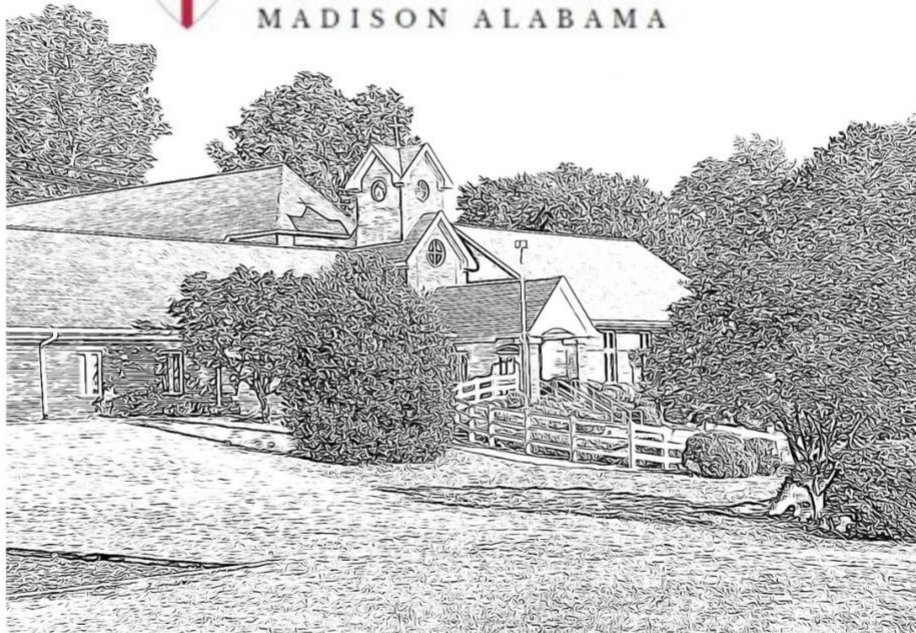




ST MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MADISON ALABAMA



The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple: Candlemas

February 2, 2025
8:30 AM/11:00 AM

Fr. Chris Hartley, Rector
Fr. Dillon Green, Associate Rector
Tom Killian, Music Director
Susan Fletcher, Organist

Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Prelude

“Andante Grazioso”

Susan Fletcher, Organist

(Déthier/ Callaban)

The Candlemas Procession

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant 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 thing; 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.**

During the singing of the following canticle, the candles are lighted.

Canticle 17

The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*)

S-260

The Choir

Celebrant Let us pray.

O 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.**

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

The people, their candles lit, follow the altar party into the Nave and take their seats.

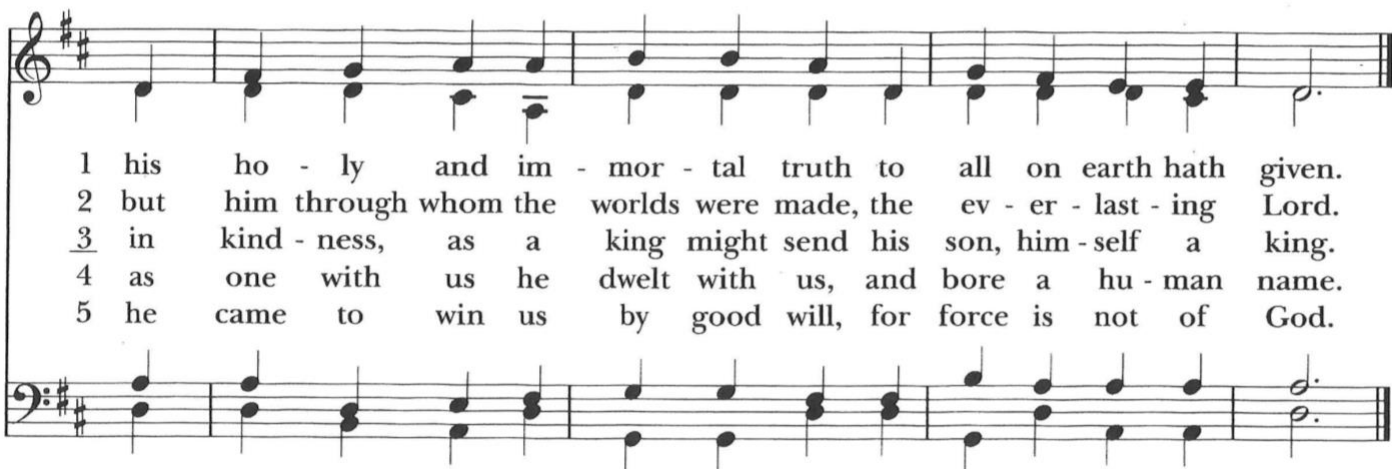
Opening Hymn #489

The great Creator of the worlds

The Hymnal 1982, #489



1 The great Cre - a - tor of the worlds, the sov - ereign God of heaven,
2 He sent no an - gel of his host to bear this might - y word,
3 He sent him not in wrath and power, but grace and peace to bring;
4 He sent him down as send - ing God; in flesh to us he came;
5 He came as Sa - vior to his own, the way of love he trod;



1 his ho - ly and im - mor - tal truth to all on earth hath given.
2 but him through whom the worlds were made, the ev - er - last - ing Lord.
3 in kind - ness, as a king might send his son, him - self a king.
4 as one with us he dwelt with us, and bore a hu - man name.
5 he came to win us by good will, for force is not of God.

6 Not to oppress, but summon all
their truest life to find,
in love God sent his Son to save,
not to condemn mankind.

Words: Epistle to Diognetus, ca. 150; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Tallis' Ordinal, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

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.***

All extinguish their candles.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

A Reading from the Book of Malachi

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!

The Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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”

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

Celebrant ✠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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Fr. Dillon

The Nicene Creed, *(please stand)*

All pray together:

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian, our Bishops;
Chris, our Rector; Dillon, our Associate Rector; Sam and Bob, our retired
clergy; Lauren, our missionary in Kenya; for our staff, vestry, and laity; and for
all clergy and people;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for our president, Donald; our vice president, JD; our governor,
Kay; our mayor, Paul; and for all who govern and hold authority in the
nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

We pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia;
our companion Diocese of Honduras and their Bishop, Lloyd; Department
of Mission and Outreach; Parish Administrators; Parish Vestries; for the
Food Bank of North Alabama, First Stop, and the Episcopal Relief and
Development; for St. Matthew's Grief Share Ministry; for peace in Ukraine
and the Middle East. Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

† Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and for those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

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

Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, † forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Offertory

“The Purification”

Choir

(Rachel Aarons)

Hymn #380 *(vs. 3)*

The Doxology

The Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus #S-129

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then 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,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Matthew, 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.***

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

Fraction Anthem #S-155

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Celebrant 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.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Hymn #259

“Hail to the Lord Who Comes”

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 (*all stand*)

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Hymn #436 (*vs. 1, 2, 3, 5*)

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

The Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Bourrée”

(*G.P. Telemann*)

Susan Fletcher, Organist



The 2025 offering envelopes are now available for pick-up. If you requested offering envelopes for 2025, they are available in the lobby on the table outside Gruman Hall. The deadline for picking up your offering envelopes is Sunday, February 9th.

Please pray for St. Matthew's members who are distressed in body, mind, or spirit:

Bill Byrd, Chuck Vickers, Dottie Aldredge, Gina Centanni, Terry Schuster, George & Sandra Burgess, Ray & Shirley White, David Osmond, Anna Post, Bev Ryberg, David Newton, Jane Prince, Mary Travers, Marie Lutz, Anne Sullivan, Judy Elkins, Lynda Johnston, Jack Brown, Bob & Eileen Bogard, Roger & Rhoda Kitchen, Brenda Kirkendall, Chris King, Eileen Lewis, Molly Killian, Laura Weimer, Mona Candia, Trudie Gruman, Barbara Carpenter, Father Chris Hartley, Judith Carleton, and Roberta Anderson.

Also pray for our friends and family members, especially:

Brenda Anderson, Diana Parks, Martha Bergmann, Chuck Sewell, Wes Patterson, Mike Rice, Samantha Rice, Richard Hattoway, Jenny Williams, Rosie Brown, Jack Cooper, Jewell Newton, Ginger Eich, Catherine S. Williams, Joe Allen, Caroline Thomas, Elyssa Nelson, Vaughn Cassell, Bill Fischer, Sally Flanigan, Theresa Richerson, Scott Marbut, Todd Newman, Jessica Goodwin, Cathy Taveras, Fran Woytowich, BB McCalpin, Bob & Peggy, Stephen Byrd, Bronwen Murray, Katie Ray, Sherry Sampson, Joe Frank Trevino, Emmy & Drew Champion, Ron Mandelbaum, Dave Knowles, Wade Allen, Emily Nebrig, Bobby Paysinger, Barbara Lemley, Steve Sands, Felicia Temple, John David Landin, Mike Bolton, Dr. Mark Bronner, Ashley Jenkins, Nancy Laws, Mileena-Haley Painter, Zach Guidry, Rachelle & Kevin Painter, Kim East, John Freedman, Mark Anderson, Judy Tuck, Kathleen Glor, Ann Reid Cronin, Jean Boyd, Elizabeth Hodges, Jill Kanuchok, Mike Mumfrey, Joyce Lewis, and Allan Scott.

WORSHIP SERVERS

8:30 am

11:00 am

Vestry of the Day	R Franz	
Altar Guild	D Buzby	G Lo/N Snell
Ushers	D Prince/B Buzby	T Sampson/N Snell
LEM	J Glasgow/K Scheuer	K Price/J Nixon
Lector	L Mack	J Salmon
Epistoler	D Carpenter	A Coiner
Intercessor	B Carpenter	J Anderson
Crucifer	S Bruce	C Bagwell
Gospeler	E Bruce	B Watson
Torch Bearer		N Rasmussen
Torch Bearer		M Rasmussen
Counter	W Christopher/P Lewis	M Barton/D Rasmussen
Hospitality	T Sampson	M Pezzula
Nursery	M Brown/A Anderson	M Brown/A Anderson

LIVE STREAM SERVICE REMINDER – *Please be mindful that the 11:00 am service is live-streamed every week. Therefore, names may be audible, and faces may be visible to anyone watching online.*