**Nativity Worships**

**The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**

**February 2, 2025**

**The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Presiding**

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| Prelude  | *Leoni* | Hebrew melody; *harm.*1875 |
| Opening | O day of radiant gladness   [vv. 1,2 &4] | H 48 |
| Gradual | Thy strong word did cleave the darkness [ v. 1 before; v. 3 after Gospel] | H 381  |
| Offertory     | Will you come and follow me  [vv. 1, 2, 4 &5] | WLP 757 |
| Communion  | My God, thy table now is spread | H 321 |
| Closing | Christ for the world we sing | H 537 |
| Postlude | "Jesu, Joy of all desiring; from Cantata 147Fred Goff with Dennie Mehocich - violin | J.S. Bach |

**Candelmas Procession**

*The Presider begins the rite standing just inside the door of the church.*

*Candles for use in Church during the year and candles to be carried*

*in procession are on a table.*

*The congregation stands.*

*The Presider greets the people with these words*

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful

feast of the Incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day

on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law

of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the

temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him

with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of

God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who has created all things; on this day you

fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: We humbly ask you

to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously

hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have

redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God

for ever and ever*. Amen.*

*The following canticle is then said together, during which the candles*

*are lighted, if the people are not already holding them.*

A Light to enlighten the nations,

and the glory of your people Israel.

A Light to enlighten the nations,

and the glory of your people Israel.

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*

to go in peace as you have promised.

A Light to enlighten the nations,

and the glory of your people Israel.

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*

whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

A Light to enlighten the nations,

and the glory of your people Israel.

*The Presider then says the following prayer*

Let us pray.

O God, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged

Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our

hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles

may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the

Light of the World. *Amen.*

**The Procession**

*Deacon*  Let us go forth in peace.

*People* In the name of Christ. Amen.

*During the procession, all carry lighted candles. In a suitable place, the procession may halt while the following Collect is said.*

Let us pray.

O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation

of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the

Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight

in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Onlybegotten,

may rejoice for ever in our adoption as his sisters

and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The following antiphon and psalm are appropriate as the procession*

*approaches the Altar*

We have waited on your loving-kindness, O Lord, in the

midst of your temple.

**Psalm 48:1–2, 10–13**

1 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; \*

in the city of our God is his holy hill.

2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of

Zion, \*

the very center of the world and the city of the great King.

10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*

because of your judgments.

11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; \*

count the number of her towers.

12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; \*

that you may tell those who come after.

## 13 This God is our God for ever and ever*.*

## The Collect

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

## The Response: Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, \*
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts, \*
happy are they who put their trust in you!

## The Epistle: Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## The Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

## When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**The Prayers**

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Churches and ministries in the Alameda Deanery and for the Dean, the Very Rev. Bruce O’Neill, and for the chures and ministries in the Contra Costa Deanery and for the Dean, the Very Rev. Dr. Deborah White.

We pray for our parish members: Members: Jamie, Nancy B, Nina A, Marian, Norma, Duane, Amanda, Ruth, Steve K, Dick, Barbara B, Uwe and our families and friends: Myles, David, John, Violet & John, B. Y., Justin, John B, Laura, Tanner, Phil, Greg, Nick and Phoebe. We pray also for all those impacted by the fires in Los Angeles.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially Bill Shepherd, Lisa and Fr. Michael Hiller and those who have died in the wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan and those who have died in the fires in Los Angeles.

**Announcements**Join us for our Annual Meeting immediately after church today. We will have a potluck, reflect on our past year and elect officers for 2025.

February 8th, we’ll have a Vestry Retreat. Please consider joining the vestry. Maybe you have been on vestry before either at Nativity or somewhere else. Or maybe you don’t know what’s entailed, but you would like to get more involved in shaping the future of our church. It’s a wonderful group of people and our work together is really prayer-filled and lifegiving. I hope you will consider joining us this year. Reach out to Senior Warden, Kim Bromley or Rev. Kirsten.

February 9th Souper (Super) Bowl Sunday. Bring a can of soup to support the SF-Marin Food Bank! We’ll bless the soup as part of our offerings at the altar.

February 23rd. Discussion about the Nativity Red Door Community Garden after the 10 a.m. service. Come meet the girl scout troop that has built our garden boxes. We’ll discuss next steps for renting the boxes and nurturing the garden. Girl Scout Cookies will be for sale and we’ll do a garden blessing.

February 23rd. Nativity Movie Night 5 p.m. *Conclave.* When Cardinal Lawrence is tasked with leading one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, selecting a new Pope, he finds himself at the center of a conspiracy that could shake the very foundation of the Catholic Church.

February 28th. Teen Success Breakfast at Marin Community School. Join us in preparing and serving a nourishing breakfast for the students at Marin Community School. Calling for shoppers, cooks and servers. Reach out to Rev. Kirsten if you can help.

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another.