

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### The Presentation of the Lord

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 – 8:30 AM

#### WELCOME



The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

† Preacher – The Rev. Diane Burkland

† Officiant – Pr. Brian Griswold

† Worship Leader – Earl Hem

#### WORSHIP

##### **HYMN: We Belong to You**

Holy and kind, and just with all men  
Is the Lord who rules o'er the land  
We lift our voices and sing unto Him  
Who is holy and kind and just with all men

##### **Chorus**

Honor and Glory and blessing and power  
Belong to Thee O Lord among gods  
Honor and glory and blessing and power  
Belong to Thee O Lord among gods

##### **Chorus**

*"Holy and Kind", Written by Andy Nowlen, Jill Lyle and Robin Lyle; c. 1996 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, CCLI License # 22085334*

We belong to you, Lord; we belong to You  
All of our praises, belong to You

##### **Chorus**

Gracious Redeemer, merciful friend  
Perfect in all that You do  
Righteous and mighty before all men  
All of our praises belong to You

##### **HYMN: Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me**

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer, There is no more for Heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "all is mine", Yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior He will stay.  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need His power is displayed.  
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley He will lead.  
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, Yet not I but through Christ in me.
3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing "I am free". Yet not I but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day, I know He will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

*© 2018 CityAlight Music; Farren Love And War Publishing; Integrity's Alleluia! Music, CCLI License # 22085334*

**Prayer of the Day - Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **GOD'S HOLY WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Malachi 3: 1 - 4**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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 84**

<sup>1</sup>How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

**<sup>2</sup>My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**<sup>6</sup>As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.**

<sup>7</sup>They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**<sup>8</sup>O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**

<sup>9</sup>Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

**<sup>10</sup>For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.**

<sup>11</sup>For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**



### **HOLY GOSPEL**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 2: 22 - 40; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **SERMON – They were Amazed**

**Rev. Diane Burkland**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING HYMN: ELW #623 - Rock of Ages Cleft For Me**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,<br>let me hide myself in thee;<br>let the water and the blood,<br>from thy riven side which flowed,<br>be of sin the double cure;<br>cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r. | 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;<br>simply to thy cross I cling.<br>Naked, come to thee for dress;<br>helpless, look to thee for grace;<br>foul, I to the fountain fly;<br>wash me, Savior, or I die.            |
| 2 Not the labors of my hands<br>can fulfill thy law's demands;<br>could my zeal no respite know,<br>could my tears forever flow,<br>all for sin could not atone;<br>thou must save, and thou alone.     | 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,<br>when mine eyelids close in death,<br>when I soar to worlds unknown,<br>see thee on thy judgment throne,<br>Rock of Ages, cleft for me,<br>let me hide myself in thee. |

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a small portion of what we owe you but we ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and use them wisely in your service and for your glory. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† We recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud; with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the children and young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give them a place of honor and value among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen..**

## THE LORDS PRAYER

### **CLOSING HYMN: Step By Step**

O God you are my God, And I will ever praise you  
O God you are my God, And I will ever praise you  
I will seek you in the morning, And I will learn to walk in your ways  
And step by step you'll lead me  
And I will follow you all of my days. (repeat).

And I will follow you all of my days  
And I will follow you all of my days  
And step by step you'll lead me  
And I will follow you all of my days

© 1991 Kid Brothers Of St. Frank Publishing; Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, CCLI License # 22085334

**Dismissal:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

