

# The Presentation of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

February 2, 2025 at 10 a.m.

*Welcome to Christ Church!*

*This faith community has worshiped on the Guilford Green since 1744; and it is continually made new by the Spirit and those who gather here. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, it's an honor to worship with you. Your presence is a blessing.*

*May this gathering be a blessing to you.*



**Prelude** With peace and joy I depart BWV 616

J. S. Bach

## **Prayer Before Worship**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* **Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*This spoken prayer is followed by two minutes of silent prayer to prepare in heart and mind for worship. You might focus attention on your breath—noticing how the breath of life sustains you and connects you to God and to every living being in God's creation. (Genesis 2:7, John 20:22)*

## **The Word of God**

**Hymn #93** Angels from the realms of glory

*Regent Square*

*Sung by all, standing as you are able. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982, unless noted.*

## **Opening Acclamation**

Prayer Book, p. 355

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Collect for Purity

Prayer Book, p. 355

*All:* **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Song of Praise S-278 Glory to God in the highest

W. Mathias

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

*The people sit.*

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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

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!**

## Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Hymn #517** How lovely is thy dwelling place  
*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*Brother James' Air*

## The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

*Deacon:* 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, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Nicene Creed**

*The people stand as able.*

**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.**

*The Nicene Creed is a confession of faith from the 4<sup>th</sup> century that affirms the two great mysteries of Christian faith: that ultimate reality (God) is a community of love (the Trinity) and that God joins us in our life and suffering (the Incarnation of Jesus). We say it in unity with followers of Jesus around the world and across the ages.*

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

*The people remain standing or kneel.*

*Leader:* We pray for the Universal Church, its members, and its mission, that we all strive for justice, freedom, and peace. We pray for everyone to live in peace and harmony, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for the nation and all in authority that they will make good choices to help our nation and not be judgmental. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for the welfare of the world, for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and the United States, especially those affected by the fires in LA.

Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for the concerns of the local community that all our neighbors stay healthy and stress-free, that people have food and water, and we support one another as a community. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for those who suffer and those in any trouble, the poor, those who live in fear, and those who suffer from addiction, gun violence, domestic violence, or homelessness. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Liam, Christian, Debbie, Rick, Maria, Anita, Terry, Noah, Mary, Mark, Kim, Judy, Nicky, Judy, Jeff, Michael, David, Duke and Susan, Barry, Bobbi, and Bill. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray for the departed, especially Chloe Negron and the victims of the plane crash in Washington, and for the families of the departed that suffer with grief.

Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* We pray in thanksgiving for our homes, our freedom, food, our families, our sports, our health, music, and our pets. Lord in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

## **The Confession**

*The people may stand or kneel.*

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

*Silence is observed before the Celebrant begins the Confession.*

*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.**

*The Celebrant declares the Absolution.*

## **The Peace**

*The people stand as able.*

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet your  
neighbors in the name of the  
Lord, then all are seated.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

# **The Holy Communion**

## **The Offertory**

*Gifts can be made in the offering plate or using the QR code.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*



**Offertory solo** Deep River  
Leila Mustakos, soprano

trad. spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh

**The Doxology Hymn #380 (vs. 3)**  
*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*

*Celebrant:* All things come of thee, O Lord.  
*People:* **And of thine own have we given thee.**

**The Great Thanksgiving Prayer B**  
*The people remain standing.*

Prayer Book, p. 367

*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.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus S-128** Holy, holy, holy

W. Mathias

*The people remain standing or kneel as the Celebrant continues:*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*All:*    **We remember his death,  
          We proclaim his resurrection,  
          We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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 Breaking of the Bread**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem S-155** Christ our Passover

G. Near

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Following the invitation, the people are seated.*

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Behold what you are; become what you receive.

*God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who have witnessed these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord, Amen.*

**Communion anthem** The Presentation

R. Aarons

**Postcommunion Prayer**

Prayer Book, p. 365

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* **Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
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.**

## **The Blessing**

**Hymn #259** Hail to the Lord who comes

*Old 120th*

*Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

## **The Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Postlude:** Preludium in C BuxWV 137

D. Buxtehude

*As you depart during the postlude, you are welcome to greet your neighbors, being mindful of those who are praying or listening to the music. Coffee hour follows the service in the Parish Hall.*

### **In Today's Worship**

*Celebrant:* The Rev. Michael Sweeney

*Music Director:* Mark Sullivan

*Altar Guild:* Pat Daunic and Aleah LaFata

*Usher:* Mardee Moore

*Acolytes:* Austin LaFata, James Oshana, Emmett Sweeney

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:* James Oshana

*Psalm:* Austin LaFata

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:* Emmett Sweeney

*Prayers of the People:* Austin LaFata and James Oshana

*Chalice Bearers:* Pat Daunic and Annie Rae

### **Altar Flowers**

The altar flowers are often given in memory of, or thanksgiving for, loved ones. If you would like to give the flowers for a particular Sunday, please call the office.

## **HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, 12:00 -12:30 p.m.** – Service of Holy Eucharist in the sanctuary

**Thursday, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** – Choir rehearsal in the Parish Hall

**Friday, 12:00-12:30 p.m.** – Music meditation in the sanctuary

**Friday, 12:30-1:30 p.m.** – Bible study in the Guild Room

**Sunday, 10:00 a.m.** – Service of Holy Eucharist (*Sunday school & Nursery in lower level*)

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evening Service & Supper** – Feb. 16, 5:00 p.m. service & 6:00 p.m. supper  
This candlelight Eucharist includes anointing for healing, a personal reflection in place of the sermon, and music accompanied by piano and other acoustic instruments.

**New Zoom Bible Study Series** – Tuesdays at 4 p.m., beginning Feb. 18  
In this series on the book of Acts, we will reflect on St. Luke's account of the Spirit at work in the early Church and how that same Spirit is at work in our lives. For more information or the Zoom link, please contact the office.

**Chapel on the Green** – Sunday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m.

On Saturday morning (Feb. 22), we will make hundreds of sandwiches, which we will serve Sunday afternoon in New Haven at Chapel on the Green. If you'd like to help with sandwich making or serving, please contact the office.

**Newcomer Brunch** – Sunday, March 2, 11:30-12:30

All newcomers are invited to an informal brunch, hosted by Rev. Michael and Briget, to learn more about the church and meet other newcomers. Contact the office to RSVP.

**Pancake Supper & Burning of the Palms** – Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday coincides with Fat Tuesday, a Mardi Gras celebration. It's a time to celebrate with sweets before the season of Lent begins. We will also burn the palms from last Palm Sunday to prepare ashes for the Ash Wednesday service.

**Ash Wednesday** – March 5, services at 12 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 7 p.m.

The services at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. will be services of Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes. The service at 5:15 will be a brief service of the imposition of ashes, intended especially for young children and their families.

**Bishop's Visit** – March 9 at the 10 a.m. service

On the first Sunday of Lent, Bishop Laura Ahrens will visit and lead our worship.

## LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH

### **Children & Youth**

Sunday school for children ages 3+ meets at 10 a.m. most Sunday mornings from September-June. There is childcare available during the 10 a.m. service for children under 3. For more details contact Page Pelphrey at [education@christchurchguilford.org](mailto:education@christchurchguilford.org).

### **Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**

The ECW is collecting money to send to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund in support of relief work in Los Angeles. There is a basket for donations in the Parish Hall.

### **Music**

The choir is open to all and rehearses on Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. To learn more about music at Christ Church, contact Mark Sullivan at [music@christchurchguilford.org](mailto:music@christchurchguilford.org).

### **Prayer Shawls & Home Communion**

If you or someone you know would like to receive communion at home or would appreciate a prayer shawl knit with love by parishioners, please contact the office.

### **Weekly E-mail**

You can sign up to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter on our website, or by calling the office or filling out a welcome card in your pew. The weekly email is our most detailed communication and a great way to keep track of everything going on at Christ Church.