



St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



Cover Art: Stef Collins

December 15, 2024, 10 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent

The Holy Eucharist

The Sunday School presents "Bethlehem Stories"

December 15, 2024

Prelude

Processional Hymn: #121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge

The Proclamation of the Word

Sunday School Christmas Pageant "Bethlehem Stories" (*see insert*)

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers of the People (*all kneeling*)

Daniel Griffioen

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: In our Diocese we pray for St. Cuthbert and St. George, Sundre Mr. Gerald Ingeveld, Lay Minister and The Rev. John Gishler (Hon.). We also pray for Bishop, Archdeacons and Regional Deans (BARDS).

In Our Companion Diocese of the Windward Islands we pray for St. David and St. Paul on Grenada, The Rev. Fr. Edward Mark, Priest-in-Charge.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for those who minister young people: Sunday School teachers, Nursery volunteers, Middle School and High School youth groups and leaders.

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept. The celebrant and people say together,

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace (*all standing*)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Vs. 1,3,4,5,7)

The Celebration of the Eucharist

(remain standing)

Prayer Over the Gifts

The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge

All **God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

All

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All

we remember his death,

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(all kneeling)*

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Eucharist.

All (baptized or not) are invited to come forward for a blessing.

If you require a gluten free wafer, please inform the person administering the bread.

**Communion Music: #91 People, Look East! The Time Is Near #100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
#102 Prepare the Way, O Zion #127 O Come, Little Children**

Prayer after Communion *(all kneeling)*

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

(all standing)

Celebrant

Glory to God,

All

whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: #154 Joy to the World

Dismissal

Celebrant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In loving memory of our daughter Cynthia by Allan and Muriel McCuaig.

In loving memory of Marion and Douglas Lyster and Bert and Web Lomas by Shannon, George and family.

In loving memory of Kaye Bathgate by Tracy and Kirk Bathgate.

Special Thanks

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the talented individuals who brought this production to life: Meagan Nicol, Tim and Carolyn Scott, Jayla Matchett, Temi Soboyejo, Karen Hudson, and Andrew and Elizabeth Golison for their musical prowess; Wendy McDonald for her captivating choreography; Annette and Emily Bright for their stunning costumes and props; Diane Starrenburg, Donna Marshall, Debbie Delorme, Juanita Collins, Virginia Fawcett and Eliza Wiederspick for their dedication to Sunday School; Janice Brown and Alex Creaser for their invaluable assistance; Andrew and Elizabeth Golison for their expert guidance as Persian language consultants; Jillian Wiig, our Palestinian hymn consultant; Connor McCaughtrie for so graciously agreeing to be our Boaz; and Judith Robinson and Rachel Robinson for their tireless efforts in directing and organizing this extraordinary event. And we are all so thankful to Stef Collins, our artistic (she created the insert cover!), cheerful, can-do Children and Family Ministries Coordinator, whose organization, coordination, and care for the younger members of St. Augustine's made this possible.

SHARING IN MINISTRY TODAY

GOSPELLER: The Sunday School

INTERCESSOR: Daniel Griffioen

LAY ASSISTANTS: Allan Besplug, Sylvia Besplug, Brenda Boéré, Janet Efunbajo, Michael Larsen, Gary Moore, Jay Penner

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT: Pamela Ukrainetz

MUSICIANS: Andrew and Elizabeth Golison, Jayla Matchett, Meagan Nicol, Carolyn Scott, Tim Scott, Temi Soboyejo and St. Augustine's Senior Choir

SANCTUARY GUILD: Nikki Gordon, Barb Hignell, Judy Moore, Marc Siewert, Dorothy Tipper

SERVERS: David Adesina, Cooper Roberts, McKay Roberts

SIDESPEOPLE: Don Crabb, Juanita Loucks

COUNT SUPERVISOR: Cathy Gillespie

TECHNICAL CREW: Sound: Brad Gillespie, David Hignell; Videography: Ayo Aramide, Orion Legg

WELCOME MINISTRY: Patricia and Tim Pope

Rector
Associate Priest
Rector Emeritus
Rector Emeritus
Children & Family Ministries
Nursery & Special Events
Music Director
Organist
Administrative Assistant
Lead Verger
Assistant Vergers
Rector's Warden
Acolyte
Assistant Rector's Warden
People's Warden
Assistant People's Warden
Deputy Warden (Worship)
Deputy Warden (Caring)
Deputy Warden (Fellowship)
Deputy Warden (Missional Outreach)
Deputy Warden (Facilities)
Deputy Warden (Financial Stewardship)
Deputy Warden (Communications)
Deputy Warden (Discipleship and Evangelism)

The Rev. Steve Bateman
The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge
The Rev. Canon Allan McCuaig
The Rev. Canon James Robinson
Stef Collins
Esther Oluwagbemi
Karen Hudson
Mary Lee Voort
Gauri Weerakoon
Joelle Duda
Andrew Golison and Elizabeth Golison
Carol Young
Tom Warwick
Harriet Edwards
Doug McLaughlin
Jose Samayoa
Annette Bright
Julie and Leonard Lorenz
Karen Hammond
Chris Burton
Allan Besplug
Eliza Wiederspick
Pat Hammond
Patricia and Tim Pope

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BETHLEHEM STORIES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Bethlehem Stories

By Judith Robinson & Andrew Horne
Directed by Judith Robinson & Rachel Robinson

Directors' Notes

God promised Abraham that his descendents would be a blessing to all the world. To everyone. Yet, as God walked with his people for centuries, through exile and slavery and the desert, it remained unclear how these disobedient people could fulfil such a promise.

For the most part, the non-Jewish world was an enemy of God's people. Gentiles could not worship with the Israelites at all, and anyone with a Gentile in the family could not worship with the Israelites for eighteen generations.

The story of Ruth marks the moment that this promise starts spreading outward. Ruth is a Gentile, a Moabite widow from modern-day Palestine. And she marries Boaz, an Israelite, who lives in a place called Bethlehem. Their grandson, David, is the most famous ancestor of Jesus.

"Ruth" is the only book in the Bible named after a Gentile. It is also the only book named after an ancestor of Jesus. (And one of only two books named after a woman.) Her story is indeed an unpredictable way to approach the Nativity, but it is through this story that we Gentiles are welcomed into God's promise to Abraham. Through Ruth, we may also worship Jesus in the stable, mourn his death, and share in his resurrection.

-Judith and Rachel

Bethlehem Stories

By Judith Robinson & Andrew Horne
Directed by Judith Robinson & Rachel Robinson

Welcome to St. Predictabilious

MR. SMITH	Cooper
MR. JONES	Rory
MRS. DAVIES	Ethne
ANGEL	Jayla
GIRL	Tabitha
NARRATOR 1	Elizabeth

Bethlehem Story - "Ruth"

RUTH	Charis
NAOMI	Jennifer
ORPAH	Ayoola
ELIMELECH	Jonathon
MAHLON	Orion
CHILION	Eric
PEOPLE OF BETHLEHEM/HARVESTERS	Addy, Annie, Anu, Elijah, Islay, King David, Praise, Win
BOAZ	Connor
BOAZ'S SERVANT	Atlas
RELATIVE	Michael
DEAR HEART	Karen
ELDERS IN BETHLEHEM/HARVESTERS	Esme, Mary, Reece, Reid, Victoria, Violet
DANCERS	Cora, Ibk, Ife, Sophie, Tessa
BABY OBED	Zephaniah

SONG: YARABBA SSALAMI/O SPIRIT OF PEACE - Temi

This song is used across Christian denominations in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon and is often sung by congregations during the passing of the peace.

O Spirit of peace, send us the rain of peace.

O Spirit of peace, let every heart be filled with peace.

SONG: HINEI MAH TOV - Elementary Sunday School Class

This is Psalm 133.

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when all dwell in unity!

Bethlehem Stories

By Judith Robinson & Andrew Horne
Directed by Judith Robinson & Rachel Robinson

SONG: JEHOVAH JIREH. - Dance

**Jehovah Jireh, my Provider, His grace is sufficient for me...
My God shall supply all my needs according to his riches in glory;
He will give His angels charge over me,
Jehovah Jireh cares for me.**

Bethlehem Story - "The Nativity"

NARRATOR 2	Emmanuel
ANGEL GABRIEL	Ibk
MARY	Alethia
JOSEPH	McKay
ANGELS	Brodie, Ellie, Reece, Sophie, Will
SHEPHERDS	Addy, Annie, Anu, Elijah, Islay, King David, Praise, Win
KING 1	George
KING 2	Levi
KING 3	Camden
TRANSLATOR	Mark
HEROD	Josh
HEROD'S SERVANT	Finn

SONG: AWAY IN A MANGER - Preschool - Grade 1 Class

Congregation joins in for verse 2 & 3.

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus - look down from on high
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

SONG: #89 OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL - Congregation please join