



**The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord
and the Purification of Our Lady: Candlemas
Sung Mass + 10:30 am
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Bridgewater, NJ**

Please stand

The Blessing of Candles

Celebrant

Light and peace in Je - sus 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 people's candles are lit as the following is said by all

Lord, you now have set your servant free * to go in peace as you have promised.
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.
Glory be to the one, holy, and triune God,
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

The Candlemas Procession

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.*

Once all candles are lit, the solemn candlemas procession begins, as all sing:

The Great Creator of the Worlds vv. 1-2

Blue Hymnal, 489

Station at the Creche

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 Only-begotten, may rejoice forever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The procession continues as we continue singing verses 3-6

Blue Hymnal, 489

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* 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.*

A Reading from the Prophet Malachi (Please be seated)

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 Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 84

The cantor sings the antiphon and then the people repeat it

Ant: 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.

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. **(Ant)**

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

Happy are the people whose strength is in you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. **(Ant)**

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.

They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. **(Ant)**

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

Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed. **(Ant)**

A Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews

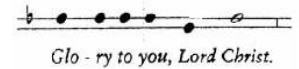
Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come 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. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V: A Light of revelation to the gentiles, and the glory of your people, Israel.
(*The Alleluia is repeated*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke



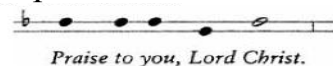
When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what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



The Homily

The Nicene Creed

The Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel

BCP, 358

BCP, 388

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Please kneel

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

Priest: 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 and Announcements

Offertory Choir Anthem: *Infinite Light*

English Traditional

The greatness of God in his love has been shown,
The light of his life on the nations is thrown;
And that which the Jews and the Greeks did divine
Is come in the fullness of Jesus to shine:
The Light of the World in the darkness has shone,
And grows in our sight as the ages flow on.

He rolls the grim darkness and sorrow away,
And brings all our fears to the light of the day;
The idols are fallen of anger and blood,
And God is revealed as the loving and good;
The Light of the World...

The Light of the World is more clear to our sight
As errors disperse and men see him aright:
In lands long in shadow, his churches arise
And blaze for their neighbors the way of the wise:
The Light of the World...

Offertory Hymn *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*
(Please stand to sing)

Blue Hymnal, 277

The Liturgy of the Altar

The Eucharistic Prayer continues in the *Book of Common Prayer*, page 368
The Lord's Prayer BCP, 364

The Fraction and Lamb of God

Lamb of God _____ you take a-way the sins of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God _____ you take a-way the sins of the world:
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God _____ you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

The Holy Communion
Communion Hymns

1 When can - dles are light - ed on Can - dle - mas Day
 2 The kings have de - part - ed, the shep - herds have gone,
 3 They go to the tem - ple, o - bey - ing the law,

the dark is be - hind us, and spring's on the way.
 the child and his par - ents are left on their own.
 and of - fer two pi - geons, the gift of the poor.

A glo - ry dawns in ev - ery dark place,

the light of Christ, the full - ness of grace.

Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel or stand*)

BCP, 365

Blessing and Dismissal

Hymn: *Lift Up Your Heads, vv, 1,5*

Blue Hymnal, 436

Serving Today

Thurifer: Fausto Beleno Crucifer: Nick Persson

Lector: Jennifer Persson Eucharistic Minister: Chris Bockus

Ushers: David Persson, Victor Haddad

Choir: Beth Hixenbaugh, Alison Jandak, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Celebrant: Father Rob Laws+

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass: Wednesday, 6 pm in the Lady Chapel

Sunday, February 19- Mardi Gras Party

Wednesday, February 22- Ash Wednesday Services

Noon- A simple service of repentance with imposition of ashes and communion

7 pm- Liturgy of the Day

Lenten Book Study: *Thank God for Evolution*, by Michael Dowd

We will meet Mondays in Lent at 7 pm at Juanita Hawkins' home, beginning Feb. 27. Those who desire may gather at 6:30 pm to pray the Anglican Rosary. Information on purchasing the book and where to purchase an Anglican Rosary will be forthcoming.

New Votive Shrine

Please feel free to stop by the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Christ Child, light a candle, and offer a prayer. This is an especially meaningful spiritual practice if you have a special prayer intention, or if you simply desire to unite yourself to Jesus in silent prayer. There is no charge to light a candle and pray.