



*A growing, faithful, inclusive,
and caring community
committed to the ministry
and teachings of Jesus Christ.*

285 South 208 Street 402-289-4058

www.facebook.com/st.augustine.omaha



**Third Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols
December 14, 2025**

(This service will be streamed online for our broader community)

A Christmas Welcome to St Augustine's

Hello!

Throughout our worship services in Advent, Christmas, and the coming New Year, many people come to be part of our traditions here at St A's. Is this you? Welcome! We're glad to have you joining us.

Coming to church throughout this time can mean a lot of things. Sometimes people are looking for a church home again, and this seems a really appropriate time to make a new beginning. Sometimes people join us just because it matters to family. Sometimes people join us with a sense of nostalgia for what church used to be in their lives. Sometimes people come because the music or décor stir up old hopes that were nurtured in our depths.

It isn't uncommon at all, whether you're at church constantly or for the first time in years, to find a sense of wonder stirred up again near Christmastime. Do we dare to hope that God truly sent love and light into the world, all those years ago? Do we dare to hope that God is sending love and light, still?

Whatever has brought you, you're welcome here today – or any day. Our services of worship (and our coffee hour afterwards) are here as a space where people can draw nearer to God and one another, and at St A's, that's always also about our mission to “be a growing, faithful, inclusive, and caring community committed to the ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ.” And everyone present is always welcome to receive communion (we have gluten free bread if you ask, and receiving the bread alone is fine if you're

allergic to wine or in recovery – hundreds of years of theology have affirmed that it's a “full communion” if you receive either part).

We know it's a busy time of year, but if you'd like to be in touch, we have a guest book on a table just to the right as you enter our sanctuary doors – if you write down your contact info, our staff and clergy will certainly reach out in the coming week or two with an invitation to sit down for coffee! You're also welcome to give us a call at 402-289-4058 or e-mail our clergy, the Reverend Ben Varnum, at rector@sainta.net and the Reverend Lisa Aguilar at lisa@sainta.net.

Meanwhile, please know our wishes for every holiday blessing through this Christmas season, from our community at St A's.

Prelude *Once in Royal David's City*

Words & Music by Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander & Henry John Gauntlett

Presented by v. 1 (soloist)

v. 2+ All

F E°/G F/A F F/C C F/C C⁷ F Dm F/A F B^bmaj⁹ B^b6 F/C C

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of
3. Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, day by day like us He
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own re - deem - ing

4 F E°/G F/A F B°/D G⁷ C C⁷ F Dm F/A F B^bmaj⁹ B^b6 F/C C

shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for His
all, and His shel - ter was a sta - ble, and His cra - dle was a
grew, He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us He
love; For that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our Lord in heav - en a -

8

F B \flat B \flat /D F C 7 /G F/A F C 7 _{sus} C 7

bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
 stall: with the poor and meek and
 knew: and He feels for all our
 -bove, and He leads His chil - dren

10

F B \flat C 9 B \flat /D Em 7 (\flat 5) F_{sus} C/F F B \flat ma j^9 B \flat 6 F/C C F

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and He shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where He has gone.

CCLI Song #197156
 CCLI License #1759835

Welcome and Brief Announcements

Celebrant says Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, [...]

[...] These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

The Celebrant and People say together:

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,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant then continues

May almighty God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the Ruler of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son; Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and people may serve you in harmony around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (H 56, verses 1, 2, and 7) Led by Organ



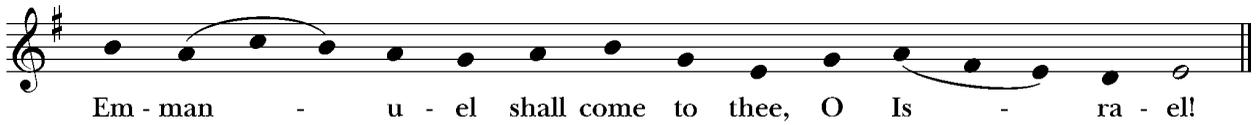
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Second Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Lector: Recia Lord

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² 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.

³ A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass;

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ 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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Grant, O God that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (H 67)

Led by Organ



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Third Lesson: Luke 1:39-46

Lector: Megan Griffiths

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Canticle of the Turning

Led by Joyful Noise

$\text{♩} = 76$

Guitar tacet, or play melody

unis.

(Kybd.)

1. My _

5 Em C D Em C D

(1.) soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my
 (2.) I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your
 (3.) halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the
 (4.) na - tions rage from - age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us fast: God's _

10 Em G D Em C Em

spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp. This

14 G D Em C D

fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn: There are
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, 'til the

18 Em G D Em C Em

east to west shall my name be blessed. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round. } My

22 G D Em C D
dir. *amis.*

heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -

heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -

26 Em C D Em C Em
dir.

way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

1.2.3.

2. Through
3. From the
4. Though the

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

God of Truth, you call the Church and its leaders to serve as a signal to all people. Guide our bishop, and all clergy and people, that they may know your ways and walk in your paths.

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God of Mercy, give the leaders of the nations and all in authority the spirit of wisdom and understanding that they may serve with righteousness and faithfulness.

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God of the Garden, you created mountains, deserts, streams, and all the creatures and plants who call Earth home. Teach us to tend to your creation just as you tend to the gardens of our souls.

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God of Peace, who calls us to turn our swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, grant us discerning hearts that we might follow you in the way of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God of Hope, you promise to create water out of wilderness and streams out of the desert. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers; We pray especially for: John, Recia, Barbara, Elle, Brendan & children, Chris, Carol, Jill, Danette, Ben, Lorraine, Shirley, Zoey, Don, Sandy, John, Geno & family, Irene, Jean, Tom, Norma, Kevin, Annie, Jan, Will, Truman, Leslie, Carla & family, Avery, Austin, Sarah, Janet, Bruce, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God of Comfort, you prepare for us a future without hurt or destruction, where the wolf shall live with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. We remember all those who have died in the hope of your eternal kingdom.

Silence; The People may add their own petitions

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

God with Us, as we await the coming of our Immanuel, we remember those things for which we are waiting.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

O house of Jacob, come,

People **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Deacon: God of Forgiveness, we pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Jim Keepers, Jim Lewis

Anniversaries:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Offertory

Lullaby

John Ness Beck

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-16

Lector: Deacon Rebecca Smith

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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 in the guest room. ⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood

before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem (H 79)

Led by Joyful Noise

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin-eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Fifth Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-12

Lector: Bill Smith

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more

excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” ⁷ Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire.” ⁸ But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰ And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹² like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love; So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of the Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

People, Look East (WLP 724)

Led by Joyful Noise

1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crow - ning of — the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl — shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life — to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim — the hearth — and set — the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 nour - ish, that — in course — the flower — may flou - ish. Peo - ple, look
 weath - er, bright — as sun — and moon — to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 hum - ming with — the word, — the Lord — is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest is on — the way.
 east and sing to - day: Love, the Rose is on — the way.
 east and sing to - day: Love, the Star is on — the way.
 east and sing to - day: Love, the Lord is on — the way.

Sixth Lesson: John 1: 1-14

Lector: Mary Jane Smith

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Come all Ye Faithful

(H 83, verses 1-3)

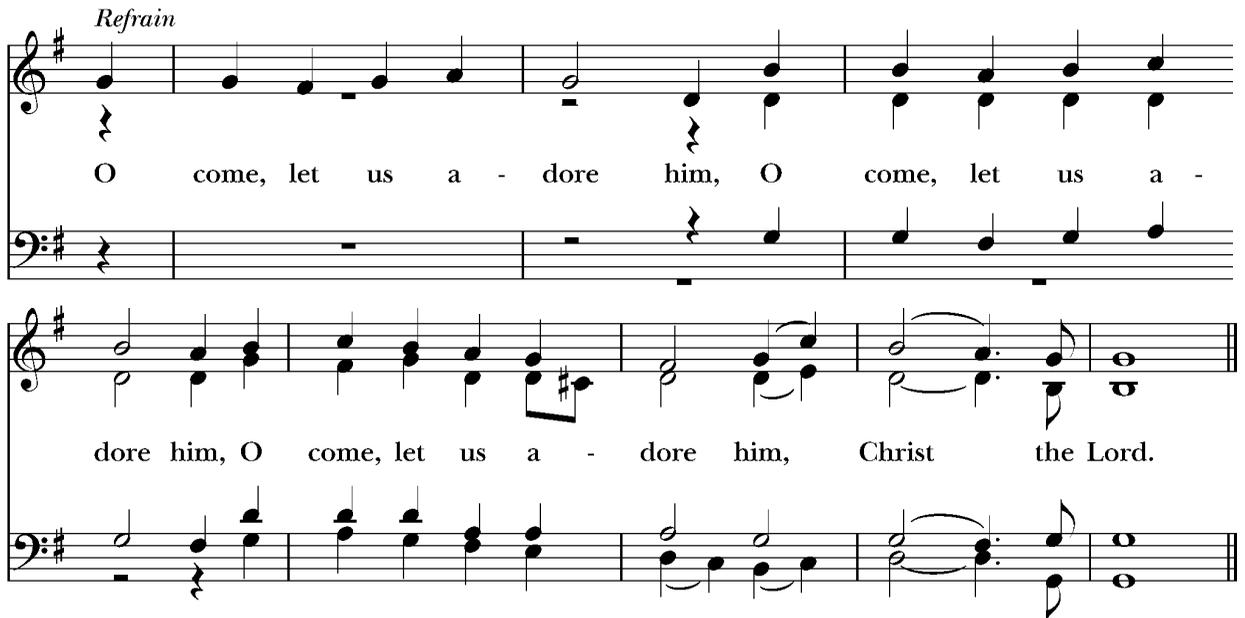
Led by Organ

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain



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

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The Wisdom of God
 the Love of God
 and the Grace of God
 strengthen you
 to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
 in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Once in Royal David's City

John Behnke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outreach for December: Magdalene Omaha

Our December Outreach donation goes to Magdalene Omaha (magdaleneomaha.org). This group has survivor-led-and-centered programs for survivors of drug addiction, trafficking, and sexual violence and exploitation, and their efforts include education, a campus with support programming, state-wide awareness initiatives, and a home for survivors to complete a multi-year program of support and restoration. We support Magdalene in December through these donations, our Magdalene Marketplace on Dec 7th (see separate announcement), and participation in their Longest Night vigil on Dec 21st (see separate announcement). Donations placed in the basket or designated to "Magdalene Omaha" in the memo line of checks will go to fund this program as our December special offering.

Bible Study in January

In January, the Midweek Bible Study (Wednesdays at 7 pm and Thursdays at noon) will be meeting beginning 1/7 and discussing the week's readings from the Women's Lectionary that we're using. This will give a chance to reflect on the Bible together, learn about less-known stories, and look at translations together to understand what the Biblical authors might have been thinking and how it sounds in English!

Vestry Notes for November

The Vestry (the parish board) met on November 16th for its regular meeting. They approved minutes and financial reports, and a calendar of special Outreach offerings for the months in 2026. The Vestry also reviewed a number of updates, including our stewardship drive, our staffing structure, and the door replacement project (which is experiencing parts delays). The vestry affirmed moving to hiring a new parish administrator, and Fr Ben will be updating that position description, with a goal of announcing staff plans at the annual meeting. Otherwise, this Vestry meeting reviewed parish communications tools (asking “what is the main job?” of each one) and reviewed a set of vestry topics and goals around youth and children. We noted that the current Sunday School and Wednesday night curriculae are very successful, and identified a goal of expanding youth elements and participation at the last-Sunday services each month, when youth and children are not in Sunday School and are expected to be with families at church. The December Vestry meeting will be held on December 21st at noon, and is expected to review the budget for 2026.

Nominations

In the coming weeks, we’ll begin receiving nominations for parish offices for the coming year! We will need parish members to serve on the Vestry (our parish board), as Directors of our Legacy Society (a planned giving ministry), and as our delegates to the Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska. Vestry and Legacy Society members need to be Confirmed or Received members (or willing to be Confirmed/Received on February 8th, 2026, or another time). If you are curious about these positions, please contact Fr Ben or a member of our Vestry – list can be found at <http://www.sainta.net/staff--leadership.html>

Advent and Christmas at St A's

Each year, the four Sundays before Christmas mark the season of Advent (from the Latin word for "waiting"). At St A's, we have opportunities to study, pray, and celebrate together. Here's some things to expect!

Advent Study. Throughout Advent, you're invited to pick up a Living Well Through Advent booklet from Living Compass. These booklets will be available on the Narthex (entryway) table.

Sunday, 12/14, combined 9:30 am: Lessons and Carols. Join us for this special annual worship service, which will be the only service this Sunday. In place of our usual liturgy of Word and Table, we will have more lessons from scripture, followed by seasonal carols and hymns and a cookie themed coffee hour.

Sunday, 12/14: Blue Christmas, 3:00 pm. The holiday season can be a time of really remembering loved ones who have died. The Blue Christmas service involves readings from scripture and other sources, and a chance to gather in support of loved ones and one another. We light vigil candles in memory of them. This can be a meaningful service to invite a friend to attend as they remember a loved one.

Longest Night with Magdalene - Sunday, 12/21. The Fourth Year of this fundraiser with our outreach partner, Magdalene Omaha, invites us to donate funds or go and stand vigil at Magdalene's programming building at 933 S. Saddle Creek Drive. Members of our church are invited to help contribute or participate in the vigil, holding light as a sign of hope for survivors throughout the longest night of the year. **St A Members will be present 10-midnight!**

Christmas Eve Worship, Wednesday, 12/24. On Christmas Eve, we will hold worship services at **3:00 pm** (livestreamed and then hosted on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/st.augustine.omaha> if you want to join us while traveling!) and **11:00 pm**. The later service begins with a **10:30 pm hymn sing**, before leading into our "midnight mass," a tradition of celebrating Christmas Eve worship with the arrival of Christmas Day at the midnight hour, and the birth of Jesus. Each of these services will have the singing of the candlelit carol, Silent Night.

Epiphany Pageant and Celebration of Mother Ruth!
Sunday, Jan 4th

This coming year, we'll be celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 4. That morning, at both services, we'll have a blessing of chalk that can be used to mark the lintel over your front door for the coming year. At the 10:30 Service, we will have our youth present an Epiphany Pageant! All youth attending that day are welcome to put on a costume, and process with the groups. All speaking parts will be covered. In addition, the Feast of the Epiphany will be Mother Ruth Tomlinson's 25th anniversary of her ordination to the priesthood! She'll serve as our celebrant and our 8:30 preacher, and we'll have a coffee hour reception to celebrate the ministry of this "wise woman!"

Bishop's Visit and Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations!
Sunday, February 8th, 2026

Bishop Scott Barker will have his annual parish visit on Sunday, February 8th, preaching and presiding at both of our morning services, and visiting with us through the day. If you are interested in the sacrament of Confirmation, having your Confirmation "Received" into the Episcopal Church, or Reaffirming your baptismal vows, please contact one of our clergy! Sunday classes will be offered in Jan/Feb (see separate announcement).

Newcomers 201: Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation

Jan 11th, Jan 18th, Feb 1st; 9:35 to 10:20

Between the Sunday services on January 11th and 18th and February 1st, we will have a special class for those curious about the special rites of joining the traditions and worship of the Episcopal Church. Confirmation is a sacrament in which youth or adults can “confirm” the promises of our baptism before a bishop of the church: this matches the oldest practice of Christian communities, in which the Apostles (and thereafter, the bishops) welcomed new members. Reception is for those who have been Confirmed, but wish to formally live out their Confirmation vows in the traditions and worship of the Episcopal Church. Reaffirmation is a special renewal of Confirmation vows, especially appropriate for someone who has been away from the church for a season of life and wishes to reaffirm their commitment anew. Anyone is welcome to attend these classes to learn more about faith, history, and practice of life in the church, and by February 1st, make a decision about being Confirmed, Received, or Reaffirming vows with Bishop Barker at his visit the following week.

Advent Lectionary Changes!

Our worship readings come from a schedule called a "lectionary," which sets readings for each of the "liturgical seasons" of the year, officially beginning with Advent, then Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The long seasons after Epiphany and Pentecost are called "ordinary time." Our usual lectionary, the Revised Common Lectionary, covers about 14% of the Hebrew Bible (the "Old Testament") and 71% of the New Testament over six years (Year A, B, and C with two tracks available from Pentecost to Advent). This leaves much of the Bible unheard at worship! Starting this Advent, we're going to try out a new lectionary called "The Women's Lectionary - Year A." This lectionary still uses the liturgical seasons, but with an emphasis on making sure that the stories of women in scripture are included, or sometimes simply paired differently with the readings across the

morning. Our Vestry has talked for several months about this opportunity, and have a general level of excitement about hearing more of the Bible and some new pairings of familiar readings. We'll be learning more about this from Father Ben and Mother Lisa as we begin using this new schedule; feel free to let us know what you think or what questions you have!

Reverse Advent Calendar with DOK

The Daughters of the King are inviting us to “reverse” our Advent Calendars this year by setting aside an item each day and bringing them to church, either through the season or as we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 4th.

Suggested items include:

Week of Nov 6th: Protein-Beans, Canned Meats, Soups

Week of Dec 7th: Breakfast: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Fruit (cans)

Baking Items: Mixes, Flour, Oil, Sugar, Spices, Salt/Pepper

Week of Dec 14th: Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissues

Home Products: Detergents, Spray Cleaners

Personal Items: Shampoo/Soap, Feminine Products

Size 5-6-7 Diapers/Pull-ups (most-needed sizes)

Week of Dec 21st: Condiments and Sides: Noodle/Pasta/Rice boxes

Up For Some Trivial Fundraising?

Want to help support our youth? We're planning a Trivia Night fundraiser! Jimmy Ellsworth will be leading a small team to plan for an event after Easter this coming Spring, here in our parish hall. We'll need volunteers to help hire a host, coordinate some hospitality and prize support, publicize for community friends and family groups, and host on the day! If you'd like to help with the planning committee, please contact the parish office or staff, and we'll put you in touch with Jimmy! First meetings will be after the New Year. Jimmy can be contacted at jellsworth@bottlesandbarrels.com

Practical Matters: Year End Giving and Deposits Reminders

Have you thought about completing your 2025 operating and/or building loan pledge, prepaying your 2026 pledge or just making that additional contribution to St. Augustine's for tax purposes? In order for you to be able to deduct your charitable contribution on your 2025 tax return, all money must be deposited by December 31, 2025.

Considering holidays and office closures, we have some options for you and deadlines to consider.

If you want to use our PayPal system via www.sainta.net, you need to create your transfer no later than December 23, as it takes 2-3 business days to reach our account after we initiate your transfer on our end.

If you are paying by check, please make sure it reaches the office by December 30.

If you need to know your pledge balance for 2025, please contact Jay Hammond at parish@sainta.net, as she is still working as our financial administrator and has all the updated information (please write "attn Jay" in your subject line, as multiple staff are currently assisting with administrative functions). Thank you for working with us to meet our deadlines and to make the end of the year a smooth transition into 2026!!

The Outreach Committee Welcomes You!

Our Outreach Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 11th at 11:30 am in the conference room. If you are curious about helping with this team, which meets monthly to coordinate the ministries we engage with beyond our own parish, please join us to learn more!

Save The Date

Sunday, November 30

Advent Begins – New Lectionary!

December

**Sunday, December 14
combined)**

Lessons and Carols (9:30

Blue Christmas (3:00 pm)

Wednesday, December 24

Xmas Eve: 3 pm worship

11 pm worship w/ 10:30pm caroling

January

Sunday, January 4

Epiphany (transferred from 1/6)

Epiphany Pageant

Sunday, January 11

Outreach Committee Mtg

Sunday, January 25

Parish Annual Meeting

February

Sunday, February 8

Bishop Barker's Visit

Tuesday, February 17

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 23

Newcomer's Brunch

Ministers of the Day	This Week 12/14/25	Next Week 12/21/25
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise	Joyful Noise Band
Musicians 10:30	Dirk Lindner	Gilbert Ward
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Pam Wright	Erin Vest
Acolytes 10:30am:	n/a	n/a
10:30 am Greeter:	Louie Warren	Louie Warren
8:30 am Lector:	9:00 Combined	Mary Jane Smith
10:30 am Lector	9:00 Combined	TBD
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	n/a	Mary Jane Smith
Altar Guild 10:30 am	n/a	Jen Pasko
A/V Tech 8 :30 am	9:00 Rich Hill and Dave Wright	Dave Wright (Audio)
A/V Tech 10:30 am	9:00 combined	Alice and Joe Threlkeld