



*St. John's Episcopal Church  
The Feast of the Presentation  
February 1, 2026 ~ 9am*

**Preacher & Celebrant: The Rev. Marc Eames**  
**Liturgy of the Word**  
**Candlemas**

Prelude: *Allegro*, from Concerto No. 1, 3rd Movement, by Thomas Arne

**Celebrant:** Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Candles are lighted during canticle*

**Nunc Dimittis:** S-253 (sung by choir)

**The Procession:**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray. God our Father, 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, and come to the Light that shines forever, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Celebrant:** Let us go forth in peace.

**People: In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

Processional Hymn # 497 *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*

**Gloria:** S-280  
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God the Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect of the Day:** Almighty and ever living 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 forever. Amen.

\* *The congregation may be seated*

**The First Lesson Malachi 3:1-4:**

**Lector: A reading from the Book of 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: The word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 24:7-10 *Domini est terra***

7 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.

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

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

## **The Second Lesson Hebrews 2:14-18:**

**Lector: A reading from the book of 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.

**Lector: The word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn #278 *Sing We of the Blessed Mother*

*The congregation will stand as able and turn towards the Gospel book.*

**Deacon:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**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.

**Deacon:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Homily: The Rev. Marc Eames**

**The Nicene Creed:** 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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:**

Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. 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.

*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.

*Lord, in your mercy //Hear our prayer.*

Give us all 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.

*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.

*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. Almighty God, let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations. Give to the sick and suffering a taste of the water of life.

INT: That all who suffer might know your healing love. I now invite you to say aloud those whom we are praying for today. (Pause)

We pray for the special concerns of this congregation:

For peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Venezuela, Iran

For peace in Haiti and for St. Vincent's School in Port au Prince

For the Cheyenne River Lakota Indian Nation

For the preservation and protection of God's creation and creatures

For the victims of natural disasters

For the health of our Veterans and their families

For the Sick and Homebound of our Parish

For the Protection of those American men and women in harm's way

We give thanks for ***Sue Howell and Betsy Ibsen*** who are

serving at Cornerstone Soup Kitchen today. We commend to your mercy all who have died. We give thanks for the loving memory of ***Joann Billings, Virginia Smith, Eva Little, Len & Betty Anderson*** in whose name the altar flowers have

been given, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We give thanks for ***Manche Masemola*** whom we remember at

Wednesday's Eucharist.

*Lord, in your mercy //Hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it: through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

## **The Confession:**

**Deacon:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People:** 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

## **The Absolution:**

## **The Peace**

## **The Announcements**

## **The Offertory**

\* *The congregation may be seated for the offertory.*

## **Holy Eucharist**

Choral Offertory Anthem: *Sunshine in my Soul*, words by Eliza E. Hewitt, Tune by A. Laurence Lyon, Arranged by Amanda Christensen

Doxology Hymn #380 vs. 3  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

\* *The congregation will stand as able.*

## **The Great Thanksgiving:**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give thanks and praise.

## Eucharistic Prayer B

p.367

### Sanctus & Benedictus

S-130

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

\* After the conclusion of the Sanctus, the congregation may kneel or stand.

**The Lord's Prayer:** 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.

### Fraction Anthem

S-164

*Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.*

### The Communion invitation

\*The congregation may be seated.

**[All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion when you will be offered a wafer and wine. Gluten-free wafers are available - just ask the priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing only, simply cross your arms over your chest.]**

Communion Music: *Take My Life and Let It Be*, by Francis Havergal, arr. Greg Howlett  
*Fill the Well Within*, by Sally DeFord

**Prayer for Eucharistic Visitors:** *(if applicable)*

**Celebrant:** In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood

**People:** We who are many are one, because we all share one bread, one cup.

**Post Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*\*The congregation may stand or kneel.*

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 forever.

Amen.

**Blessing**

Recessional Hymn #48 *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

*\* The Congregation will stand as able.*

**Dismissal**

Postlude: *Andantino, Brillante*, by Sophie Corri

*\*The congregation may sit.*

*\*The congregation has been dismissed and may depart but is invited to listen to the postlude.*

**Altar Servers in the 10:00 am Eucharists:**

**Celebrant & Preacher:** Rev. Marc Eames

**Deacon:** Rev. Deacon Scott J. Stevens

**Minister of Communion, Reader and Intercessor:** Meghan Birdseye

**Acolyte(s):** Emily, Maizie, Roxie

**Ushers:** Skip Sutcliffe and Donna Lund

**Altar Guild:** G. Shea, C. Cronsell, C. Clayton, B. Chanthavisouk

*Two restrooms and a baby-changing area are in the undercroft (basement) of the church, which can be reached by the stairs in the church entryway. Two handicap restrooms are located on the upper level of the church office building next door to the church.*

Rector: The Rev. Marc G. Eames

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Scott J. Stevens

Director of Music: Zoe Vandermeer

Parish Administrator: Christina Morin

Sexton: Ray Brookes

Verger: Dwight Feenstra

Retired Clergy: The Rev. Bennett A. Brockman, Ph.D.,

The Rev. Bill Byers

The Rev. Deacon Karen Fedorchak

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**2025 Vestry**

**Sr. Warden:** Skip Sutcliffe

**Jr. Warden:** Bill Francis

**Clerk:** Loretta Symons

**Treasurer:** Kevin Fenner

**Assistant Treasurer:** Gene Marinelli

**Vestry Members**

Elaine Anderson, Meghan Birdseye, Mary Davis, Jim Hutton,  
Betsy Ibsen, Joanne Palica, Bruce Perry, Polly Schaefer, Sarah Tierinni