



ST. JOHN'S
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PLYMOUTH

**THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS
IN THE TEMPLE
FEBRUARY 2ND 2025**



UNKNOWN GEORGIAN ARTIST

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

10:00 AM SERVICE LIVESTREAMED ON YOUTUBE

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

We are so glad that you are here.

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. Through encountering God within worship, we are formed and transformed as God's people. One of the glories of the Episcopal/Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

It is the work of God's people and our great joy!

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We are in the season after Epiphany, called the "Sundays after the Epiphany."

It lasts four to nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter.

The liturgical color for this season is green, which represents the church's ongoing life.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, also known as Candlemas and the Feast of the Purification.

It commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8).

The feast is celebrated about forty days after Christmas.

According to the account of Lk 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna.

Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle Nunc dimittis (see BCP, p. 120).

Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem.

It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the Nunc dimittis.

The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Caleb Greniewicki, Organist

WELCOME

We are blessed to be able to record our worship services. By entering and by your presence here, you consent to be filmed and otherwise recorded for our congregation and on YouTube.

See an usher to be seated in a no-video zone if you prefer not to be filmed.

SONG OF PRAISE - "LOVING SPIRIT"



1. Lov - ing Spit - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be
2. Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,
3. Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,
4. Friend and lov - er, in your clos - ness I am known and held and blessed:
5. Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be



you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.
feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.
you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. 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.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people sit for the reading of the scriptures.

THE FIRST LESSON

MALACHI 3:1-4

Reader: A reading from the prophet Malachi

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

People: **Thanks be to God**

THE GRADUAL

PSALM 24:7-10

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle."

10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

THE EPISTLE

HEBREWS 2:14-18

Reader: A reading from a letter to the Hebrews

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – “O ZION, OPEN WIDE THY GATES” #257

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:22-40

It is customary to make the sign of the cross ✚ with the thumb on one's forehead, lips, and heart as the Gospel is announced. This action symbolizes our asking God's Word to rest in our mind, in our words, and in our heart.

The people stand as the Gospel is processed into their midst.

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

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.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people sit at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Christine Fentress-Gannon

Following the sermon, we invite you to reflect on how the lessons and the sermon have spoken to us today.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

The Priest leads the people in an affirmation of faith. Originally the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. Since the Sixth Century, the church has recited either the Nicene Creed or the Apostle's Creed at the Eucharist. The word 'creed' come from the Latin 'credo' for "I believe" or "I lend my heart to." Creeds tell a deeper 'truth' that goes beyond 'facts.'

We stand and recite together.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Creator God, you spoke in hope, and light came forth from the darkness. We pray for your church, our diocese, bishop, clergy and all of your people.
God of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Light of abundant love, be our beacon in proclaiming your love. We pray for those who have lost their way. May your light lead them back to you.
God of light, **Hear our prayer.**

Light that brings warmth; warm our hearts and hands to your service. We pray for our world. Light the way for us to serve.
God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Glowing ember of light; fuel our passion to stand up against injustice and help us to pursue peace and reconciliation.
God of justice, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this land upon which we stand. We pray for the preservation of the created world, its vegetation, creatures, waters and people.
God of restoration, **Hear our prayer.**

As the magi followed the star that led them to the Christ child, illumine our hopes before we know them and our needs before we ask. Star which blazes in glory, lead us to the Christ child, from whom our salvation comes.
God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Illuminator of the world, guide us to see and to meet the needs of those around us. We pray for those in need of shelter, clothing and food. We pray for those suffering from mental and physical illnesses, and spiritual needs. We pray especially for: _____

Those gathered can add their intercessions silently or out loud.

God of healing, **Hear our prayer.**

Light of Christ which could not be dimmed by earthly death. We pray for those who have gone before us to your eternal light, may light perpetual shine upon them. We pray for:

Those gathered can add names silently or out loud.

God of resurrection, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Loving God, our light and our salvation. You gave your Son to shine on those who live in darkness, through your Spirit you empower us to share your light with the world. May our lives bear witness to your truth and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise. Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

OFFERTORY

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Sing of Mary, pure and lowly”

Soloist: Marissa Johnson

Please stay seated during the Offertory

THE DOXOLOGY

Please stand as able

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A from the Book of Common Prayer

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: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you have given us, in your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who was presented this day in the Temple, fulfilling the prophecy of Simeon and signifying your covenant with all people

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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Hea - ven and
 8 earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 14 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- Christ has died.**
- Christ is risen.**
- Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us

also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the spirit of Pentecost, we pray together in whichever language is most familiar to us.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, grant us peace. A - - men.

Celebrant: These are the gifts of God

People: and we are the people of God.

Celebrant: And in union and solidarity with your faithful people who are not able to be present at this table, we pray together:

People: May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Celebrant: Behold who you are, and become what you receive.

**WHOEVER YOU ARE – WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH –
YOU ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE IN THIS PLACE – NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Please follow the movement to the altar, the Ushers will guide you.

Gluten free bread is available – just let the celebrant know if desired.

If you do not want to receive you are encouraged to come forward for a blessing from the Priest.

Just cross your arms on your chest when you come up.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

COMMUNION MUSIC - "BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN"

Bread of life from heav - en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we

eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

1. Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
2. Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
3. Love as the One who, in love for you, gave him -
4. Dwell in the One who now dwells in you; make your
5. Drink of the cup and de - clare his death; eat this

thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
 hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
 self for the life of the world. Come to the One who is
 home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, ho - ly
 bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
 ev - ery breath, praise the One in whom you are re - born.

Words: Susan R. Briehl
 Music: Argentine traditional, refrain; Margy Haugen, stanzas
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“LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE” #324

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

You are the children of God, gifted with dreams and visions.
Upon you rest the grace of God like flames of fire.
So may the deep peace of Christ be with you,
The strong arms of God sustain you,
And the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you in every way. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN - “LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING” #657

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Caleb Greniewicki, Organist

ALTAR FLOWERS

This tradition beautifies the altar and is a way to celebrate life's events, remember loved ones, or give thanks for blessings.

THE AUMBRY LIGHT

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

COFFEE HOUR

Jessica Leonard

If you would like celebrate or honor someone by making a donation for the Altar Flowers or the Aumbry Light, please see the sign up sheet by the mailboxes. Or you can email us at office@stjohnsplymouth.org.



STAYING CONNECTED WITH ST. JOHN'S

Please pick up a "Paper Vine" for information on what's happening at St. John's. You can also sign up for our weekly newsletter – The Vine – electronically.

PRAYER LIST

Alan and Deborah
Taracuk
Anthony
Arlene McGarry
Barbara Turnbull
Becky Rhodes
Ben Hansknecht
Bill Cooper
Bill Sigmon
Bonnie Richards
Cami Buckley
Carolyn Devlin
Debbie Curry
Elaine Hovey
Elijah
Felice Hedge
Fr. John Connors

Fred Murphy
Greg Warner
Irene Jarrell
Jeff Holland
JoAnn Darcy
Jordan Farrow
Judy Brosnan
Judy Green
Karl Gabrys
Linda Kubiel
Lori and Carl Beridon
Luan Brownlee
Mary, Ben, Grayson
Mary Paciero
Mathias Hofmann
Michael and Denise

Mildred and Henry
Wilson
Nan Cooper
Nancy Robinson
Nikki Chaput and
Family
Penny Striegel
Roger Lilak
Roseann Friener
Sandy Goga
Shelley Olexsey
Teresa
The Curry Family
The Prey Family
Tim McVean
Val O'Brien
Yvonne Allen

The Ministers of the Parish

The People of St. John's

The Right Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, Bishop
The Very Reverend Christine Fentress-Gannon, Rector
Jessica Rienstra, Parish Administrator
Caleb Greniewicki, Director of Music
Marissa Johnson, Assistant Director of Music
Melanie Draper, Director of Handbell Choir
Janet Sigmon, Nursery Staff
Deborah Chinitz, Nursery Staff
Ken Sanders, Senior Warden
Andy Bagnasco, Co-Junior Warden
Dan McGregor, Co-Junior Warden

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In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Chris (734) 743-1340

Visit our website at www.stjohnsplymouth.org

You can sign up for our weekly newsletter on our Home Page.

Worship Service Times: Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. service is livestreamed at <https://sjp.rocks/youtube>

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***IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE PRIEST TO REACH OUT TO YOU
OR WISH TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. JOHN'S,
PLEASE FILL OUT THE WELCOME BOOK IN THE NARTHEX
OR THE CARD IN THE PEW RACK.***