

GRACE CHURCH

IN PROVIDENCE

The Mission of Grace Church is to build, by the grace of God, a loving and joyful community which lives the Gospel through worship, proclamation, and service to each other, to downtown Providence, and beyond.



THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE: CANDLEMAS

VIRTUAL HOLY EUCHARIST OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED
AND THE BLESSING OF CANDLES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

6:00 PM VIA "ZOOM"

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Sung by the Choir of Ely Cathedral (Video from 2016)

ALLELUIA. Senex puerum portabat:
puer autem senem regebat: Alleluia.

*Alleluia. The old man carried the child,
but the child ruled the old man; Alleluia.*

*Words: Gradual for the Feast of the Purification
Music: William Byrd (1539-1623)*

WELCOME

The Rector

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES

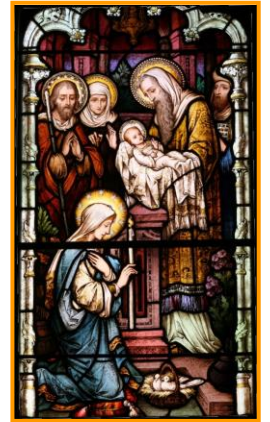
THE SALUTATION AND BIDDING PRAYER

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant

BELOVED IN CHRIST, 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 invite God to enter into our homes, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.



THE BLESSING OVER THE CANDLES

Celebrant 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.**

During the singing of the Nunc Dimittis, all are invited to light their candles.

NUNC DIMITTIS

The Nunc Dimittis is sung by the prophet Simeon upon seeing the child Jesus presented in the temple.

LORD NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.

Words: Luke 2:29-32

Music: from Evening Service 'Collegium Regale', Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Sung by the Choir & Choristers of Grace Church at a service of Choral Evensong in November 2019.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O 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 for ever, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 257

1 O Zi - on, o - pen wide thy gates, let
 2 A - ware of hid - den de - i - ty, the
 3 The a - ged Si - meon sees at last his
 4 But si - lent knelt the mo - ther blest of
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther be, all

1 sym - bols dis - ap - pear; a priest and vic - tim,
 2 low - ly Vir - gin brings her new - born babe, with
 3 Lord, so long de - sired, and An - na wel - comes
 4 the yet si - lent Word, and pon - dering all things
 5 glo - ry to the Son, all glo - ry, Ho - ly

1 both in one, the Truth him - self, is here.
 2 two young doves, her hum - ble of - fer - ings.
 3 Is - rael's hope, with ho - ly rap - ture fired.
 4 in her heart, with speech - less praise a - dored.
 5 Ghost, to thee, while end - less a - ges run.

*Words: Jean Baptiste de Santeuil (1630-1697); tr. Edvard Casvall (1814-1878), alt.
 Music: Edmonton, from Harmonia Sacra, ca. 1760*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be 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.**



The People extinguish their candles.

THE LESSONS

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

Read by Charles Carroll

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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84

Said by all

Led by Ken Reeves

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.

²The 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.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷ **LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.**

⁸ **Behold our defender, O God; *
 and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

⁹ **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.**

¹⁰ **For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
 he will give grace and glory;**

¹¹ **No good thing will the LORD withhold *
 from those who walk with integrity.**

¹² **O LORD of hosts, *
 happy are they who put their trust in you!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory be 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Canon Jonathan Huyck, *Rector*

We all say together

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.
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 PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by Jane Ditmars

Please join in responding to each petition saying:

Hear our prayer.

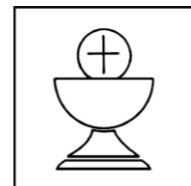
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**



The Celebrant receives the consecrated wine first, after which all consume the bread together.

If you do not have a pre-consecrated wafer, but would still like to participate in the sacrament, we invite you to pray the following prayer during the communion.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1797)

I BELIEVE THAT YOU, O Christ, are present in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar;

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

**Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

I embrace you, and I unite myself to you as if you were already there.

Never permit me to be separated from you!

**O Lord Jesus Christ, let the sweet and consuming force of your love absorb my whole soul,
that I may die for the love of you, who was pleased to die for the love of me. Amen.**

We say together

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

~ PRAYER LIST ~

This week, we pray for: *Clinton Crocker, Ken Scanlan, The Hughes Family, Miriam Ganache, Hope Brothers, Buddy Lancaster, the Violet family, Jennifer Novia, the Jarrett family, Dan Jentzen, Marguerite, and all those caring for the sick, those seeking treatments and vaccines for the virus, and all those whose work places them in harm's way.* We also pray for those members of our church who are homebound.



STAFF AT GRACE

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