

# The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple: Candlemas

February 2, 2025

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Longview, WA



## Worship Leaders February 2, 2025

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Charlee Mather, Ella Mather
Altar Guild	Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi
Reader	Ladonna Stacey, Maddy Glaser
Greeter	Rob Painter-Johnson
Chalice Bearer	Lloyd Solon
Usher	Don Willows
Verger	Mary Hoover
Vestry Presence	Gretchen Niemi, Rob Painter-Johnson
Coffee Hour	Tosha Big Eagle, Belinda



*We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.*

*St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!*



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### Connect with St. Stephen's!

**Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **Candlemas Procession**

*This procession is intended for use immediately before the Holy Eucharist on the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. When circumstances permit, the congregation gathers at a place apart from the church so that all may enter the church in procession. If necessary, however, the procession takes place within the church. In this case it is suitable that the Presider begin the rite standing just inside the door of the church. Candles for use in Church during the year and candles to be carried in procession are on a table. Alternatively those who will process are provided with unlighted candles.*

*The congregation stands.*

*The Presider greets the people with these words:*

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 sung or said, during which the candles are lighted, if the people are not already holding them.*

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.**

Let us pray.

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.**

*During the procession, all carry lighted candles; and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung.*

# God Is Here! As We His People



1. God is here! As we his peo - ple  
2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us  
3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come  
4. Lord of all, of Church and king - dom,



Meet to of - fer praise and prayer,  
Of our life - long need of grace;  
In the Shep - herd's flock and fold;  
In an age of change and doubt,



May we find in ful - ler meas - ure  
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,  
Keep us faith - ful to the Gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share.  
Here the cross has cen - tral place.  
Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
Help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us,  
Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing,  
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant  
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion,



All our var - ied skills and arts  
Here in si - lence, as in speech,  
Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
All we have to give, re - ceive;



Wait the com - ing of the Spir - it  
 Here, in new - ness and re - new - al,  
 What it means in dai - ly liv - ing  
 We, who can - not live with - out you,  
  
 In - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 To be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, © 1979, Hope Publishing Company  
 Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH, 8 7 8 7 D; Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991, © 1942, 1970, Hope Publishing Company

*The following antiphon and psalm are appropriate as the procession approaches the Altar*

We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O Lord, in the midst of your temple. Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice.

*On arrival in the sanctuary, the Presider goes to the usual place, and the Eucharist begins with the Collect of the Day.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

*After the Collect, all extinguish their candles.*

*(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)*

A Reading from **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.

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

**Psalm 24:7-10**

- 7     **Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*  
          and the King of glory shall come in.**
- 8     **"Who is this King of glory?" \*  
       "The Lord, strong and mighty,  
          the Lord, mighty in battle."**
- 9     **Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*  
          and the King of glory shall come in.**
- 10    **"Who is he, this King of glory?" \*  
       "The Lord of hosts,  
          he is the King of glory."**

A Reading from **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.

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



**Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)**  
*(Please stand as able)*



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Luke**  
**Glory to you, O 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.

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**

**The Rev Nic Mather**

**Nicene Creed *(Please 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.**

**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.**

## Prayers of the People

*Celebrant:* Let us pray to the Lord who enlightens the nations and gives us hope by praying. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Leader:* The church has a mission to light the nations with love and hope. Lord send us to do your will. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our nation has resources and abundance like no other country Lord. Show us the way to share what we have with our own brothers and sisters in the United States and to help our neighbors around the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our world was a gift from you, and we are the stewards of your creation. Give us wisdom to conserve and protect all that you have made. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our community has the problems of homelessness, hunger, poverty, injustice, unemployment, and loneliness. Give us courage to address them as a church and as your disciples. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our friends and families are in need of healing. Give your grace, peace, protection, and healing to those we offer to you now. Especially we pray for David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Barb Dunlap, Larry Riley, Bill Norvell, Todd Healy and those you now name either silently or aloud. *Pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our life ends with new life in you. Bless the dying with peace and the grieving with comfort. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Our lives and wellbeing are held in your hand O Lord. Give us trust and faith in you and bless us this day and every day with the peace that only you provide. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

**The Peace** (*Please stand as able*)

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

**The Offertory**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

# I want to walk as a child of the light

The Hymnal 1982, #490

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.  
I want to look at Je-sus.  
I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and  
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.  
show me the way to the Fa-ther.  
shall know the joy of Je-sus.

## Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

*a tempo*  
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).

## Eucharistic Prayer B (*Please stand as able*)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.



*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,

**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 Stephen and 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 in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Cantor first time, Congregation second time and as antiphon response*

*Cantor or Choir*

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the  
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. Congregation 2. Cantor or Choir

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The  
The dis -

*Cantor*

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

**Ant.**

*Cantor*

One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. **Ant.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hands and the eucharistic minister will intinct the bread and place it on your tongue. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.*

*For those joining via Live-Stream: A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist*

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### **Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor**

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. **AMEN.**

## Now Let Your Servant Go in Peace



1. Now let your ser - vant go in peace;  
2. Be - fore the peo - ples you pre - pare  
3. Child, you are cho - sen as a sign  
4. Now let us sing our Sav - ior's praise,



Let praise and bless - ing here in - crease;  
Your way of life which all may share.  
To test the hu - man heart and mind;  
And tell God's good - ness all our days.



For in our midst your word is done And  
Your sav - ing pow'r is now made known; A -  
For se - crets hid - den in the night Shall  
While breath is ours, let praise be heard For



you have sent your Prom - ised One.  
mong the na - tions love is shown.  
be re - vealed in pierc - ing light.  
God's own faith - ful, sav - ing word.

Text: *Nunc dimittis*, Luke 2:29–35, adapt. by Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Tune: DICKSON, LM; Norah Duncan IV, b.1952, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

**Postcommunion Prayer** *(Please kneel as able)*

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

**The Dismissal** *(Please stand as able.)*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn**

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! If you are new today, please take a welcome packet and coffee mug found on the table at the front doors!

# Over My Head

## Refrain

O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head,  
 I hear mu - sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear  
 mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.

## Verses

*Solo:* 1. Oh when the world is si - lent, oh  
 2. And when I'm feel - ing lone - ly, I hear mu - sic in the air; and  
 3. Now when I think on Je - sus, now

*Assembly:* when the world is si - lent, oh  
 when I'm feel - ing lone - ly, I hear mu - sic in the air; and  
 when I think on Je - sus, now

*Assembly:* when the world is si - lent,  
 when I'm feel - ing lone - ly, I hear mu - sic in the air;  
 when I think on Je - sus,

*All:* there must be a God some - where. **D.C.**

Text: African American spiritual  
 Tune: African American spiritual; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1997, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Southwest Washington Symphony

Winter Concert

**FLAVORS OF SPAIN**

Sunday, February 2  
3:00 p.m.

Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts  
1231 Vandercook Way, Longview, WA

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov **Capriccio Espagnol**  
Mark Eric Fish **Ferdinand the Bull**  
(story by Munro Leaf)  
Maurice Ravel **Bolero**  
Emmanuel Chabrier **Habanera**  
Manuel de Falla **Ritual Fire Dance**

Thanks to generous donors  
all concerts this season  
are FREE!

# Choral Evensong



## The Feast of Absalom Jones February 13, 2025 @ 7pm

**SELMA**

**I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO**

WRITTEN BY JAMES BALDWIN  
DIRECTED BY RAOUL PEPE  
WITH THE VOICE OF SAMUEL L. JACKSON

**REEL THEOLOGY**

EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FILM

February 9--I Am Not Your Negro  
February 16--Selma  
February 23--The Hate U Give  
March 2--Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

**THE HATE U GIVE**

**SPIDER-MAN INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE**

Join us for Reel Theology beginning next Sunday, February 9 @ 6pm. Popcorn provided!

This year we are watching and discussing films that explore the lived experience of African Americans in our nation.

We begin on February 9 with a documentary focused on the life and wisdom of James Baldwin, Civil Rights leader and writer.