



Christ Episcopal Church
Roxbury, Connecticut

The Feast of the Presentation
2 February, 2025, 9:00AM

Ringing of the Bells

*At ten minutes before the hour, the altar candles are lit, inviting all into a time of preparation
for our worship.*

Please silence electronic devices.

Prelude *Méditation sur le 1er prélude de piano de S. Bach* of Charles François Gounod superimposed over a slightly altered *Prelude No. 1 in C Major* [BWV 846] from Book I of *The Well-Tempered Clavier* of Johann Sebastian Bach now referred to as the Gounod *Ave Maria*

Welcome: Jim Stanton, Worship Leader

Hymn *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*

Hymn 497 vv. 1 and 3

Officiant: God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth.

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

Silence may be kept. Please kneel if possible.

Officiant and People together,

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us

through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant:

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

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit* as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Officiant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7* **In Unison**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 84 In Unison

- 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 Lessons

A Reading from Malachi 3:1-4

Read by Meg Mongin

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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 17 A Song of Simeon

Led by Meg Mongin

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

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from Hebrews 2:14-18

Read by Meg Mongin

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: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Hymn *O Zion, Open Wide Thy Gate*

Hymn 257 vv. 1-3

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke (3:22-40)

Read by Jim Stanton

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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Stephen Morris, Preacher

The Apostles' Creed

Led by Jim Stanton

In Unison, Please stand if able

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet each other warmly. **Announcements**

The Offertory

Officiant:

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*

Hymn 277 v. 1

The ushers will collect your gifts and bring them before God's Holy Table.

Doxology

Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Hymn 380, v. 3

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The congregation may stand or kneel.

Officiant and People

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.**

Suffrages

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collects

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 Collect for Guidance In Unison

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit that in all the cares and occupations of our life we man not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sigh; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

A Prayer for Mission In Unison

O God, you have made on one blood all the peoples of the Earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the Nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People (Based on Form VI)

Please stand or kneel as able.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Led by Jim Stanton

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 the mission of IRIS to help refugees and displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, dare to dream and contribute to the vitality of communities in Connecticut and across the country.

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, Sean our presiding bishop-elect, Jeff and Laura our bishops, the ministers of Christ Church Roxbury, and all who proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Gracious God, we pray for those for whom prayers have been requested: Angela, Bobby, Charlie, Deke, Denise, Diane, Drew, Eunice, James and Robert, Jane, Jeffrey, Jerry, John, Judy & Mike, Ken, Lily, Linda, Lisbet, Meg, Mike, Nonie, Ryan, Stephen, Steve, and those we name before you aloud and in our hearts.

Silence

Hear us Lord;

For we put our trust in you.

We pray for an end to war and all acts of violence of one group of people against another.

We pray for peace in the Holy Land.

We pray for an end to the violence and polarization that plague our communities.

We pray for all communities that have been plagued by natural disasters.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

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

Silence

Please add your own thanksgivings.

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.

Silence

Please add your own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Officiant says

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for People Critically Ill or Facing Great Uncertainty *In Unison*

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to all who wait or work in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make them the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *In Unison*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Please Stand

Closing Hymn *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place*

Hymn 517

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20,21

Postlude *The Prelude Op. 28 No. 7 of Frédéric Chopin*

Ringling of the Bells

*Front page art: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple by Pietro Antonio Magatti, 1691-1767
Permission to podcast the music in this service obtained from One License, License #A-733800, and Gregory J. Cava*

All are invited to **Coffee Hour** in the parish hall following the service.

Bible Study will resume next Sunday following coffee hour.

Healing prayer is offered on the Sundays with Eucharist in the back of the church during Communion or speak with Pastor Stephen or our healing minister, Judy Martinez.

Come to **The Wonderful Sound of Song and Music!** A free concert at the church next Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 PM. For children of all ages: 3-100!
Spread the word!

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Beginning today, the loose plate cash on the first Sunday of every month will be dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund which is utilized at the discretion of the priest for pious and charitable reasons. Please give generously!

Help fight food insecurity! Donate nonperishable foods and personal care products to the **Roxbury Food Pantry.**
Place them in the big basket in the back of the church.

Thank you to our ministers today.

Music Minister: Mr. Gregory J. Cava
Welcoming: Linda West
Lector: Meg Mongin
Worship Leader: Jim Stanton
Altar Guild chair: Deb Howes
Sonneur: Larry Apolzon
Allumeur: Mike Snowden

Christ Episcopal Church

4 Wellers Bridge Rd, PO Box 4, Roxbury CT 06783-00040.
Office phone 860-355-3695 Email: christchurchroxbury@gmail.com
Website: <https://christchurchroxbury.net>
Priest in Charge: The Rev. Stephen Nagy, 860-354-4113, revsrnagy@gmail.com
Warden: Dona Murphy, 860-354-6760
Warden: Steve Morris, 203-910-3138



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Right Reverend, Jeffrey Mello, Bishop Diocesan
The Right Reverend Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

