



The Feast of the Nativity

December 24, 2021, 10:00PM

St. Augustine's Church

A House of Prayer for all People

Congregational Singing of Carols

Hymns 99, 78 (1,2,5), 102 (1, 2, 5)

Opening Hymn

O Come All Ye faithful (v. 1, 3, 6)

83

Celebrant Unto us a child is born;

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

Celebrant Let us pray together.

God of David's fragile house of hope and expectation: in the time of empires, your word is born to those who have no place and sung to those who watch in the wild; may his birth unsettle our world with hidden glory and untold peace; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise, **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.**

Hymn *Hark! The herald angels sing*

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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

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.

God, you spoke and your Word became flesh, breathing a new song of joy and praise into the world.

Grant that we may hear the good news proclaiming your promise of peace and justice to the ends of the earth. Amen.

All Son of Mary, son of God,
may we, for whom the heavens have opened
never lose that heavenly vision.
May we, who like the shepherds,
have seen in your birth a new kind of love,
witness to that love in our lives.

The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.** *We greet one another with the peace of Christ.*

Offertory

Carol

It came upon a midnight clear

89

The Great Thanksgiving

The people stand as they are able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a boundary to the seas, you have filled the world with your creatures and called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you

Wonder Love and Praise - #785 *Holy, holy, holy*

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the beloved. Born to our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love. Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death. As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God’s right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days.

And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ has risen, Christ will come again!

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these creatures of bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth, as we remember how Jesus took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends saying, “Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” And after supper, took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying: “Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant

in my blood, poured out for you and for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name Emmanuel – God – With –Us, to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and forever, Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray. **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

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.

This is God's table, and all are welcome to receive communion. Receive the bread by cupping the hands one on top of the other. You may help to guide the chalice to your lips. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you may cross your hands on your chest and receive a blessing.

Celebrant Let us pray together. **God of abundance, you have fed us with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Compassion; you have united us with Christ and with one another; and you have made us one with your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Brother. Amen.**

Hymn

Silent 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.

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

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 for the life and love of David Bates *by Jane Bates & family.*

In loving memory of Robert Leslie Hampton and in Thanksgiving for Sarah
Elizabeth Fratus *by Nancy Lee Hampton Beeley*

In loving memory of Frank and Janice DiMasi and Richard W. Berggren *by Rick, Carol & Sarah Berggren*

In loving memory of Jim & Mildred Johnson and Betsey Johnson *by Judi Betty*

In loving memory of The Rev. Donn Brown and Carey Cobb *by Nancy Brown and Ernie Blanchette*

In memory of Woody Davis, who loved Christmas *by Carolyn Davis*

In memory of Louise, Nellie, Charlie, John, Stephen, Brian & Edward *by Sue Devoe*

In loving memory of Bruce C. Dunham *by the Dunham Family*

In loving memory of her sister, Laura Schall Gouillart *by Vicki & Dwight Escalera*

In loving memory of Ed Gavitt *by Nancy Gavitt*

In loving memory of John Hall, Mary Alice & Rodman Chase *by Mary B. Hall*

In loving memory of Anne, Roy & George *by Dick Hathaway*

In Thanksgiving for our grandson, Bodie, *by Annie & Gregor Kammerer*

In loving memory of Bob Richardson *by Marianna Richardson*

In loving memory of Wilbur & Virginia Sherman, Kim Farrell, Keith Glancy, Peg Kaplan, Sr. Ruth Hall, Jean Springer and Miles Kallman *by Beth Sherman*

In Thanksgiving for Buz, Josias, Daniel, Lindsay, Gavin, Bryce, Shannon and Morgan *by Deb Tanner*

In loving memory of David L. Terry and Jennifer Lynn Terry *by Jan M. Terry*

In loving memory of Elizabeth Aitkenhead and Sean Tully *by Amy Tully*

In honor of Jack, Bart, Tad, Tim and Gwen *by Joanne Walsh*

In loving memory of our parents and The Rev. John Hall *by Mary Walsh and Roy Heaton*



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