

The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

St. George's Episcopal Church

February 2, 2025

*Text in **bold** is said by all.*

Hymn

Hymnal 517

Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

Canticle

**Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.**

The Collect of the Day

God 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.**

The First Reading

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for your courts;
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 God of hosts,
my Ruler and my God.**

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.
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; *
the God of gods will be revealed in Zion.
O God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
Behold our defender, O God, *
and look upon the face of your Anointed,
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;
For God is both sun and shield *
and will give grace and glory.
No good thing will God withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
O God of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Reading

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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Please stand.

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

After each bidding, please offer your own prayers either silently or aloud.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give each of us a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

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.

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

The Peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Please greet your neighbors with the Peace of Christ.

Welcome & Offertory

Solo by Blake Wilson
Tis Winter Now
by Samuel Longfellow



*All your gifts support the ministry that happens through St. George's.
You can give online by scanning the QR code, or following this link:
<https://stgeorgesyh.breezechms.com/give/online>*

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

God 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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth; Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic Prayer then continues until the Presider says

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember Christ's death,

We proclaim Christ's resurrection,

We await Christ's coming in glory;

The Eucharistic Prayer then continues until the Presider says

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught we are bold to say,
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 Presider 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.

Hymn

Hymnal 119

The Post Communion Prayer

Please stand.

Let us pray.

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 Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, Source, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Hymnal 135

Dismissal

The people are dismissed and respond

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

The translation of the canticle is taken from *The St. Helena Breviary* © Order of Saint Helena, used by permission. The Eucharistic Prayer is the expansive adaptation of Eucharistic Prayer B from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Parish Prayer List

Parishioners: Charlie Smith, Barbara Kautz, Suzanne Thompson, John Howe, Dick Santoro, Heidi, Sally Cocco, Susan Yorston, Chris Reveliotty, Larry Dow, the Kittel family

Friends and Family: Cathy & Nancy; the Horrigan Family; Joseph Kittel and Kittel family; Todor Stefanov; Tasha Santoro; Brian Kautz; Beverly Hart; the family of Michael Major; Mark Osborn; the Brouker family, Dan Leroux, Tina Sagris, Freddie, Steve Bennett

In the Armed Forces: Ben Stevanov, Ben Smith, Andrew Smith, Garon Woods

Others in need of our prayers: For the Rev. Nancy Devor, as she and the Church discern reception of her ordination, and her becoming a priest, in the Episcopal Church.

Rest in Peace: Bob Goehrig, Frank DeSarro, Mike Cocco, Peter Blanchard, Lynn Dennis, Joseph Kittel

*If you would like to add someone to the Parish prayer list, or offer updates,
contact Fr. Ryan or the Parish office.*

Announcements

New Bible Study Groups!

As Fr. Ryan talked about at Sunday's Annual Meeting, St. George's will be offering two new Bible study groups beginning in February.

First, on **Monday afternoons at 1:00** at the church, we'll spend time with the Scripture passages appointed in the cycle of reading for that week. **Our first meeting will be on February 10th.** Bring a Bible and we'll explore together!

We'll also kick off a **monthly gathering at SOME Brewing on Rt. 1 in York on February 12th.** We'll meet at 5:30, with some time for fellowship, then turn to conversation about the threads and themes we're encountering in the Scriptures we're hearing on Sundays in that season.

Wednesday Book Group

God's Ghostwriters

This season after Epiphany, we'll be reading a new book: *God's Ghostwriters* by the historian Candida Moss. The book explores how enslaved people were essential in the creation of the New Testament, and how we hear their voices in our Scriptures. Join us online Wednesday mornings at 9:00 via this link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5860955152>

Annual Meeting Recap: New Leaders (and Leaders in New Roles)

Our Annual Meeting was a chance to celebrate people we're grateful for in the life of our congregation. We reviewed the health of our finances, and celebrated the generosity embodied in our budget. We also elected these members of our congregation as leaders for the coming years:

Wardens:

Kate Ford (Sr. Warden, 2nd term)
Barbara Ryther (Jr. Warden, 1st term)

Treasurer:

Maureen Pinkerman (3rd term)

Members of the Vestry:

Jeff Hart
Davis Roberts
Pauline Cashman

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Julie Littlefield
Kate Ford
Davis Roberts (Alternate)

Members of the Nominating Committee:

Gail Marshall
Cindy Perkins

This Week

Monday Compline / 8:30pm *online*

Tuesday Compline / 8:30pm *online*

Wednesday Book Group / 9:00am *online*
Knitting Circle / 5:30 - 7:00pm
Compline / 8:30pm *online*

Thursday Rug Hookers / 10:00am
Healing Service / 10:00am
Compline / 8:30pm, *online*
Vestry / 6:00pm

Friday Fr. Ryan's drop-in hours / 8-11:00am
Compline / 8:30pm *online*

Saturday AA / 12:00pm

Serving in Worship Today

Ushers: Jeffrey Hart

Davis Roberts

Readers: Julie Littlefield

Gail Marshall

Intercessor: Bridgit Holzer

Chalice Bearers: Marianne Lindquist

Maureen Pinkerman

Altar Guild: Deborah Field, Doris Blaisdell, Jan McManus



St. George's Parish Vestry

Kate Ford - Sr. Warden

Barbara Ryther - Jr. Warden

Maureen Pinkerman - Treasurer

Janie Sweeney

Linda Laskey

Bridgit Holzer

Jeff Hart

Davis Roberts

Pauline Cashman

Parish Administrator

Joyce Parent

office@stgeorgesnyorkharbor.org

Deacon

The Rev. Aaron Perkins

aperkins@stgeorgesnyorkharbor.org

Minister of Music

Dr. Ivan Stefanov

istefanov@stgeorgesnyorkharbor.org

Rector

The Rev. Ryan Mails

207.363.6886

ryanfmails@stgeorgesnyorkharbor.org