



# Celtic Evensong and Communion

## The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

2 February 2025 4:00 pm

*We come from many places to be together for a little while.  
Each of us brings our own experience and traditions to this gathering.  
So here in this place, let us take time together to encounter the holy.*

*Please remember to silence all devices*

### The Opening Rite

#### Musical Meditation

*Splendor paternae gloriae*

#### Welcome

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.

#### Opening Meditation

Behold then,  
the candle alight in Simeon's hands.  
You must light your own candles  
by enkindling them at his,  
those lamps which the Lord commanded you  
to bear in your hands.

So come to him and be enlightened  
that you do not so much bear lamps  
as become them,  
shining within yourself  
and radiating light to your neighbors.

May there be a lamp in your heart,  
in your hand and in your mouth:  
let the lamp in your heart shine for yourself,  
the lamp in your hand and mouth shine for your neighbors.

The lamp in your heart is a reverence for God inspired by faith;  
the lamp in your hand is the example of a good life;  
and the lamp in your mouth are the words of consolation you speak.

-Guerric of Igny c.1070-1157

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## The Invitatory and Psalm

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

**And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**

Glory to the Holy Trinity,

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## The Blessing of the Candles

Let us pray. O eternal God, who have 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.**

*During the singing of the hymn, candles shall be lighted*

## O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*



**O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.**

**Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you his holy Son.**

**Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.**

**Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, life-giving Lord;**

**Wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.**

## Canticle 17

**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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Lessons

Listen now to the Word of God

### The First Lesson

**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.

*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**The Second Lesson****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.

*Lector* For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,  
and for the Word of God within us,

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Reflection****Greg Getschman****Music after the Reflection***Give me your hand***Prayers for Ourselves and Others**

*Leader* In the midst of hunger and war

*People* **we celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.**

*Leader* In the midst of oppression and tyranny

*People* **we celebrate the promise of service and freedom.**

*Leader* In the midst of doubt and despair

*People* **we celebrate the promise of faith and hope.**

*Leader* In the midst of fear and betrayal

*People* **we celebrate the promise of joy and loyalty.**

*Leader* In the midst of hatred and death

*People* **we celebrate the promise of love and life.**

*Leader* In the midst of sin and decay

*People* **we celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.**

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*Leader* In the midst of death on every side  
*People* **we celebrate the promise of the living Christ everywhere.**

*Leader* Let us now hold before God our neighbors who are in need, sickness, danger or despair.  
*Here, the people may add particular intercession and thanksgivings.*

### **The Collect of the Day**

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 Collect for Mary**

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 for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Aid Against Peril**

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Leader* Jesus says, "Come to me you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who are torn by relationships and doubt, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions of the world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring our brokenness.

*From now until the end of the service, you are invited to come to the Lady Altar and light a candle and kneel at the rail for prayers.  
Please move about as the Spirit leads you.*

### **Music during Prayers**

*The Gentle Light that Wakes Me*

**Hymn**—to *Nelson* by William Bradley Robert

Lord, at thy temple we appear, As happy Simeon came,  
And hope to meet our Savior here; O make our joys the same!  
With what divine and vast delight The good old man was filled,  
When fondly in his withered arms He clasped the holy child!

"Now I can leave this world," he cried, "Behold, thy servant dies;  
I've seen thy great salvation, Lord, And close my peaceful eyes.  
"This is the light prepared to shine Upon the Gentile lands,  
Thine Isr'el's glory, and their hope To break their slavish bands."

Jesus! the vision of thy face Hath overpowering charms;  
Scarce shall I feel death's cold embrace, If Christ be in my arms.  
Then while ye hear my heart-strings break, How sweet my minutes roll!  
A mortal paleness on my cheek, And glory in my soul. - Issac Watts

### **The Peace**

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## The Holy Communion

*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 God thanks and praise.**

It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast.

We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

So with the angels who sing “Glory” and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together:

**People** **Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit’s love and a woman’s body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praised Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth’s darkest places.

We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying:

**People** **“Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Celebrant* After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying:

**People** **“This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*Celebrant* O God, who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be glory now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Lord’s Prayer

### The Breaking of the Bread

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## The Invitation

*Celebrant* This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

You who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,

you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

## Communion

### Concluding Prayer

**All** God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. **Amen.**

**Blessing** May joy and nothing less find you on the way.

May you be blessed and a blessing.

And may light guide you, and countless others, on the way home.

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

*Officiant* May the Lord grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Concluding Musical Meditation

*Farewell to Liverpool*

## Worship Leaders

The Reverend Deborah Phillips

Ryan, Patten, Debbie Phillips, Eric Wagner

Paul Massari

Greg Getschman

Marianne Cannon

Joanna Troy

*Officiant*

*Musicians*

*Assisting*

*Reflection*

*Intercessor*

*Usher*

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## Parish Prayer List

Christine, Reny Sparapani, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Chuck Brown, Heather and Prescott, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, especially Faith's friend and the Princess of Wales, for Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons and Family, Steve, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, for Ukraine and Haiti; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for this community of faith, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life.

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## Greetings!

**All are welcome by God to the heavenly banquet.** The Episcopal Church offers the sacraments to anyone baptized in any denomination who, through prayer and thoughtful consideration, desires them. Please come for communion and receive the bread and wine, whether you are an Episcopalian or not, or to receive a blessing.

**We are a self-supporting congregation.** Everyone is welcome to “come as you are” to our services, especially the Celtic Service. However, if you would like to make a gift tonight, there is a basket on your way out. If you would like to make a pledge, (a commitment for the year), please take a pledge card found on the table at the door, fill it out and place it in the plate. Any amount to support this important ministry is greatly appreciated. Today’s collection will support our ministries to the community.

**Gluten free?** The bread offered at the Celtic service is gluten-free, baked by the priest.

**Please sign the guestbook at the entrance of the church!** Learn more at [www.gracechurchsaalem.org](http://www.gracechurchsaalem.org), and sign up for our weekly newsletter by clicking on the “Grace Notes” image and “Subscribe.”

### WARRANT FOR PARISH MEETING

The **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GRACE CHURCH IN SALEM** will be called to order on **Sunday, February 23rd at 5:00 pm** for the following purposes:

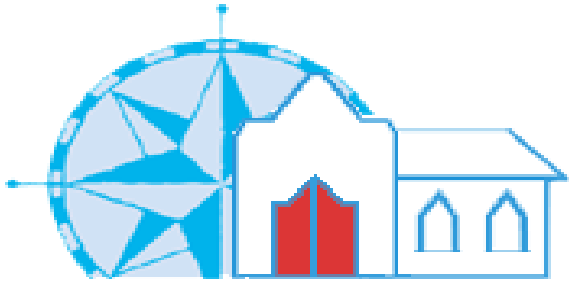
1. To receive the annual reports of the Parish.
2. To present a budget for 2025.
3. To elect the following officers of the Parish:  
Two Wardens (1 year)  
Two Vestry persons (3 years)  
Treasurer (1 year)  
Clerk (1 year)  
2 Delegates of Convention (1 year)  
1 Alternate Delegate to Convention (1 year)  
5 Delegates to North Shore Deanery (1 year)
4. To consider ways to live into our mission.

Everyone is invited to the meeting. Only members will be allowed to vote. A member is anyone who regularly attends Sunday worship, financially supports the parish through a pledge and participates in the life of the community. Everyone present, however, is welcome to participate in the discussion.

*The mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.*

*Please join us in our mission.*

# Grace Episcopal Church



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## — Grace Episcopal Church —

*A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts*

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe  
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth  
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips  
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler  
The Reverend Manny Faria  
Mark N. Peterson  
Tom and Karen Tucker

*Presiding Bishop  
Bishop Diocesan  
Rector  
Assisting Clergy  
Assisting Clergy  
Music Director  
Property Stewards*

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten  
Barbara Layne  
Lisa Duffy  
Joanne Moar

*Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Clerk  
Treasurer*

Melissa Barnes, Marianne Cannon, Joanna Troy  
Susan Tweed, Matt VanHamersveld, Holly Willis

*Members of Vestry*