

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH THE SOLEMN HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE I

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2023
10:00 P.M.

Merry Christmas!

*You are welcomed whether you are a guest or a member,
and we invite you to join us in our worship of God.*

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please introduce yourself to our clergy following the service. We also invite you to please take a moment to sign our Guest Book which can be found at the Welcome Center. Service Bulletin contains all that you will need to worship with us this morning.

If you have a prayer request, please write it in the book that is located at the prayer desk just outside the back of the sanctuary.

Please note that this worship service will be recorded and live streamed.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*We are an enthusiastically welcoming and inviting Christian community
committed to the unity of all people with God through Christ.*

Please pick up a candle from one of the terra-cotta containers located in the Narthex.

+ **LETTER FROM THE RECTOR** +

Merry Christmas and welcome to St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church!

We pray that as you worship here during this Christmas season you will join us in praising God for the best gift given—Jesus Christ the Son of God and Savior of humanity. We are so pleased that you chose to share your Christmas with us here at St. Augustine's. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and loving community made up of people very much like you who are in fellowship with one another and seek to follow the person and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. We do not insist that we know all of the firm and final answers to life's most important questions, but we commit ourselves to listening to God, loving the questions, being an active part of God's ongoing work, and reaching out to show that faith can bring peace, justice, and hope to the world, the local community, and in each other's lives.

I invite you to participate in worship today as you feel comfortable. You will find St. Augustine's to be that place where you will receive a radical WELCOME, experience thought-provoking and inspiring WORSHIP, and meet other disciples of Jesus ready and willing to WITNESS to all that God is doing!

If this is your first time in the Episcopal Church, everything you need to follow worship is in this Worship Guide, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask anyone around you for help.

I hope to meet you before or after worship, but just in case I do not, please fill out the attendance sheet in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate so we can connect with you.

Again, Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Blessings,

Fr. Joseph C. Alsay +
Rector

+ THE GATHERING RITE +

Pre Service Music: Organ Prelude: "A Solis Ortus Cardine"
Choral Anthem: "Maria Walks Amid the Thorn"
Choral Anthem: "Personent Hodie"
Organ Prelude: "Es Ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen"

Flor Peeters
Hugo Distler
Lara Hoggard
Johannes Brahms

Please stand at the sound of the bells.

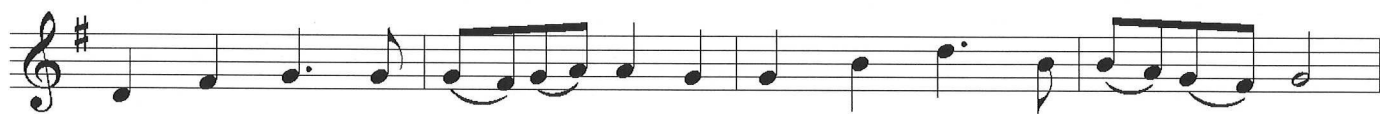
During the singing of the Introit the Christ Child is carried to the Crèche and placed in the manger. As this takes place, the congregation's candles will be lit from a flame taken from clay lamps made in the Holy Land.

Introit: "Once In Royal David's City"

Text: *C.F. Alexander*
Tune: *Irby*
Descant: *David Willcocks*



Solo 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of all,
3 And through all his won - drous child-hood, He would hon - our and o - bey,
4 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like us He grew;
5 And our eyes at last_ shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth - er laid_ her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed.
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
love, and watch the low - ly maid - en, in whose gen - tle arms He lay;
He was lit - tle, weak and help - less, tears and smiles like us He knew;
for that child so dear and gent - le is our Lord in hea - ven a - bove;
we shall see him; but in hea - ven, set at God's right hand on high.



Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
Chris - tian chil - dren all must be_ mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
And He feel - eth for our sad - ness, and He sha - reth in our glad - ness.
and He leads his child - ren on_ to the place where He is gone.
When like stars his child - ren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.


Blessing of the Crèche

Christ Child Bearer The glory of the Lord has been revealed:
People **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**
Christ Child Bearer Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. With Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around thy Son, born for us. As we prepare to celebrate his holy birth; strengthen us in faith, bless us with thy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Especially the migrant worker, the homeless, and the refugee. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**


Opening Acclamation

Celebrant



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People

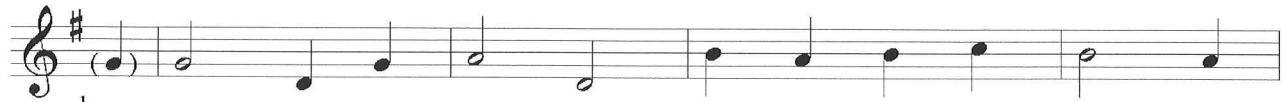


And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.



Hymn at the Procession: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Text: John Francis Wade
Tune: Adeste Fideles
Arr. David Willcocks



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2 God of _____ God, _____ Light _____ of _____ Light, _____
3 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
4 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing,



O come ye, O come _____ ye to Beth - le - hem;
Lo! he ab - hors _____ the _____ Vir - gin's womb.
Lea - ving their flocks draw nigh with low - ly fear;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - su, to thee _____ be _____ glo - ry giv'n;



Come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
Ve - ry _____ God, Be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:
We too will thi - ther Bend our joy - ful foot - steps:
Glo - ry to God _____ In _____ the _____ high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him,



O come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Collect for Purity

Presider

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: "Glory Be to God on High"

Tune: *Gloria*
Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)



1 Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace to all on earth be giv'n.
2 Lamb of God, You take a - way sin and death, no more have sway.
3 You a - lone, O God, we cry, Ho - ly One, we name__ you.



An - gels sing! Let all re - ply. Good-will breaks from heav'n a - bove.
You who reign with God a - bove, mer - cy grant, O gra - cious Love.
You a - lone are God most high, Three in One, we claim__ you.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**



+ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Psalmody: Psalm 96 – “Sing to the Lord a New Song”

Scott Soper/Es ist ein Ros

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to God all you lands;
2 Let earth and heav - en glo - ry, let o - cean depths re - joice.

6 sing of sal - va - tion al - ways; God's glo - ry now at hand.
Let hills and plains and for - ests sing prais - es with one voice.

11 God's love shall nev - er cease.

14 God comes to rule with jus - tice; God comes to rule with peace.

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Lector A Reading from Paul's Letter to Titus.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Text: *Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Tune: *Mendelssohn*



1 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

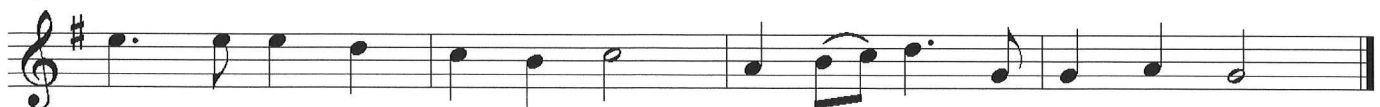


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Mild He lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim: Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus our Em - ma - nu - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing Glo - ry to the new - born King!

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 be to thee, O Christ.**

After the reading, the Gospel Book is "enthroned" in the manger.

Gospel Response: "Angel Alleluias"

Alan Bullard

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Alsay

Sacred Silence

Please stand as the Ministers of the Liturgy gather around the baptismal font.

Nicene Creed

Presider The waters of Mary's womb broke forth and our Savior Christ was born. Through the waters of baptism we are born anew and made God's children through adoption and grace. Living therefore as baptized believers we confess our faith.

Presider & People

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

Please kneel at the sound of the bell while the Choir sings of the Incarnation.

Incarnation Anthem

Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven,
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
And was made man.

Please stand at the sound of the bell and continue reciting the Creed.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Music for the Sprinkling Rite: "Nigerian Fanfare"

Frank Boles

Prayers of the People

Intercessor Loving God, source of all light and truth, you sent your only begotten Son into this world you created to be a light unto our path. Bless, we pray, all who serve Christ in your Church; especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, Poulson our Bishop, Bishop Daniel Genovesi, Diocesan Bishop of The Diocese of Uruguay, Joseph, and James, our priests, Mary Ann our deacon, and Mark and all who minister in your name; that the radiance of your light may shine forth to all. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Eternal King, when your people, the sons and daughters of Abraham & Sarah, were established as a mighty nation, you sent prophets and kings to lead them and you were with those whom you sent. Be with the leaders of our nation; especially: Joe, our president; Kevin, our governor; David, our mayor; and all who serve your people in this earthly realm through the rule of law. May they be guided by the light of your Son, that they might govern and serve your people with wisdom and not folly. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God of Power, Might and Compassion, in your creation are those who are beset by danger and are persecuted, those who are besieged by illness and malady, those who have fallen by the wayside and are friendless and in need. We lift up the concerns & thanksgivings of this community. Let your Spirit light a fire in our hearts which cannot be hidden nor quenched to do as your Son did; to bring light to those in darkness, to bring warmth of body or spirit to those who are cold, to feed from your bounty those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Ever Faithful One, grant us solace and comfort for those who have died. Let the light in our hearts, the comingled light of your love and our memories of those who have gone before us, forever shine and illumine to all the knowledge that your children will soon stand reunited with those loved ones and your Son in the home you have prepared for us. Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end.
People **Amen.**

Peace

Presider The angels said to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace on those with whom God's favor rests." So I announce to you, the peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

+ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARISTIC MEAL +

Please be seated.
Offertory Sentence

Worthy art thou, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and by thy will they were created and have their being. – *Revelation 4:11*

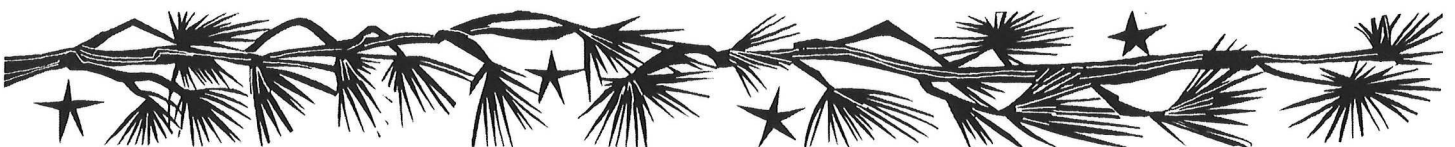
During the "Offertory," please sign the Canterbury Connection Cards in the service bulletin and kindly drop it in the wicker basket with your offering.

To submit your offerings electronically, text the amount you would like to give to 405-645-6608 or go to "bit.ly/GiveSAC" in your browser and follow the instructions.

Thank You.

Music at the Offertory: "Festival First Nowell"

Dan Forrest



Please stand as the offerings are presented at the Altar and blessed with incense.

Music at the Presentation: "What Feast of Love"

Text: *Delores Dufner*
Tune: *Greensleeves*



¹ What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en? What
² What light of truth is of - fered here, what co - ve - nant from heav - en? What
³ What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en? What



food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



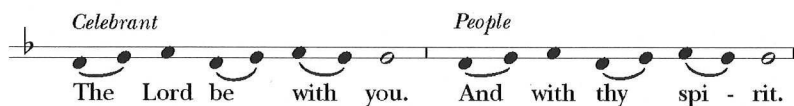
This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the King, the Son come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the King, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



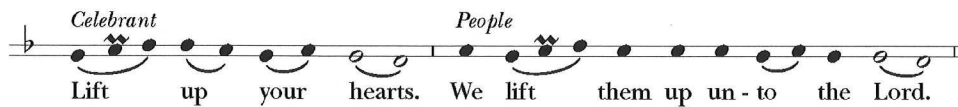
O taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en.
O see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en.
O taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en.

Please remain standing.

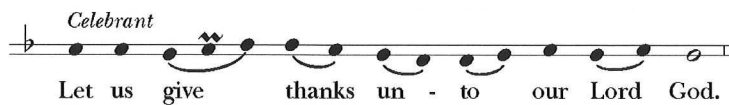
The Great Thanksgiving



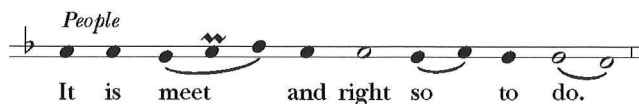
The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.



Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.



It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Setting: *From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*
Music: *Healey Willan 1880-1968*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please kneel or stand.

Eucharistic Prayer II

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

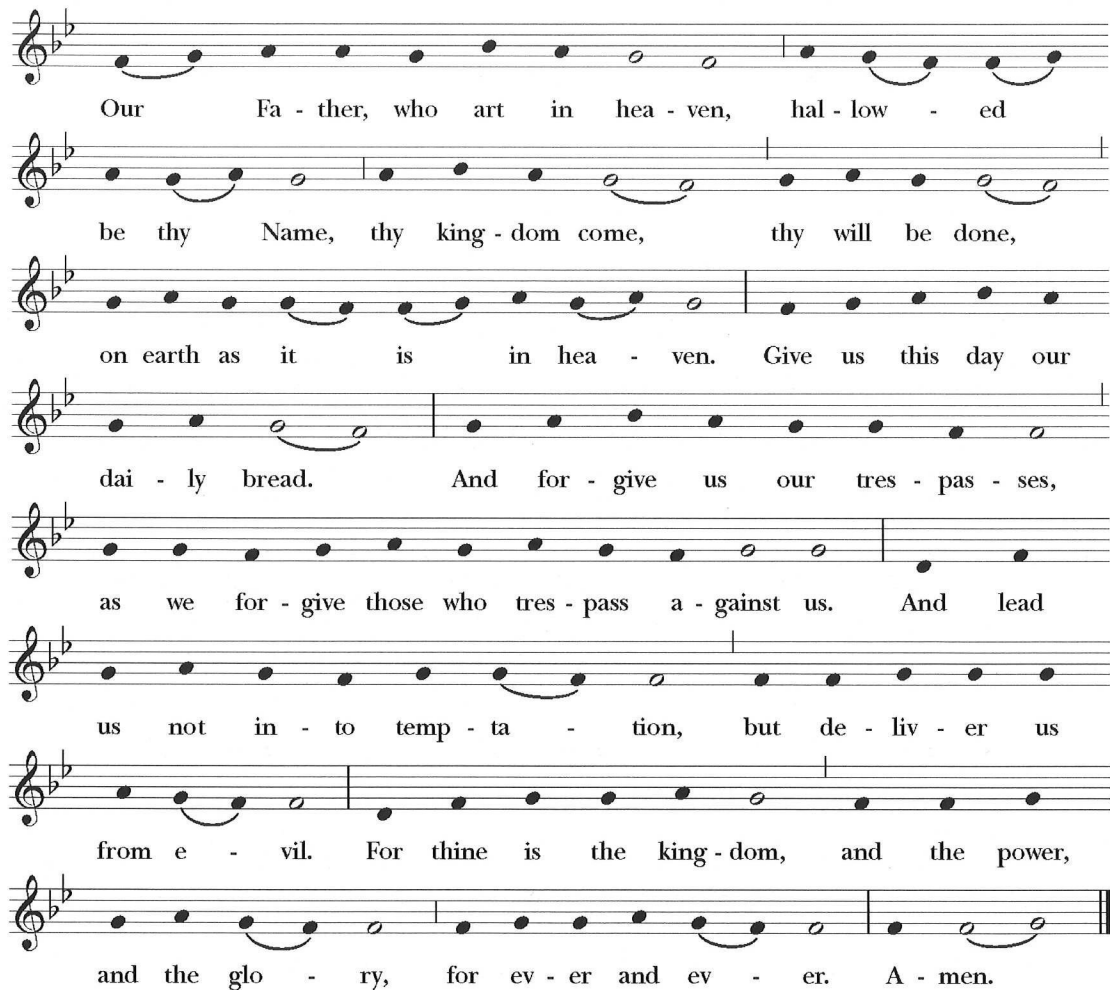
Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

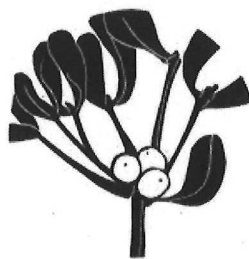
And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: "Agnus Dei"

Setting: *From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*
Music: *Healey Willan 1880-1968*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer Station

After receiving communion, you may go to one of the two "prayer stations" located on either side of the choir platform to meditate, pray, light a candle or a stick of incense, or sit quietly.

Communion Distribution

All Baptized are invited to receive the Holy Meal at the Lord's Table.

For Communion, come forward as the ushers release you from your seat.

If you wish to receive the bread dipped in wine, please receive a napkin from an usher. The bread will be dipped in the wine for you by one of the clergy, then placed on the napkin. After consuming the bread, please place the napkin in one of the wicker receptacles.

If you wish to drink from the cup, please proceed to one of the two chalice bearers to the far ends.

Continue down the outside aisle to return to your seat.

Please note that gluten-free bread is available for those who request it.

Kindly let the usher know if you need the clergy to bring the bread to you.

If you wish to only receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Meditation: "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"

Elizabeth Poston

Communion Hymn: "Silent Night"

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

Tune: Stille Nacht



1 Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. All is calm.
2 Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night. Ho - ly night. Son of God



All is bright. Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far.
love's pure light. Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,



Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in
heaven - ly hosts___ sing al - le - lu - ia. Christ, the
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus



heav - en - ly peace. ___ Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
sav - ior is born. ___ Christ the sav - ior is born.
Lord at thy birth. ___ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Communion Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Text: *Bishop Phillip Brooks*
Descant: *Thomas Armstrong*
Arr. *Ralph Vaughan Williams*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie.
2 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er pro - claim the Ho - ly Birth.
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n.
4 O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us we pray:



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels, the great glad ti - dings tell:



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of wond'-ring love.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord, Em - man - u - el.



Communion Hymn: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

Nahum Tate (1652-1715)
Estes Psalter (1592)
Arr. David Willcocks



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,
2 'Fear not,' said he (for might - y dread had seized their troub - led mind);
3 'To you in Dav - id's town this day is born of Dav - id's line
4 'The heav - n'ly Babe there you shall find to hu - man view dis - played,
5 Thus spake the ser - aph; and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing throug
6 'All glo - ry be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;



the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shown a - round.
'gload ti - dings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.'
a Sav - iour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign.'
all mean - ly wrapped in swad - ling bands, and in a man - ger laid.'
of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:
good - will hence - forth from heav'n to men be - gin and nev - er cease."



+ THE SENDING RITE +

Please kneel or stand.

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

Announcements and Recognitions

Please stand.

Blessing

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People **Amen.**

Presider May God, who sent his angel to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People **Amen.**

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor.

People **Amen.**

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**



Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Text: *Issac Watts (1674-1748)*
Arr. *Lowell Mason (1792-1872)*
Composer: *G.F. Handel (1685-1759)*
Tune: *Antioch*



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our songs em -
3 No more let sin and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions



King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room and
play, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
ground; He comes to make his bless - ings flow far
prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary: "Canzon Secunda per Quattri Stromenti"

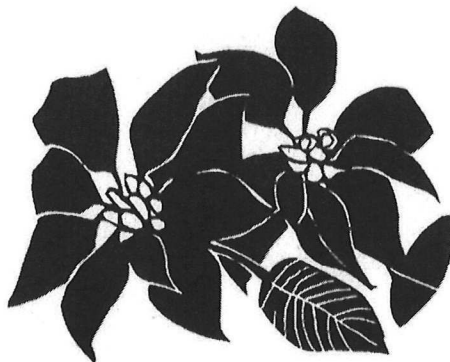
Giovanni Gabrieli

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

***We cordially invite you to join us outside for a
Chocolate & Champagne Reception.***

+ 2023 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS +

<i>Tom & Dianne Norton</i>	<i>In loving memory of Alice M. Norton</i>
<i>Sally & Chuck DeBellevue</i>	<i>In honor of our families</i>
<i>Nancy Loeb</i>	<i>In loving memory of Al Loeb</i>
<i>Robin Troutman</i>	<i>In memory of Claude & Lola Long, Bob & Jean Lombardo, and Mary Stephens</i>
<i>Susan Shebester</i>	<i>In memory of Kelly Bishop</i>
<i>Claudia Estrada</i>	<i>In memory of Manuel Estrada and Carmen De La Torre</i>
<i>Nancy Walker</i>	<i>In memory of Robert Walker</i>
<i>Ann Knutson</i>	<i>In memory of Kay Conwell, Christine Gunn, and Karen Knutson</i>
<i>Diana & George Lauffer</i>	<i>For the blessings of the past year</i>
<i>Claren Denning</i>	<i>For wonderful friends & family</i>
<i>The Narvaiz Family</i>	<i>In memory of Donald Eugene Layman</i>
<i>The Wilson Family</i>	<i>In memory of Helen Manuel</i>
<i>Bud & Biel Johnson</i>	<i>In memory of Catherine English</i>
<i>Pam Alltizer</i>	<i>In honor of Clarence & Mary Lou Smith</i>
<i>Valerie Lewis</i>	<i>In honor of The Lewis Family</i>
<i>Jerry Scribner</i>	<i>In memory of Sally Scribner</i>
<i>Jason Seabolt</i>	<i>In memory of Sam & Mary Seabolt, Elaine Cox and Mary Matlock</i>
<i>The Current Family</i>	<i>In memory of Tom Current, Jr.</i>
<i>Gil & Jeannie Haas</i>	<i>In memory of Mr. & Mrs. C.C. McEachin and Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert G. Haas</i>



+ PRAYER LIST +

For those with medical and other concerns: *Maxine Grayson, Collin Wilbur, Debra Greene Jolly, Erlinda Layman, Nahomi Gudino, John Wehr, Megan Posey, JonEvah Murray, Cornerstone Counseling and Consulting, Traci Eliot, Breanna Troutman, Shary Weis, Bill Landis, Reggie Ekins, Kris Wade, Mahogany Brown, Leanne Hoffbeck, Lynn England, AimeeAnn, Jim Davidson, Anita Kirkpatrick, Angela & Ron Cochran, Judy Spencer, Ann Merritt, Sandy and Bill Hodges, David King, Evelyn Wehr, Bill Collins, Richard Stuhr, Jim Emig, Lee Johnson, Edith Kenney, Evelyn Thrower, Bill Kerr, Judy Reeder, Steve Bauer, Robby Housh, Wyatt Didamo, Barbara Traylor-Lane, Valerie Lewis, Camilla Manning, Philip Worrell, Bill Johnson, Scott Mills, Tess Wade, Michael Parks, Allen Weaver, Kermit Jones, Inna Jones, Felicia Estrada-Trujillo, Ernesto Trujillo, Valdo Trujillo, Claudia Estrada, Ricardo Estrada, Tatiana Velasquez Chicas, Brandi Eaton-Wiles, Charlotte Cascio, Baby Jack, Leah Brashear, Martha Leary, Marina Jones, Julissa Estrada, Ray Friedl, Jaime Mizael Fuentes, Rachel, Eric, Sean Acol, Damian Wiles, Melvin Jones, Luz Estrada, Sebastian Weaver, John Muran, Sr., Lois Muran, Priscilla, Jack Stephens, Patty, Patrick Hays, Jonathon and Alyse, Faith, Evelyn Wehr, Sharon and Don Bole, Neil Ray, Ricky and Eta Womack, Whitney Mayfield, Dobi, Rusty, Cathy, Lee, Pamela, Steve Gilman, Deyanira Gudino, Melissa Nelson, Lazaro Gudino, Antonia Dueñaz, Susan, John, Edward, William, Matt, Ms. Sanders and Daughters, Jan, Viola-Cleo Bradshaw, Cordelia Vogel, Amanda Yoder, Janet Jackson, Patrick Manning, Keely, Jeff, and Nahomi Gudino.*

For those in the military: Rick Narvaiz, Colby Gibson, J.R. Singleton, Bryce Singleton, Parker Singleton, Joshua Westmoreland, Megan Weimer, Ryan Natale, Rylee Natale, Brody Campbell, Justin Jones, Christopher Rosentreter, Sam Carter, Caleb Mitchell, Aaron Long, Terry Caraway, Reed Hall, Zach Renfroe, Rev. Octavia Lindsey, McKenna McCullough, Noel Puryear, Simon Liszeski, Keaton Latner, Kaleigh Hensch, Kayleigh Henson, Freddie Kegler, Jay Jordan, William VanSant, Nick Coleman, Rebecka Blaire, Stephen Liszeski, Ted Liszeski, Kyle Belt, Andrew Stindl, James Roberts, John Andrews, Thomas Andrews, Chase Biel Weishaupt, Perry Harding, Nate Phillips, Ashley Adkins, Matt Lake, Derek Wolf, Jefferson C, our troops at home and abroad and their families.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom including *Carter Blue Clark, Ed Sturm, Carolyn, Nicolae, and Len Steedman.*

We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays this week: *Norma Egbert, Alan Haynes, Kenny Koch, Anna Green, Daniel Narvaiz, Chris Lapolla.*

We rejoice with those celebrating anniversaries this week: *Charles & Sally DeBellevue, Bud & Biel Johnson, Hugh & Charlotte Long.*

+ MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY +

Presider and Preacher: The Reverend Joseph Alsay

Assisting Priest: The Reverend Dr. James Detrich

Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Dr. Mark Heaney

Deacon: The Reverend Mary Ann Coffman

Eucharistic Ministers: Jeannie Haas, Mark Heaney, and Ted Zweifel

Lector: Valerie Hall

Intercessors: Jon Wallingford, Bill Kenney, Ted Zweifel, and Marcy Taber

Vergers: Jason Seabolt

Thurifer: Gil Haas

Boat Bearer: Caleb Alsay

Crucifer: Chris Lapolla

Acolytes: Zoe Alsay and Brandon Narvaiz

Banner Bearer: Zipporah Alsay

Oblation Bearers: Judy Heaney and Laurie Reeg

Christ Bearers: The Ervin Family

Organist/Director of Traditional Music: John Stephen Potter

Assisting Organist/Choir Director: Roger Barton

Choir: St. Augustine Festival Choir

Trumpets: Randy Polk and Ashley Peaster

French Horn: James Doss

Trombone: Andy Fugate and Thomas Cortes

Percussion: Andrew Orr

Ushers: Rick Inselman and Matt Lapolla

Greeters: Janet Mills and Susan Shebester

Reception: David Krausse and the St. Augustine's Hospitality Team

Cover Art: Freepik.com

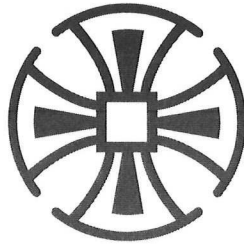
+ THIS IS OUR STORY +

In Western tradition, December 25th is the "First Day of Christmas", and the Twelve Days of Christmas are from December 25th to January 5th - Christmas does not precede the Twelve Days. Some scholars believe that this prolonged holiday was an attempt to solve an administrative problem of the newly christianized

Roman Empire which was trying to coordinate the solar Julian calendar with the lunar calendars of its eastern provinces. Twelfth Night (January 5th), which is also the title of one of Shakespeare's plays, signaled the end of Christmas-tide. There is a popular belief that it is unlucky to leave Christmas decorations hanging after Twelfth Night. In England, wassail punch is especially popular on Twelfth Night. Another popular English Twelfth Night tradition was to have a bean and pea hidden inside a Twelfth-night cake. The man who found the bean became King for the night, while the lady who found the pea became Queen. A similar tradition continues in New Orleans and Mobile in our country when a King cake, containing a small plastic baby, is eaten; the guest who finds the baby is thought to be destined for good luck. An Irish tradition is to place the statues of the Three Kings beside Jesus' crib on Twelfth Night heralding the Feast of the Epiphany the following day.

If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.

ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Follow us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/St.AugustineofCanterburyOKC>

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday – Holy Eucharist – 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

Wednesday – Holy Eucharist – 12 Noon

STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Joseph Alsay

Deacons: The Reverend Karen Hansen and The Reverend Mary Ann Coffman

Administrative Assistant: Coleen Christian

Social Media Coordinator: Daphne Christian-Muran

Bulletins: Jesse L. Heath

Contribution Registrar: Kenny Koch

Staff Musicians: Scott Chard and Guy Nembhard

VESTRY

Sr. Warden: James Reeg **Sr. Warden Elect:** Michael Johnston

Jr. Warden: Jon Wallingford **Jr. Warden Elect:** William “Bill” Kenney

Treasurer: Marian Moon

Other Members: Brad Davidson, John Fink, Jay Kyte, Valerie Hall, Rick Inselman,
Valerie Lewis, Scott Myers, & Jason Seabolt

Clerk: Renee Lewis

OFFICE HOURS

To offer our staff a Sabbath, the St. Augustine business offices are closed on Mondays, with staff available remotely for urgent matters. Ministry Leaders are welcome to access the building independently with their key, as needed.

Father Joseph Alsay, Rector
Coleen Christian, Admin Assistant

Tuesday -Thursday 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Tuesday -Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

AFTER HOURS CONTACT

Father Joseph

Cell: 405-365-3226

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Email: seniorwarden@sac-okc.org

Jon Wallingford, Jr. Warden

Cell: 405-250-0275

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