

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

A Service of Holy Word and Holy Eucharist: The Fourth Sunday of the Epiphany  
The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

*Celebrant:* As we gather to worship, let us recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands and traditional territory of the Aspetuck River Valley dwelling Paugussett people.

Opening Hymn      Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (vs 1-3 & 5)

Hymnal #436

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the  
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
\*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner  
5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.  
2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRINTED / PODCAST / STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-700000. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** And blessed be his Kingdom now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Gloria      The Lord is My Light

Gray pew card

## 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.**

## The 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.

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

## Psalm 24

*Psalm 24:7-10*

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

**and the King of glory shall come in.**

“Who is this King of glory?” \*

**“The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.”**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

**and the King of glory shall come in.**

“Who is he, this King of glory?” \*

**“The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.”**

## The Second Reading

**Hebrews 2:14-18**

A Reading from the Book of Hebrews.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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 Hymn 135 Songs of thankfulness and praise (vs 1-2 before/vs 3-4 after)**

**Hymnal #135**

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;  
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
 4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;  
 and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;  
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
 where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
 man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
 When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); st. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). St. 4, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Salzburg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRINTED / PODCAST / STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-700000. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

## The Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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

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 (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 the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. John Branson

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

**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:  
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.**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of nations & for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this town, for every city & community, & for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those on our **parish prayer list ...** let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression & degradation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

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 our Savior 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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## Announcements

## The Holy Communion

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

## Offertory Anthem

## Christ Church Choir

### Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP p. 361

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.**

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 (*#S125 – white pew card*):

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
 People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Fraction Anthem**

**The Bread Which We Break**

*Gray Pew Card*

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

**A Prayer for Spiritual Communion** *(said by all):*

**We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and we pray you to come into our hearts, praying especially with those at home who cannot at this time receive communion. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

*A Special Note for Communion: Christ's table welcomes all. Please come forward to receive communion or receive a blessing. Simply extend a hand to receive communion. Indicate if you require a gluten free wafer. If you would like a blessing instead, simply cross your arms at your chest. If you take the wine cup, please consume it as you receive it and put the empty cup in the glass bowl.*

**Communion Hymn**

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

**Hymnal #324**

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man  
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -  
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood  
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,  
 he will give to all the faith - ful  
 that the powers of hell may va - nish  
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

our full hom - age to de - mand.  
 his own self for heaven - ly food.  
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRINTED / PODCAST / STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-700000. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**Prayer After Communion**

**BCP p. 365**

*Let us pray:*

**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.**

**Blessing**

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Lord dismiss us with thy blessing**

**Hymnal #344**

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's  
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion  
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;  
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40-1817). Music: Sicilian Mariners, Sicilian melody; first published *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRINTED / PODCAST / STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-700000. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.



## Announcements for February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP** sheet is located in the narthex. Please consider signing up.

**WED, FEB. 5<sup>th</sup> – BOOK GROUP:** Our book group will begin our reading of Pádraig Ó Tuama's *In the Shelter: Finding a Home in the World* on Wednesday, 2/5 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Please let Vicki know if you are interested.

**SUN, FEB. 9<sup>th</sup> - SOUPER BOWL FOR CARING:** Please consider bringing cash to drop in our soup pot next Sunday. All donations will go directly to Nourish Bridgeport.

**SUN, FEB. 9<sup>th</sup> – IRIS 5K RACE:** Our own Andy Hathaway participates each year in the Run for the Refugees in New Haven. If you'd like to sponsor towards his team, contact Andy at [andyhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:andyhathaway@gmail.com). More info: [www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org)

**SUN, FEB. 16<sup>th</sup> – ANNUAL MEETING:** Our Annual Meeting will be held during Morning Prayer on Sunday, 2/16 at 9:30 am. Committee members, please submit your reports to the office by 2/3.

**SAT, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> – SAVE THE DATE! PARISH FIELD TRIP TO ESSEX:** Join us for lunch at the Griswold Inn and a special viewing of the St. John Bible (a 20<sup>th</sup> Century commissioned, calligraphed and illuminated bible) with a docent at St. John's Church in Essex. Please let Vicki know if you are interested so we can plan a car pool.

**GIFT CARDS** to gas stations and grocery stores for people in need are always needed. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### UPCOMING WORSHIP DATES

**Sunday, 2/9 @ 9:30 am: Morning Prayer (Deborah Swann)**

**Sunday, 2/16 @ 9:30 am: Morning Prayer & Annual Meeting (Vicki MarkAnthony)**

**Sunday, 2/23 @ 9:30 am: Eucharist (Rev. John Branson)**

**Sunday, 3/2 @ 9:30 am: Eucharist (Rev. John Branson)**

**Christ Church Episcopal, Parish Office: 203 268 3569**

59 Church Road, Easton Connecticut

Vicki MarkAnthony, Sr. Warden; Tracy Carlucci, Music Minister

Vestry: Jim Swann, Jr. Warden; Bob Ellwanger, Treasurer; Peg Ellwanger, Clerk

Members: Russ Bailas, Amy Bailas, Marina Philips, Claire Wilkes