

St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church

A Mission of the
Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina



Advent Festival of Lessons and Music

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

Welcome to St. Augustine's

A special welcome to those who are visiting via our on-line service. We welcome the addition of your praise and thanks to God this day. If you are seeking a church home, you are welcome here.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Please silence all electronic devices before worship.

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CLERGY

Bishop..... The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards

Deacon..... The Reverend Deacon Christine Gregory

MINISTERS FOR TODAY

Officiant Susan Sadler
Director of Music Matt Henderson
Church Accompanist..... Sharon Lewis
Crucifer Susan Sadler
Acolyte..... Leslie Seremak
Scripture Readers... John Donnelly, Gwen Blankenheim, Jerry Eubank
Scripture Readers..... Peggy Williams, Jim Moor, Stephanie Kissiah
Scripture Readers..... Johnetta, George, Bob Rothe, Raina Knudsen
Musicians Gail Jarrell, Flute and Katie Bennett, Bassoon
Ushers Lorraine Morgan and Peggy Williams
Altar Guild Members of the Altar Guild
On-Line Video Team..... Eddie George, Jack Martins & Chuck Weiss

MISSION COMMITTEE

Senior Warden..... Bob Blankenheim	Outreach & Evangelism..... Margaret Kopp
Junior Warden Anne Kely	Worship..... Peggy Williams
Communications..... Terri Rothe	Education..... Michael Brunson
Fellowship..... Patty Walker	Treasurer..... Jack Sadler
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ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ADVENT FESTIVAL

OF LESSONS AND MUSIC

This service comes to us from The Episcopal Church's *The Book of Occasional Services* (BOS), beginning on page 32. We invite you to sing out and participate!

PRELUDE

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Gail Jarrell – flute, Katie Bennett – bassoon

Sharon Lewis – piano

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OPENING HYMN

Once In Royal David's City

- 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 scorned, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 5 And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love; for that Child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above, and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.
- 6 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see Him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Crucifer moves to the Advent wreath to light one candle, as the congregation sings.

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd
Gently lead them homeward
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway,
For the King of Glory.

Words and Music: Wayne L. Wold Copyright © 2002 Birnamwood Publications (Admin. by Morningstar Music Publishers) All rights Reserved. CCLI License No. 2913694. CCLI Song No. 2157692

Officiant Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city of Aiken.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

Musical Response

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring. On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
- 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

- 3 When sin departs before his face, then life and health come in its place. When sin departs before his face, then life and health come in its place. Angels rejoice with us and sing, all for to see the newborn King.
- 4 All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God in highest heaven, peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."

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Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

Nine Lessons are customarily selected (but fewer may be used), interspersed with appropriate Advent hymns, canticles, and anthems. When possible, each Lesson is read by a different lector. The Lesson from the third chapter of Genesis is never omitted.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-22

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Response

O come, O come, Emmanuel

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely *exile* here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!
- 2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in its ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come

to you, O Israel!

- 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!
- 4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-11

God reveals his glory to the prophet and calls him to be his messenger.

Reader A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.'
Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed."

Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said:
"Until cities lie waste without inhabitant,

and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Musical Response

What Child Is This

1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

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The Third Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Response

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.
- 2 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray! Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us to-day. We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!
- 3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us."

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Response

Christian Men Rejoice

- 1 Good Christian men, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born to-day: Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath oped the heav'nly door, And man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1886), alt. Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

The Fifth Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer

shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

The First Noel

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
- 2 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. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
- 3 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. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
- 4 Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th centn.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

The Sixth Lesson

Baruch 4:36-5:9

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand.

Reader A reading from Baruch.

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to

you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Joy To The World

- 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room; And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing. And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns Let men their songs employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness. And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. And arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Seventh Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Musical Response

Silent Night

- 1 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! Sleep in heavenly peace!
- 2 Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from Heaven
afar, Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia! Christ, the Saviour, is born! Christ, the Saviour, is
born!
- 3 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! Jesus, Lord, at Thy
Birth!

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

The Eighth Lesson

Luke 1:5-25

An angel announces to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to

you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**

Musical Response

Angels We Have Heard On High

- 1 Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo! 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! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
- 4 See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

The Ninth Lesson

Luke 1:26-56

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Response

O Come, All Ye Faithful

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem: Born, to redeem us, Born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
- 2 True God of True God, Light of Light Eternal, Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb: Son of the Father, Begotten, not created; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
- 3 Sing, Choir Angelic, Sing ye Hallelujah; Sing, ye that stand around the heavenly throne: "Glory to God, All glory in the highest;" O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Welcome

Matt Henderson

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of God be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

After exchanging the peace, the Minister may offer this or some other suitable offertory sentence.

Officiant So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.
Galatians 6:9-10

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Away In A Manger

St. Augustine's Music Team
Gail Jarrell – flute, Katie Bennett – bassoon
Sharon Lewis – piano

Music Copyright © 2017 Adam Lewis, hymnary.org

DOXOLOGY

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

HYMN NO. 380 v. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711) Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510-1561)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p.212

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE MINISTRY

BCP p.256

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE ADVENT BLESSING

BOS p.22

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

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

THE BLESSING

Officiant The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
- 3 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated for the announcements.

POSTLUDE

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is available. Monday through Friday please contact the office. After hours emergencies, please call Dea. Chris at (803) 716-8641.

FOURTH QUARTER OUTREACH PARTNER

The Mission Team has discerned that the Veterans Association of Aiken will be our Fourth Quarter Outreach Partner. We look forward to assisting those that have given so much to us and our country. The following is a list of needed and requested items. Let's fill up the front pews! *Please purchase new items:* Men's and Women's coats, Men's sweatpants, Men's sweatshirts, Men's T-shirts, Men's boxers, underwear and socks (suggested sizes Large to 3XL), candy, juice boxes, cereal boxes, fruit roll-ups, various snacks, mouthwash, hand and body lotions, men's and women's deodorant, and reading glasses.

RIDE SHARE PROGRAM

St. Augustine's is working to provide for the transportation needs within our congregation for shut ins. We will be coordinating a new Ride Share Program to meet this need. This will be a great opportunity to "Be The Church" to our fellow members who would be able to provide rides to and from Church for Sunday service and/or special events. Please call the church office 803.641.1913 or email staugustines@atlanticbbn.net if you need transportation or can provide transportation.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will run from Jan. 12—Feb. 16 with a makeup session on Feb. 23. We will meet in the conference room following fellowship.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect **new unwrapped toys** and distribute those toys to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. It is through this ministry that the gift of a new toy, will help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's economically disadvantaged children. There are collection boxes in the Fellowship Hall and **the pick-up date is today.**

MILITARY BREAKFAST

Marilyn Bush will be the lead on the Military Breakfast at Camp Gravatt on December 22. If you are interested in helping out please contact Marilyn.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

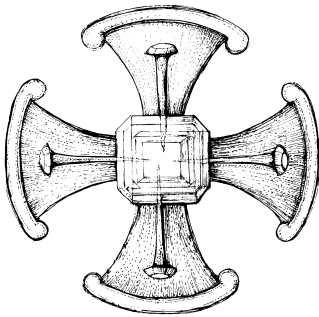
The church office will be closed from Dec. 24 until Jan. 3. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call Dea. Chris at (803) 716-8641. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year! For end of year giving, please contact Jack Sadler to schedule an appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays	Evening Prayer in Mary Chapel, 5:30 PM Postponed until January 15th
TODAY	Lessons and Carols 10 AM, followed by Cookie Exchange
TODAY	Final Day for Toys for Tots (bin in Fellowship Hall)
December 22	Military Breakfast, Camp Gravatt
December 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM
December 25	Christmas Day Service, St. Thaddeus, 10:00 AM
January 15	Return of Wednesday Services, 5:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP

<i>Today</i>	<i>Peggy Denny</i>
December 29	Patty O. Walker



Be the Church

PRAYERS OF OUR COMMUNITY DECEMBER 15, 2024

We remember these people in prayer:

Residents & Staff of Silver Bluff Grove
Residents & Staff of Barclay House
Bob Bradford
Benjamin Williams
Gavin
Danny Walker
Elder Family
Sue Thielemann-Freschi
Julia
Eddie George
Donavan
Maddie
Cheryl
Elizabeth
Joshua
Cheryl Mehta
Danny
Berardina Centofanti
Dawna Marinosci
Anthony DeStefano
Joan Insana
James Coleman
Anna Winch
Nancy Perrino
Isabel Jackson
Kaila
William "Woody"
Miskelly
Bryan
Chris Beechler
Jim Keenan
Craig Smith
Victims of Domestic
Abuse
Carol Aquino
Deacon Chris
Lucas DiSano
Tom Clark
Fr. Dale
Jim Marquis
George Knowles

Carl Walker
Joan Sadler
Dee Martins
Bob Rothe
Tamara Myslyk
John Jenkinson
Giuliana Centofanti
David Sacks
Laurie Dungey
Becca Kitchens
Gavin Visser
Bradley Weidner
Siva Aiken
Tom Meehan
Richard Marshall
Kelly M. Raymond
Janet Pariseau
Martha Ann Chalupa
Ginny Hess
Kathy Cook
Don Fox

Please contact the Church
· **To add a name to the perpetual prayer list**
· **To remove a name when prayers have been answered**
· **To add names to other lists on this page or to make corrections**

We pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed.

1 Mabel Nicholson
1 Neva Page
1 Mildred Carless
2 Dr. Bolin
2 Juanite Malloy
3 Harry Knuff
4 Clarene Tankersley
6 George W. Greene
7 Betty Goetsch
8 David Carney
9 Jim Cochran
10 Nellie Cornogg
10 Edward C. Drake
12 James Harter
13 T. H. Allen
15 MaryLu Graves
17 William Coleman
19 Nell Loftin
20 Jim Pollard
20 Doug Walpole
21 Gerry Girdauskas
22 Adris H. McNeely
23 Jonathan Moor
23 Ab Allen
23 Charles "Chip" Lampley
23 Brian Bates
24 William E. Sommer
26 Dewitt Bellamy
29 Mildren Hogel 30 MalColm Barren

We pray for those celebrating birthdays:

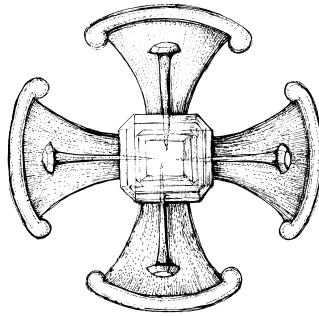
8 Larry Brown
13 Stephanie Kissiah
14 Val Miles
18 Debbie Bradford
22 Nathan Jones

We pray for those celebrating anniversaries:

3 George & Patty Walker
8 Johnnie & Stephanie Kissiah
18 Eddie & Jhonna George
21 Marty & Karen Scharf

**ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

WEEKLY WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE



Sunday	7:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (September-May) <i>Postponed until January 15th</i>

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND CONFESSION AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

We welcome all newcomers to St. Augustine of Canterbury! We greet our visitors when on campus. You will find warm and friendly faces are present to answer your questions and help you to feel welcome. They can respond to any questions you many have about our church. We can also assist you in getting further involved in the church by connecting you with the right people in the area in which you are interested, such as Outreach, Music, Fellowship, Christian Education, and other ministries.