who flee the violence that enslaves and kills: as your Son sought asylum in a foreign land make us ready to welcome the refugee and receive from her a new language of life and hope; through Jesus Christ, Rachel's child. Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:13-22

- 13 Praise the beloved, Life of all life!
Invite Love into your heart!**
- 14 For Divine Love gives strength to the weak, courage to face
their fears.**
- 15 Divine Love brings peace to the heart, peace that is beyond
our knowledge.**
- 16 Divine Love cuts through the ignorance that fosters greed
and arrogance, humbling and breaking open the heart.**
- 17 Divine Love severs the veil that separates realms of the profane
and sacred;**
- 18 Holiness radiates through all touched by Divine Love, a
refining Fire!**
- 19 Wisdom flows from the Heart of Divine Love to all receptive
hearts nurtured in the Silence.**
- 20 Yes, the Divine word is written on every heart-scroll, a guide
to pilgrims on the way.**
- 21 May everyone awaken to Divine Love, that peace and integrity
And assurance may be born again in every land.**
- 22 O my soul, praise the Beloved!**

Second Reading – Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel – John 1:1-18

Please stand as you are able.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Meditation

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 you in the least among us, that we may listen for your voice in their voices and look for your presence in our 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, that they may continue to rest in your loving kindness.

Lord make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.** *We greet one another with the peace of Christ*

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: May God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to God.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Gracious God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, to be born for us; who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was made human of the flesh of Mary his mother, so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord *Sanctus* – S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. You sent him to be incarnate of our sister Mary, to be the Savior 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 before he died for us, Jesus 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command.

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: And we offer our gifts of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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 may be more like him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, draw all things into communion with your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; with Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Gracious One, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us. **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

This is God's table, and all are welcome to receive communion.

Celebrant Alleluia. We break this bread to share in the life of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Celebrant: Let us pray together. **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his**

Body and Blood. Send us now in to the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: May the God of peace and justice guide you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

The First Nowell

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Deacon: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

Celebrant: The Rev. Susan Stiles
Director of Music: Rod Luther

Announcements

In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region, Central de America. In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for St. Stephen's, Providence; St. John's, Barrington; St. John the Evangelist, Newport; and the Chapel of St. John the Divine, Saunderstown. **In our Parish**, we give thanks for the following birthdays: John Blanchette, Sandy Bell and Josias Tanner.



St. Augustine's Church

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