We welcome you to this celebration of the Feast of the Presentation. Also called Candlemas, this celebration in the church year marks the presentation of Jesus in the Temple by his parents, 40 days after his birth according to Jewish Law, recounted in the Gospel of Luke. The lighting of candles reminds us of the manifestation of hope we are promised through the light of Jesus Christ that we celebrate throughout the Season of Epiphany.

**Voluntary:** “Prelude on ‘Brother James’ Air”  
Searle Wright

Please join the Celebrant and Musicians in worship by lighting a candle in your home or wherever you are, if you are able.

**The Greeting**

*Celebrant*  
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 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.**

**The Nunc dimittis**  
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.**
The Celebrant then says the following prayer
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.

The Procession

Let us go forth in peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 496, “HOW BRIGHT APPEARS THE MORNING STAR”

music: Wie schön leuchtet, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608);
harm. Johann Herman Schein (1586-1630)
text: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)

1 How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy beam-
2 Though circled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast
3 Rejoice, ye heavens; thou earth, reply; with praise, ye sing from far;
    the host of heaven rejoices;
a pitying eye, up on his helpless creature;
ners, fill the sky, for this his Incarnation.

O righteous Branch, O Jesus’s Rod! Thou Son of Man
the whole creation’s Head and Lord, by highest ser-
Incarnate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on,

and Son of God! We, too, will lift our voices:
great Conqueror, till all know thy salvation.

Jesus, Jesus! Holy, holy, yet most lowly,
Jesus, grant us, through thy merit, to inherit it
Amen, amen! Alleluia, alleluia!

draw thou near us; great Emmanuel, come and hear us.
thy salvation; hear, O hear our supplication.
Praise be given evermore, by earth and heaven.
Celebrant  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 for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for 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.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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. Silence

The Gradual: Psalm 84  BCP, p. 707

1  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.
2  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.
3  Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.
4  Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims’ way.
5  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.
6  They 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 Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. 2:22-40

People 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Meditation: The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher
Hymn 517, stanzas 1 & 4, “How lovely is thy dwelling-place”

music: Brother James’ Air, J.L. Macbeth Bain (1840?-1925)
text: Para. of Psalm 84; sts. 1-2, The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, alt.;
sts. 3-4, Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

1 How lovely is thy dwelling-place, O Lord of hosts, to
2 Beside thine altars, gracious Lord, the swallows find a
3 They who go through the desert vale will find it filled with
4 One day within thy courts excels a thousand spent a-

me! My thirsty soul desires and longs with-

nest; how happy they who dwell with thee and

springs, and they shall climb from height to height till

way; how happy they who keep thy laws nor

in thy courts to be; my very heart and

praise thee without rest, and happy they whose

Zion’s temple rings with praise to thee, in

from thy precepts stray, for thou shalt surely

flesh cry out, O living God, for thee.

hearts are set up on the pilgrim’s quest.

glory throned, Lord God, great King of kings.

bless all those who live the words they pray.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. Silence
For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Phoebe our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, including those reflected on the Prayer List in this service leaflet; those infected with coronavirus and their caregivers; for reconciliation and healing of social unrest and violence throughout the world; and for those we name either silently or aloud [N.N.]. Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, including the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that support life at Grace-St. Luke’s; for our Parish School and all schools that serve our community; and other abundance we name either silently or aloud [N.N.]. We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, and for those we name either silently or aloud [N.N.]. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.

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

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.
The Offertory

During the offertory music or following this service, your offering supports this virtual ministry and much more of life at Grace-St. Luke’s: visit gracestlukes.org/onlinegiving; text GSLChurch ALMS to 73256 to give to ALMS; text GSLChurch PLEDGE to 73256 to give to your PLEDGE; or you may mail offerings to the church office. Our 2021 stewardship campaign, Resilience and Connection by Giving, is seeking 100% participation from all parishioners: visit gracestlukes.org/pledge. For information about worship, formation for all ages, ways to connect, serve and more, visit www.gracestlukes.org.

Anthem at the Offertory

“**When to the Temple Mary went**”

*music: Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)*

*text: German hymn “Maria wallt zum Heilig,” transl. John Troutbeck (1832-1899)*

When to the Temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms
And, blessing God, he said:
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now Thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be,
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from Earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep, and with Thee wake.

The Lord’s Prayer

**BCP 364**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, 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 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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**
Hymn 277, “Sing of Mary, pure and holy”

text: Roland Ford Palmer (1891-1985)
music: Raquel, Skinner Chávez-Melo (b. 1944)

The Dismissal

BCP 366

The people are dismissed with these words

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “Improvisation on Wie schön leuchtet”

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Officiant
Dr. Patrick A. Scott, Director of Music & Organist
Debbie Smith, Assistant Organist-Choirmaster
Elizabeth Hornor, Shelby Seese, Isabel Wittman, Daniel Massey, Charles McGowan, André Moore, & Andrew Carroll, Choir

Patrick A. Scott
A Message from the Rector

The Hill We Climb. At the inauguration of our 46th President Joe Biden, 22-year-old poet laureate Amanda Gorman offered the Church and the world holy wisdom and a reminder of who we are called to be and what we are called to do as beloved children of God. “The hill we climb. If only we dare. It’s because being American is more than a pride we inherit, it’s the past we step into and how we repair it.” – The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector (Read the full text: gracestlukes.org/news/the-hill-we-climb)

Take Note

Adult Inquirers/Confirmation Classes: Becoming Episcopalian Begin February 7. Visit gracestlukes.org/inquirers-classes to learn more about this class and to sign up.

Sunday, January 31: 2021 Pledge Sunday. All pledges benefit Grace-St. Luke’s vision to be a thriving community of hope, belonging, and healing through worship, parish life, and service, and who rejoices in the love of Jesus to transform the world. Read the January 25 message from the Rector: gracestlukes.org/news/appeal-for-100-pledge-participation

January Message from the Sr. Warden. Follow this link (gracestlukes.org/news/a-message-from-the-sr-warden-january) for the January 27 message from Senior Warden Charlie Pazar on behalf of the Vestry.

Resumption of In-Person Worship Began Today. GSL has resumed in-person worship with the Holy Eucharist (administration of bread only) while virtual access will continue indefinitely. This return follows the late December suspension based on the Shelby County Health Department Safer At Home Health Directive No. 16. The January 20 order (Directive No. 17: shelbytnhealth.com/DocumentCenter/View/2054/Health-Directive-No-17) is due to the lower rates of COVID-19 transmission as well as increased availability in the ICU units of local hospitals. Note: Advanced sign-up is required for our maximum capacity of thirty-six (36) households. For detailed information including how to sign up, visit tinyurl.com/GSLWorshipSignup. To read the January 26 message from Bishop Phoebe, click here (tinyurl.com/y5yckjuh).

Worship and Music

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist with Music, online and in person. Access livestream services via GSL website (gracestlukes.org/live) and Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live). Follow this link (tinyurl.com/GSLWorshipSignup) to sign up for in-person worship by 8 a.m. Sunday.

5:30 p.m. This afternoon at 5:30 p.m. we’ll offer a service in observance of Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ, via the GSL website (gracestlukes.org/live) and Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live). A service traditionally used to bless candles that would be used throughout the year, these candles symbolize Jesus who referred to himself as the “light of the world.” The service opens with the Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon) who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He spoke the words of the Nunc Dimittis while holding Jesus at the presentation in the Temple of Jerusalem.

WEEKDAYS

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Compline (Night Prayers), 8 until 8:15 p.m. via Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live)

Christian Formation

Adults. (gracestlukes.org/adult-formation)
Sundays 9:15 a.m. January 31: Unpacking How To Be Christian In A Pandemic via Facebook Live (facebook.com/gracestlukes/live), YouTube (youtube.com/gracestlukes), and the GSL Website (www.gracestlukes.org/live). Conversation facilitated by the Reverends Ollie V. Rencher and Laura F. Gettys and members of the GSL Adult Formation Advisory Committee. How are we and other Christians practicing and navigating our faith in this long season of being unable to gather in groups, inside buildings, without weekly communion, and more that has been our cultural norm for decades? Join this important conversation that also will include the clergy sharing about their personal experiences with COVID-19.

Looking Ahead, February 7: A Window into Preparing Music for Worship with Dr. Patrick A. Scott. For more about adult formation, explore gracestlukes.org/adult-formation.

Youth. (gracestlukes.org/youth-formation)
Sunday, January 31. Zoom EYC Game Night. 6th-8th graders will meet 4-5 p.m. and 9th-12th from 5-6 p.m. The Zoom links and activity information will be sent separately. If you have any questions, please contact Amzie Williams (awilliams@gracestlukes.org), Director of Youth Formation.

Children. (gracestlukes.org/childrens-formation)
As Children’s Formation continues to be offered through Zoom and at-home materials, please follow this link (gracestlukes.org/childrens-formation) for updated information and the Children’s Activity Bag signup link. To be added to the Children’s Formation email list, please contact Sharon Campbell (scampbell@gracestlukes.org), Director of Children’s Formation. The next available bag will be delivered on Sunday, February 28. Sign-ups close on the Sunday prior to delivery date.
Recreation and Wellness

Basketball 2021 Winter Basketball Registration Now Closed. This Winter, GSL Church is offering a 7-week (8 Sessions) Basketball Program to include Fundamental Training & Skill Development/Skill Stations/Contests/Scrimmages & Tons of FUN! Follow this link for details. (www.gracestlukes.org/youthbasketball)

Yoga with Shantih, Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Follow this link (gracestlukes.org/news/yoga-with-shantih/) for signup details and Zoom info.

Community Life

Baptisms at GSL. The sacrament of Holy Baptism typically is administered during public worship services at various times throughout each year. Four occasions are set aside on the Church Year Calendar (The Baptism of our Lord, The Great Vigil of Easter, The Day of Pentecost, All Saints’ Sunday) and a few other dates excluding the season of Lent through Holy Week (February 17-April 2). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bishop Phoebe has authorized the clergy to administer the sacrament in small gathering settings, outside of the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service, including weekdays and Saturdays. For information and to schedule a baptism, contact Stewardship Associate Chapman Morrow (901-252-6328, cmorrow@gracestlukes.org).

Outreach

Food Drive GSL Valentine Food Drive. This Pandemic has placed an undue toll on everyone but especially those that cannot afford to put food on the table for their families. Grace-St. Luke’s is partnering with Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC) to provide food and essentials for one week for those in need and don’t have access or means to purchase these essentials. We are collecting food donations from Parishioners and we need your help to make this successful. (Read how you can contribute. (gracestlukes.org/news/gsl-valentine-food-drive) )

MCAC Memphis Child Advocacy Center Works of Heart. Servant Ministry Partner Memphis Child Advocacy Center has one goal - to help children become children again. They serve children who are victims of sexual and severe physical abuse through prevention, education and intervention. Their programs depend on many avenues of support. One of those is their annual Works of Heart event, which of course is virtual this year. The online auction will run February 7 through February 14, 2021. Details are available at the event page. (memphiscac.org/worksofheart/)

Quick Links

Follow these links to frequently visited pages on our website and Facebook.

- LIVE Virtual Worship, Music, Formation Offerings gracestlukes.org/live
- Facebook Live facebook.com/gracestlukes/live
- YouTube Live youtube.com/gracestlukes
- Wednesday eNews gracestlukes.org/weekly-news
- More Information about Worship gracestlukes.org/worship
- More Information about Music gracestlukes.org/music
- Sacramental Life Events gracestlukes.org/connect/in-the-church/life-events
- Hope and Good News: gracestlukes.org/discover/spiritual-guidance
- Pastoral Care, Prayer List, and Prayer Requests: gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest
- Subscribe to GSL, Diocesan & The Episcopal Church eNews: gracestlukes.org/enews
- Information about Fraudulent Emails & Text: gracestlukes.org/news/phishing
- The Messenger, Bi-monthly Magazine: gracestlukes.org/the-messenger
- Realm Connect: GSL Directory & More: gracestlukes.org/realm

Online Giving
Make a one time gift now by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone!

Recurring
Set up recurring 2021 pledge payments by scanning the QR code with your phone!
The Prayer List

Our prayers are asked for Brad Larson, Patty McManus, Kaye, John, Caroline Clay, Betsy Tate, Nancy Wilkerson, Kristin King, Charles Chandler, Michael Wills, Jake Seymour, Alymarie “Dooney” Twele, Annelise Ware Simmons, Felix Dae Sanders, Deborah Lowe, Carolyn Wills, Amanda Adams, Jane Gober & the Gober family, Billy Denman, Susan Williamson, Ann & Bill Russell, Rodgers and Nancy Menzies, Renee Williford, Lucy Singh, Rachel Sanford, The Kaldon Family, Paul Douglas, and Peggy Williamson.

Our prayers are asked for those who have died, especially those who have died from coronavirus.


Prayer List and Prayer Requests. To submit a prayer request for the Prayer List, you may contact Parish House Receptionist & Ministry Associate Abby Huber (ahuber@gracestlukes.org, 901-252-6336) or complete the online Prayer Request Form (gracestlukes.org/prayerrequest). Names of persons, who have given consent for names to be printed, will be listed for one month, unless a longer period is requested. While certain concerns may be confidential between the clergy and the individual, others may not be. If you are wondering about an individual, please contact the individual directly or a member of the clergy. Intercessions are offered daily by the clergy and lay pastoral care ministers and reflected in the worship service leaflet.