

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 2nd, 2025

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude,

The Procession, *please stand as able.*

Mighty One of Israel

Songbook #39

The Opening Sentences

The **Book of Common Prayer,** 355

Song of Praise:

The Gloria

Hymnal S278 BCP 356

The Collect, *please stand as able*

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. please be seated.*

The First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Note: This prophet, whose book is the very last in the Old Testament, probably lived in the 5th c. BC. The Temple is central to his message as the place of God's presence. Here he predicts the coming of a messenger who will purify both the religious and ordinary life of Israel.

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.

Psalm 84: *quam delecta!*

Note: This beautiful psalm begins with the image of a sparrow finding safety and comfort in the imposing architecture of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple, for us, is wherever we find the strong presence of God in our lives. Where have you found your Temple?

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 Epistle: Hebrews 2:14-18

Note: The prominent image of Christ in this general letter to the churches is that of Christ as the Great High Priest. As such, he is fully human in order to become both the presider over the sacrifice and the sacrificial victim as well. As fully divine the sacrifice is effective for all people and for all time through the forgiveness of sins which only God can grant.

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.

Sequence Hymn, *standing Spirit of the Living God* Songbook #43

The Gospel Luke 2:22-40

Note: The story of the presentation reveals to us the Holy Family as dedicated to the Mosaic tradition. It also discloses them as poor as indicated by the nature of their sacrifice. The Jewish prophetic tradition, represented by Simeon and Anna, connects piety with justice and righteousness, especially with regard to the needy among us.

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 Homily Rev. James B. Stutler D. Min.

Followed by silence for reflection

The Prayers of the People, *kneeling or standing.*

Blessings of Special Intention.

Greetings, News, Thanksgivings, and Acknowledgements

2025 Vestry Induction

Closing Prayer

Confession and Absolution

The Peace, *standing, as able.* BCP 360

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory *Christ Be Our Light* Sing-a-long #5
The Doxology, *standing.* Songbook
The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer A BCP 361

The Sursum Corda, kneeling or standing.

The Proper Preface of the Sunday

The *Sanctus*

The People's AMEN Songbook

BCP 363

The Preparation for the Distribution

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

Breaking of the Bread BCP 364

The Invitation: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please come and share in the Communion of Christ

Communion Sing-a-Long Music

Let Us Break Bread Together Songbook #37

Let There Be Peace on Earth Songbook #36

Thank You, Lord Songbook #59

Post Communion Prayer, *kneeling or standing* BCP 365

Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors

Priest: On behalf of this congregation, I give you these holy gifts, that those in whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: *We send you forth with the body and blood of Christ.*

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn, *standing We Are One in the Spirit* Songbook 51

The Dismissal Response BCP 366

Thanks be to God

WE PRAY FOR...

Our Parish Family, especially

✠ JOAN, MARGIE, ALICE, PAIGE, CLAIRE, EVELYN, MARGE & ALAN, REZENDE FAMILY, JOAN, SOLOMON, VICTOR, MISSY, CAROLE, JUDITH, JOHN T, ANN, TONY, AL, JEAN, HUBIE, AMANDA, ROBIN, KIM, TED, FRED, REBA, FRAN, DAKOTA, MARGARET C, JOSEPH, JOANN, & DEACON JUDITH.

✠ FR . JAMIE.

✠ THE MINISTRIES OF ST. CLEMENT'S.

✠ HEIDI AND RUSS, missionaries to Chile and pray for their new girls' ministry, the first since the Covid Outbreak.

Those in the Armed Forces, especially

✠ DAVID, AMANDA, JERRY, NICK, BRANDON, MAGGIE, STEPHEN, JAKE, DAVID, NOAH, KEVIN, NATHAN, JACKSON, & NATHAN K.

Others needing Intercessory Prayer:

✠HEALING: HILARY, JOHN, SHONDA, DIANE, SANDRA, BEV, DAN, MARTHA, PAM, KATHLEEN, STEVE, ANDY, ORSON, SHI SHI & PAPA RED, PATTI , JUSTIN, ADRIAN, MICHAEL, ANN, ROBIN, MARY, TOM, THE PEOPLE OF MAUI, ELVIE, BETTY, HEATHER, AMANDA, MARK, CHRIS B, ELIZABETH, ROB, BILL, TOM, SONJA, FRANK, MOLLY, MAUREEN, LOU, TRAVIS, BRUCE, KRISTI, RAYMOND, GRACE, ED, LESLIE, LIZ, GARY, GABBY, PAUL, ASTON, SANDY, MARK, LIZ, NEYOMI, JOHN, MARILU, ANDY & SUE, KENNETH, JOE, MISTY, LORI, PORCHA, MIKE, PAT, REBECCA & BLAKE, CATHY, JEFF, ANNA, HOLLY, EMORY, BEAU, JOANN, DEBBIE, KASEY, LAURA, DON, NELL, DEBBIE, CAROL KESHUNRA & DANIEL, GORDAN, BEVERLY, LUPINA, LORA, ISABELLA, ERIC, & LEELANO.

✠ COMFORT: RYAN, KENDRICK & FAMILY, & BARRE FAMILY.

✠ ARBORS: PHYLLIS, FRAN, LIZ, LOIS, BETTY, MARY, ROSE, BOBBY, LESLIE, ANN & ART, BOB, KEIRSEY, and OLGA.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS.

Please take the bulletin home and pray for these concerns during the week.

Those from the parish family & intercessory prayer list remain on the list for two months and then are deleted unless notification is given to extend, update re condition, or delete sooner because special prayers are no longer needed. Those in the armed forces remain for one year with the same conditions as above. Notice may be given to the parish office at the Ministry Center, 770-345-6722 Prayer request cards are in the church pews, or requests can be made by calling the office. Please email or call Trish Cole (770-377-4348) to update your prayer requests.

**Unconditional Hope:
The Feast of the Presentation**

This Sunday is a very special day. It is the Feast of the Presentation. It is a fixed feast, like Christmas day, and falls on February 2 each year. This year that date is this Sunday, and it is one of the few feasts that displace the regular readings for its particular readings.

The readings revolve around the story of when Joseph, Mary, and the newborn Jesus appear in the Temple at Jerusalem. 40 days have passed since the birth. Mary has remained isolated during this time in accordance with the purity laws of Moses (Leviticus 12:2-8). Jesus, as the first born male, is, at the same time, presented and consecrated to the Lord according to custom (Exodus 13:1-2).

At the Temple they meet two older people, Simeon and Anna, who have spent many years praying for the salvation of Israel. Both praise the child as the answer to their prayers.

Simeon offers a song. It is one of the great canticles of Luke along with the Song of Zechariah and the Magnificat and is often know by its first words translated into Latin: the *Nunc Dimittis*.

Now, Simeon sings, I can rest in peace because I have seen the Savior, the glory of Israel and the light of the whole world. This image of light gives the Feast of the Presentation its other name: Candlemass.

Jamie ✠

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us immediately after the service for a potluck across the parking lot in Davis Hall.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

**St Clement's Episcopal Church
PO Box 36
Holly Springs, GA 30142-0001**

- Update *address book*
- Update *Bill Pay*
- Update *Banks*

**Happening Retreat
2/7-9 At Camp Mikell for High School students**

**2025 Vestry Retreat
2/8 9:00am in the Vestry Room**

**Book Club
2/10 1:30pm** Discussing The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel by Kati Marton. Contact: Sallee Macknik sallee_m@yahoo.com or (770) 714-6340

**Blood Drive
2/10 2:45 to 7:45pm** For an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org/give sponsor code: stclemec

**Worship Team Meeting
2/13 10:30am** The purpose of this meeting is to prepare for the Easter Season. Please contact either Fr. Jamie or Diane Hodgins if you have any questions. The meeting will be held in the Vestry Room in Davis Hall.

**Valentine's Day Dinner
2/15 6:15pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm** Reservations required for each seating. Cost is \$10 per person and \$5 per child. For questions, call Amy MacNeill at (678) 662-1275.

**New Beginnings
2/28-3/1** At Camp Mikell for Middle School students

**Mondays
Grief Share:** 10:30pm in Davis Hall

**Tuesdays:
The Men's Group** 11:30 am at IHOP, 3010 Northside Parkway, Canton. Contact: stclementsmentgroup@gmail.com.

**Bible Study
1:30-2:30pm** in Davis Hall. "The Lord's Prayer"

**Wednesdays:
Rector's Bible Study** 12:00pm via Zoom. We are studying The Psalms. Contact the office for the link.

- Holy Eucharist** 6:15 pm followed by:
- 6:45 Meal
 - 7:00pm Episcopal Youth Community, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month;
 - 7:00pm Bible Study

**Thursdays:
Path to Shine** 2pm to 5pm in Davis Hall. This is a school children's mentoring group.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Stutler, *rector*
770-324-2035

email
frjamie@stclementsanton.org

Liz Bouis, Parish Administrator
Gloria Blackburn, Parish Assistant
770-345-6722
email stclements@stclementsanton.org

Fridays:

Centering Prayer: 12:30 pm in the church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If interested, please contact Fr. Jamie 770-324-2035 or Diane Hodgins 850-338-8540.

Outreach Opportunities!

Feeling passionate about serving our community? Join our dynamic team of Outreach Ministry Leaders to head our Coat Drive this winter, and Give-the-Kid-a-Chance Backpack drive next fall. Please contact Maragaret Garwatoski at 678-472-5311 or Sallee MackKnik at 770-714-6340.

Online Giving available through our website www.stclementsanton.org or by the Vanco app on your smart phone.

Our Parish Cares for You

Our church offers a variety of Parish Care Ministries to provide support in times of need led by both clergy and a dedicated team of lay volunteers. For more information, please pick up a brochure from the narthex of the church.

Joyful Noise Band

Do you have a musical talent that is longing to break free? Our Joyful Noise Band plays during the third Sunday of every month and some of the combined services. The Band is always looking for additional talent. If you are interested in joining, please contact Judy Reardon at judy.reardon@icloud.com.

The Altar Guild

Dates are available for flower dedications if you have someone or some event special to commemorate. See the flowered notebook in the narthex and cost is \$50.. Please contact Trish

New Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00—2:00
Wednesday 9:00—11:00



Scan to visit our website for more information.

Serving Today:

VPOD: Brad Vaughan
Crucifer: Tim Hodgins
Gospel Torch: Brad Vaughan
Epistle Torch: Wayne Smoak
LEM: Diane Hodgins
Reader: Dale Petrishe
Teller: Bill McArthur



Birthdays this week:

Susan Gensel 2/3
Roy Owings 2/4
Jean Rudolph 2/5
Joseph Waters 2/6



Anniversaries this week:

There are no known anniversaries this week!

TREASURER'S SUMMARY
as of November 2024

Pledges YTD	\$233,520
Total Income	\$386,290
Total Expenses	\$386,290



**The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ
in the Temple
February 2, 2025**

O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their
trust in you!

Welcome Visitors!

If you are visiting for the first time, let us know you are here by filling out a visitor's card and ask an usher about a gift we have for you in the narthex (foyer).

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

Regular Sunday Services // 9am Contemporary // 11am Traditional
First Sunday each Month // 10am Combined Service

MONDAY
Morning Prayer (online) // 9am
Grief Share // 10:30am

THURSDAY
Canton AL-Anon // 7 pm
Path to Shine // 1:40 pm

TUESDAY
Men's Group, IHOP // 11:30am
Bible Study—the Way // 1:30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous // 8pm

FRIDAY
Morning Prayer (online) // 9am
Holy Eucharist @ The Arbors 10:30am
Women's AA // 12 noon
Centering Prayer // 12:30pm

WEDNESDAY
Morning Prayer (online) // 9am
Bible Study // 12pm
Women's AA // 12pm
Choir Practice // 5pm
Holy Eucharist // 6:15pm
Meal // 6:45pm
Bible Study // 7pm
EYC // 7pm 1st & 3rd Wed. of each Month

**The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by
The Altar Guild**

Mailing address: PO Box 36, Holly Springs, Georgia 30142-0001
Phone 770-345-6722 | **Web** www.stclementsanton.org