

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Centered in God, Focused on Others



The Holy Gift of Light

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: Candlemas

Sunday, February 2, 2025

17 Church Street, Hanover, MA 02339

(781) 826-2062

www.standrewshanover.org

Please note updated COVID-19 Guidelines:

- Masks are optional.
- Seek designated area if you wish to remain masked and socially distanced.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance to the church, and for use before and after Holy Communion.

Liturgical Note (adapted from EpiscopalChurch.org):

Today we celebrate a feast day called ***The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple***, also known as "**The Purification**" or "**Candlemas**." This is a feast of our Lord and is always celebrated on February 2nd. When this feast day falls on a Sunday, it takes precedence over the usual Sunday observance (i.e, we would typically celebrate the 4th Sunday After Epiphany on this day). Today's feast commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8), and thus, the feast is celebrated forty days after Christmas. According to the account of Lk 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle ***Nunc dimittis*** (see BCP, p. 120). The celebration of this feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem. It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the Nunc dimittis. The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession, and so, the feast was known as "Candlemas."

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

GATHERING

The congregation stands as the church bell is rung.

The Presider greets the people with these words:

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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 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.**

The following canticle is then said, during which the church candles are lit.

A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

**A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised.

**A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.**

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.**

The Presider 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.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Angels, from the realms of glory (H 93)*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

The candles are now extinguished.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The collect is the appointed prayer that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray, saying together

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 LESSONS

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

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.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God

PSALM Psalm 84

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.

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.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

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.

They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, the 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE *Blest are the pure in heart (Franconia) (H 656) (V1-3)*

The sequence hymn moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word—the reading of the Holy Gospel. Gospel means “good news”—specifically the “good news of Jesus.”

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the
2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to
3 he to the low - ly soul will still him - self im - part and

se - cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.
dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King;
for his dwell - ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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.

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

GRADUAL HYMN *Blest are the pure in heart (Franconia) (H 656) (V4)*

The musical score is written for four voices (SATB) in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "4 Lord, we thy pres - ence seek; may ours this bless - ing be; give". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

SERMON

The Reverend Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Esq.

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

SILENT REFLECTION

NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin “credo” for “I believe.” First formulated at the council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the church—the body of Christ.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

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, especially those in harm's way in the California fires and for those first responders trying to save lives and property;

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 The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth, our Bishop Diocesan, and The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol J. Gallagher, Assistant Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the Churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery: St. Mark's Church, Dorchester, St. Mary's Church, Dorchester, Epiphany School, Dorchester, The Diocesan Council; Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

For the special needs and concerns of those gathered here.

(People may add their own petitions)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(People may add their own blessings)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, including David Nickerson that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant:

Holy God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna and showed them the infant King. Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfilment. Loving God, remove our fears, worries, distractions, and all barriers between us. Turn them into grace and mercy, and, following the example of all your Saints, may we love as you love. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

(People may stand or kneel.)

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All:

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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

All

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Celebrant

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

People exchange a sign of peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF PERSONAL CANDLES

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. An offering is received to support St. Andrew's ministry of sharing God's love, hope and peace this Epiphany season. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed or by scanning the QR code on the back page of this bulletin, or online at the donation link at standrewshanover.org.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *When candles are lighted (Lourdes) (VF 31)*

1 When can - dles are light - ed on Can - dle - mas Day
2 The kings have de - part - ed, the shep - herds have gone,
3 They go to the tem - ple, o - bey - ing the law,

the dark is be - hind us, and spring's on the way.
the child and his par - ents are left on their own.
and of - fer two pi - geons, the gift of the poor.

A glo - ry dawns in ev - ery dark place,

the light of Christ, the full - ness of grace.

The ushers will bring the gifts forward.

DOXOLOGY (568)

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of two staves each. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests. The final measure of the third system is a double bar line with a repeat sign.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers and stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *S130 Holy, holy, holy (Schubert/Proulx)*

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The priest says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the last Supper. At the memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah, and Andrew and all your saints; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the bread in silence.

FRACTION ANTHEM *Lamb of God Agnus Dei (Schubert) (S 164)*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the priest. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of receiving Communion, you may indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on God in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]
 The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Creator, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be amongst you this day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Children are invited to join the priest at the altar during the Recessional Hymn and to help bear the consecrated elements out of the Church and to help to dispose of them reverently outside.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Love divine, all loves excelling (Hyfrydol) (H 657)*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - mighty - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

PARISH FAMILY GROUP PHOTO

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Our worship has ended. Let our service being as we go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER LIST

Bill MacLellan – Nicol Family – John – Tracy Sprows – family of Amy Motta—Dennis – Dave Nickerson – Lee G – Don S – Pam E – Jan B – Leah – Katrina & Darren – Paul Nicol –Mark D – Art J – Joyce – Matthew –Thomas & Gloria – Susannah -- David – Margie T – Paula – Pam & Tom – Bill – Virginia -- Greyson

Each week this prayer list includes requests we have received through publication (Thursday, noon). If you wish to add people to this list, please use the prayer board in the narthex or email office@standrewshanover.org or call the office or place a note on the offertory plate or give to an usher or to Rev. Amy at Sunday service.

The flowers on the altar today are in loving memory of Donald William Hansen, February 28, 1950 - February 1, 2020

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents and grownups are invited to drop children off at Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall any time after 9:15am. Our kiddos will draw their name tags, enjoy a bible lesson and then join everyone in Big Church at announcements.

ANNUAL MEETING IS TODAY!

Bring your appetite and good cheer and please check the schedule for your family photo for our next Parish Directory.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Are you curious about becoming an Episcopalian? Have you been received into the Episcopal Church and would enjoy learning more about our structure, history and theology? Are you a lifelong Episcopalian who might enjoy a brush up on our polity? Reverend Amy is offering a 6-week class for inquirers. This class will meet after church and will repeat again on Thursday nights for those who are not able to join on Sundays. If you are interested, please use the "Inquirers' Class" LINK on the website (standrewshanover.org) to sign up. Our first session will begin on Sunday, February 16th after church from 11:15 am – 12:45pm. All questions are welcome, as are all attendees!

Stewardship Update: We have received 45 pledges for \$83,815. We would love to have 50 pledges which means that 50 people have made a commitment to support St. Andrew's in the coming year.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY:

- It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of our brother David Nickerson. Dave passed into glory on Monday, January 27th surrounded by love and family. A celebration of Dave's life will be held at St. Andrew's on Saturday, February 22nd at 11 am. More info to follow. If you would like to express your condolences and appreciation to Janice Nickerson, her address is: 273 South Street, Halifax, MA 02338.
- If you would like to keep in touch with Susannah Leslie, she can be reached at Wingate at Silverlake, 21 Chipman Way, Room 127, Kingston, MA 02364.
- A Meal Train has been established for Dianne & Paul Nicol at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/kd6d3z>

SUPPORTING OTHERS:

Wildfire Response Fund: By Vote of the St. Andrew's Vestry and as a faithful response to the devastating wildfires that have destroyed houses, synagogues, schools and churches, St. Andrew's will donate the Sunday plate cash contributions from all February services to this effort. Our donations will be sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund (which has a 100% Charity Navigator Rating) and to local targeted efforts that prioritize support for fire victims who are marginalized and low income residents. THANK YOU in advance for any additional support that you offer during our February services, and may God Bless all of the front line responders, and those directly impacted by this tragedy.

Hanover Food Pantry: St. Andrew's collects items for the Hanover Food Pantry. Please drop off in the narthex. Our current needs are: baked beans; raisin bran; pudding cups; relish; liquid dish soap; chips; strawberry jam; peanut butter; cookie mixes; applesauce (jars); mayo; chicken broth; grape jelly.

PRAYING FOR ALL:

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers, mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to these your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Study: The Presentation – February 2, 2025

This Bible study is part of a series produced by the Office of Global Partnerships of The Episcopal Church.

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Malachi 3:1-4

One of the hardest things for any child, and maybe even for many of us, is the time we spend waiting. Waiting is usually accompanied by anticipation; many thoughts go through our minds while we wait. During periods of waiting, we ask ourselves many questions – for example, what if the thing we are waiting for is not as we hoped? And many other questions that occupy our every thought. Even when we are certain that what we are waiting for will surely happen, it doesn't make our waiting any easier.

Our text today invites us to wait differently. It shows us that God has sent a messenger to the people to assure them of the coming of the Lord, but this messenger also carries a warning: To be able to welcome the coming of the Lord, we need to prepare ourselves. If we are not ready, we will not be able to endure the Lord's coming. To be able to welcome the Lord, we need to examine ourselves and our lives with a critical and honest eye, to make sure that we live by the decrees and commandments of the Lord. Given that we are certain that the Lord will come, we need to embark on the process of preparing ourselves. The process of refining ourselves will not be easy, but it is important. Therefore, instead of spending our time worrying while we wait, let us spend it preparing ourselves and refining our lives to welcome the coming of the Lord.

*Is your life built on the certainty of the second coming of the Lord, or do you still doubt?
How do we prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming?*

Hebrews 2:14-18

While for some, God is far and distant, that should not be the case for us Christians. We believe that God came down to earth to be with us, to guide, to teach, to heal, and to give us salvation. In this belief, we should find great strength, for our God is not a distant, far away God, who does not understand our problems and challenges. Rather, God is the one who humbled himself and took on flesh for us. We believe in a God who wants to dwell in our hearts and wants to be close to us. Jesus paid our debt on the wood of the cross, and gave us life; in return, we are asked to believe in him, and that faith, if it is a living faith, should lead us to care for others as he has cared for us. We are to walk humbly with people, teaching and guiding them, listening to them, proclaiming the gift of salvation to them, and reminding them that our Lord and Savior knows what they are going through. He is not far from their suffering and he has given them life.

*Have you opened your heart for Jesus to dwell in it?
Do you trust Jesus with your sufferings and challenges, or are you still trying to take care of them by yourself?
Do you lead others to Christ, so that they can find their comfort in him?*

Luke 2:22-40

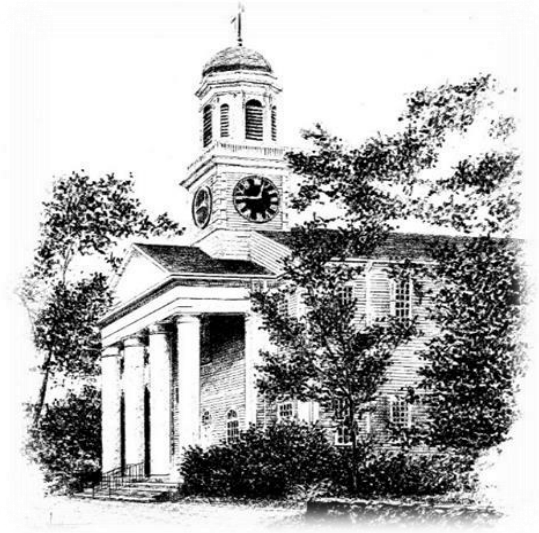
We have reflected on how we should wait for the promises of God, and how we need to be active while we wait and prepare ourselves to receive these promises. In this passage, we see how waiting, preparing ourselves, and trusting in the promises of our Lord will result in us seeing these promises fulfilled by God in God's time. Simeon did not only wait faithfully but also his heart was also open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It was through following that guidance that he went to the Temple in time to see the child being presented by his parents. Seeing the child Jesus and recognizing who he was with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Simeon realized how, through him, God's promise would be fulfilled for all people. After that recognition, Simeon praised God for God's faithfulness. We are also shown a second character, a faithful prophet, Anna, who was also waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. When she saw them fulfilled in the child Jesus, she could not contain her delight, proclaiming the Good News to all who would listen.

*Are you waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises in your life while keeping your heart open to God's guidance?
Are you ready to proclaim to the world all the good things that God has done for you?*

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