

Augustana

5000 East Alameda Avenue Denver, Colorado 80246

PHONE: 303-388-4678 FAX: 303-388-1338 WEB: augustanadenver.org E-MAIL: info@augustanadenver.org

Worship | Grow | Go

Nativity of Our Lord A Service of Lessons and Carols December 24, 2024 | 5 p.m.

Welcome to Christmas worship! We celebrate and give thanks for the birth of Jesus, the Nativity of our Lord, when God came in skin and solidarity by way of a mother's body through the power of the Holy Spirit for the sake of the world and for you—imperfections, gifts, and all.

We celebrate the humanity of Jesus trusting in the promise of Christ's hope—the hope of all that God is yesterday in a living baby all grown up, today in a living Christ, and tomorrow in an eternal God. The eternal God who reveals a baby in a manger as good news of great joy for all people, and turns death on a cross into the promise of new life for the world that God so loves. It's one subversive act of love after another for this God. After all, who can resist a baby? Merry Christmas!

Sign the worship slip and place it in the offering plate so that hospitality, prayer, and pastoral care may be kept up to date.

Merry Christmas and a Warm Welcome to Visitors!

A warm welcome to you, and to children and adults of all ages, abilities, and attributes, with the unconditional welcome we first received from Jesus. Knowing that there are many reasons we end up at church on Christmas Eve, we hope you experience moments of peace and grace as Jesus' birth is celebrated. Communion is for all. Yes, even you. Scan the code for more information about Augustana and our welcome to you!



Prelude

"Still, Still" –Robert Wetzler Isabelle Howard, Lydia King, and Finley Zumwalt

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" –Ludwig van Beethoven "We Three Kings" –traditional carol

Recorder Ensemble

"Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring" – Johann S. Bach Elion Dickinson, violin

"Away in a Manger" –traditional Caroline Stratton, piano

"I Wonder as I Wander" –traditional Elise Earhart, solo and Caroline Stratton, piano

"Pastoral Symphony" from *Messiah* –George F. Handel Evie Garrington, violin and Tim Garrington, piano

"Lullaby Carol" –Polish folk song Andrew Peters, organ

Welcome

Processional • "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Candlelighters

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1–3: Candlelighters
At the beginning of stanza 4, the assembly stands and sings with the candlelighters.

- 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 thee, O Israel.
- 2 O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, 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 clouds, and majesty, and awe.

 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

 The assembly stands to sing:
- 4 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the path that leads on high,
 And guide the way to victory!
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Lesson | • Isaiah 9:2-7

Dan Howard

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness -

on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Caro → "There Was Love" -Mark Burrows

Cherub Choir with Isabelle Howard and Finley Zumwalt, vocals; Lydia King, violin; Amelia Matossian, narration

Before there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over flocks by night.

Before there were wise men from distant lands guided on by a star so bright.

Before there were angels to sing the song, one Voice was singing all along.

Before you and I and the stars in the sky, there was Light, there was Life, there was Love.

Before there were presents or Christmas trees decorated in red and green.
Before there were pageants with parts to play recreating a manger scene.
Before there were carols to fill the air, God's one True Light was always there.
Before you and I and the stars in the sky, there was Light, there was Life, there was Love.

In the beginning, before anything had ever been made, he was there with God. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Lesson | Luke 1:26–35, 38

Anne Stratton

A reading from Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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." ³⁸Then 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Carol • "Magnificat" -Ruth Elaine Schram

Cantabile

My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior. Mighty and holy, he has exalted the lowly, filled the hungry, and scattered the proud. He has remembered his servant. My soul glorifies the Lord.

-Luke 1:46-55

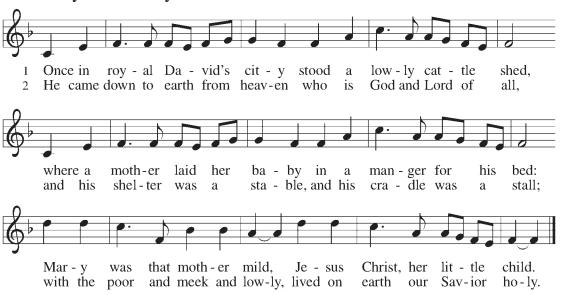
Lesson | Luke 2:1-7

Hattie Warren

A reading from Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁶And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Lesson V • Luke 2:8–20

Isabelle Howard

A reading from Luke.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Carol • "Carol of the Children" -John Rutter

Choristers

One for the star in the sky over Bethlehem;

two for the hands that will rock him to sleep;

three for the kings bringing gold, bringing myrrh, bringing incense;

four for the angels that watch over his bedside.

Blue for the robe of the sweet Virgin Mary;

white for the dawn of the first Christmas Day;

red for the blood that he shed for us all on Good Friday;

black for the tomb where he rested till Easter.

Lullaby! See Jesus asleep; angels and shepherds their watch on him keep:

Lullaby! He soon will awake, for the oxen are stirring and morning with break.

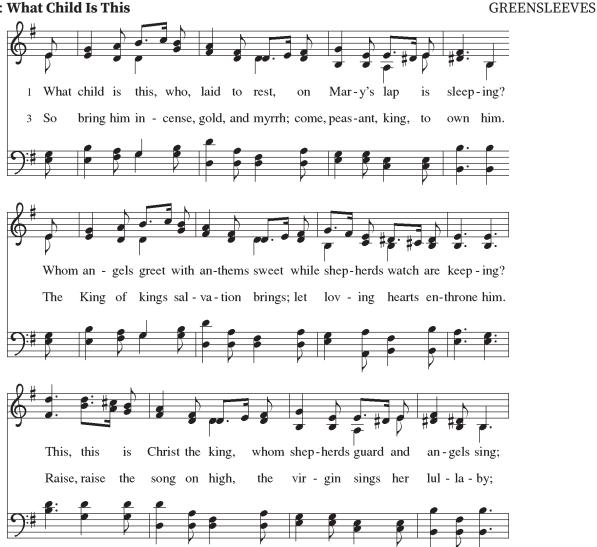
And one for the heart that I give as my offering to Jesus.

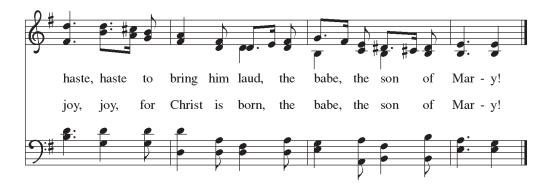
-John Rutter

Sermon • Pastor Caitlin Trussell

The assembly stands.

Carol • ELW 296: What Child Is This





Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

The assembly is seated.

Lesson V • Matthew 2:1-11

Sean-Casey King

A reading from Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Carol

"In the Bleak Midwinter" -Craig Courtney
Cantabile

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;

heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:

in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

What shall I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give Him—give my heart.

-Christina G. Rossetti

Offering

Thank you for your gift! Your gift is important and impacts real people in real time through Augustana's mission to worship, grow in faith, and go serve in our community and across the world!

Scan the code to donate securely through Augustana's website.



"Prelude in C Major" –Sandra Eithun Chancel Handbells

The assembly stands.

Offering Carol • ELW 289: Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA





Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We give thanks to you, O God of grace,
And we ask you to accept our praise and thanksgiving.
By the power of your Word, bless these gifts of bread and wine,
so that we may be filled with grace and formed to live as your holy people.

To you, O God of heaven and earth, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The assembly is seated until invited by the ushers to come forward for Holy Communion.

Holy Communion

We trust that the love of Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of holy communion. All adults, and children of any age with parental permission, are welcome to commune—both those present in person and on livestream.

- The ushers will invite you into the center aisle to receive a wafer of bread from the server. Hold your wafer and move to the next server. Dip your wafer in either the wine (darker color) or grape juice (lighter color). This is called intinction.
- If you desire a blessing rather than communion, please approach the servers with your arms crossed.
- If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher so that communion may be brought to you in the pew.

Communion Carols

ELW 277: Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 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.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

ELW 284: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593–1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872–1960, alt. Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent. Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Blessing after Communion

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by his goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

Carol ◆ "Of the Father's Love Begotten" –13th century Plainsong Candlelighters

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He. Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Anthem and Carol • "Peace, Peace" –Rick and Sylvia Powell/arr. Fred Bock Candlelighters

At the invitation of the director, the assembly is invited to join in singing "Silent Night."

ELW 281: Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

Stanza 1: Unison | Stanzas 2 and 3: Optional Harmony



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Blessing

The God of love, Father, ♣ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

Postlude • "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" -Friedrich Zachau

Welcoming and Connecting at Augustana

Augustana Homes

Volunteer to build Augustana Homes with **Habitat for Humanity**. Visit https://www.augustanadenver.org/augustana-homes/ for sign-up links and information.

Epiphany Party

Sunday, January 5, 9:15–10:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall This Epiphany Party for all ages celebrates the Magi following the star to Jesus.

Camp Sunday

Sunday, January 12 Camp Sunday by Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp gives us a taste of camp through song and prayer at worship and during Faith Formation.

Faith Formation and Choirs

Sunday, January 12
Faith Formation and Choirs start for children and youth. Call or email
Augustana's office for more information
(303-388-4678 or info@augustanadenver.org).

Chancel Choir

Everybody has a place in the choir! Give it a try! Contact Director of Music **Andrew Peters** (303-388-4678 ext. 122 or peters@ augustanadenver.org).

The John Mills Orchestra

Sunday, January 26, 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall Live music in the style of the Glenn Miller Orchestra. Hear a brief history of the Big Band, and swing dance to the sounds of this classic jazz era! Presented with a grant from the Augustana Foundation.

Discover Augustana

Sundays, February 9, 16, and 23, 9:15 a.m. Learn more about the Augustana congregation at these Discover Augustana classes. Contact Augustana's office with questions (303-388-4678 or info@ augustanadenver.org).

Day Camp with Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

Monday, July 7–Thursday, July 10, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Registration is now open for all kids entering kindergarten through 5 grade in the fall of

2025. Youth in 6th grade and older can sign up to volunteer. Cost is \$80 per child with a \$160 family maximum.



Scan the QR code to register online.

Missoula Children's Theatre

Monday, July 28–Friday, August 1 The musical *Treasure Island* for students entering grades 1–12 in the fall of 2025. Cost is \$175 per student, and camp hours are 8:30–5 p.m. daily. Watch Augustana's website for details and registration.



Welcome!

- How good to have you here! Thanks for signing the worship registration slip and placing it in the offering plate.
- Large-print copies of the service bulletin are available from Augustana's ushers.
- Hearing assistance headphones are available for worship in the sanctuary.
 Ask an usher for an easy-to-use device for enhanced listening during worship.
- You are welcome to have your water bottles with you during worship.
- On the south side of the Sanctuary, children are welcome to borrow items from the Worship & Wiggle shelf. Please return the items after worship. The Cozy Corner is available to parents at the west sanctuary entrance. Changing tables are available in the men's bathroom and in the family bathroom on this floor.
- Secure online gifts may be made through the <u>Giving page at Augustana's website</u> (<u>augustanadenver.org</u>). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.
- Restrooms and water stations are located downstairs beneath the west entrance; handicapped accessible restrooms are on the east side of the sanctuary in the hallway behind the chancel.
- An elevator is available at the Fairfax Street entrance.
- Accessible seating for people with assistive health and mobility devices is available on the south side of the sanctuary.
- Handicapped parking and entrances are available at the Fairfax Street and Elm Street entrances. Additional parking is available on the south side of the building.
- Please make sure your cell phones are silenced during worship.
- Parents, for the safety and well-being of all our children, we ask that you attend your children at all times.
- If you would like to leave your bulletin for recycling, please place it at the end of the pew.

Christmas Eve Ministries

Acolyte

Griffin Brown

Altar Guild:

Bill & Rhonda Crossen

Communion:

Jordan White

Heidi Johnson

Mitch Kusek

Kari Kusek

Jim Dierker

Communion Linens:

Kathy Edstrom

Crucifer:

Robert Brown

Musicians:

Cherub Choir Director: Marcia Olson Choir Accompanists: Tim Garrington and Sharon Schillereff

Readers:

Dan Howard

Anne Stratton

Hattie Warren

Isabelle Howard

Sean-Casey King

Ushers:

Wil Crook

Bill Crossen

Jamie Kastens

Craig Tamminga

Miles Tamminga

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

About our Christmas Art

The exquisite Christmas banners and altar frontal are comprised of thousands of fabric pieces glued in place to create a tapestry of mosaic color featuring the Christmas star and the light of Christ shining into the heavens and the earth. The banners were designed by Ken Phillips, a Denver artist who specializes in liturgical fabric art. They were created as a community art project at Regis University. This Christmas art installation is provided through a memorial gift given to Augustana for our spiritual arts.

Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship

- Worship in person at 8 a.m. in Christ Chapel or at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Join Augustana on our Facebook page or YouTube channel for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org) for links, downloadable worship resources, and past worship recordings.

Staff

Senior Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Assisting Pastor (interim): Karen Ullestad Assisting Pastor (interim): Kent Mueller Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Deacon Shanna VanderWel **Nursery Attendant:** Mary Beth Brown

Interim Faith Community Nurse: Inez Smith

Director of Music and Organist:

Andrew Peters

Chancel Choir Director: Kevin Padworski

Augustana Vocal Ensemble:

Emily Murdock, Bella Mallow, Blake Nawa`a, Keith Williamson

Choristers and Cantabile Director:

Angela Howard

Finance Administrator: William Crossen Building Systems Administrator:

Christine Peters

Publications Administrator: Lyn Goodrum **Interim Office Administrator:** Janice Schulz **AV Technicians:**

Alice Alister and Jesse Crone

Facility Manager: Craig Tamminga Building and Grounds Manager:

Asmir Hodzic

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens, Amy Tamminga, Erin Saboe Willoughby, Pam Uyemura

Augustana Early Learning Center Director:

Kisanet Yohannes

President of the Congregation:

Heidi Johnson

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

Augustana Early Learning Center:

303-388-7012

Prayer Network for Critical Illness and

Emergencies: 303-388-4678