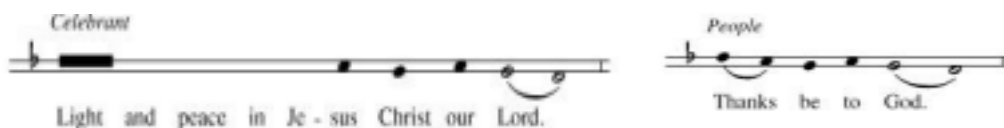




**The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord
and the Purification of Our Lady: Candlemas
Sung Mass + 10:30 am
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Bridgewater, NJ**

The Blessing of Candles

Please stand



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 people's candles are lit as the following is sung by the choir

Lord, you now have set your servant free * to go in peace as you have promised.
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.
Glory be to the one, holy, and triune God,
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

The Candlemas Procession

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.*

Once all candles are lit, the solemn candlemas procession begins, as all sing:

The Great Creator of the Worlds vv. 1-3

Blue Hymnal, 489

Station at the Creche

Let us pray. O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only-begotten, may rejoice forever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The procession continues as we continue singing verse 4 **Blue Hymnal, 489***

Station at the Font

Let us pray. Blessed God, you call forth light from darkness: Send the power of your Spirit upon your servants as they follow the footsteps of the founders of this parish, that they may continue to carry your Gospel to the people of this community. Fill them with your light, that they may shine with your radiance, drawing all to the brightness of your love and mercy; through Jesus, our Savior and true Light. Amen.

*The procession continues as we continue singing verses 5-6 **Blue Hymnal, 489***

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.*

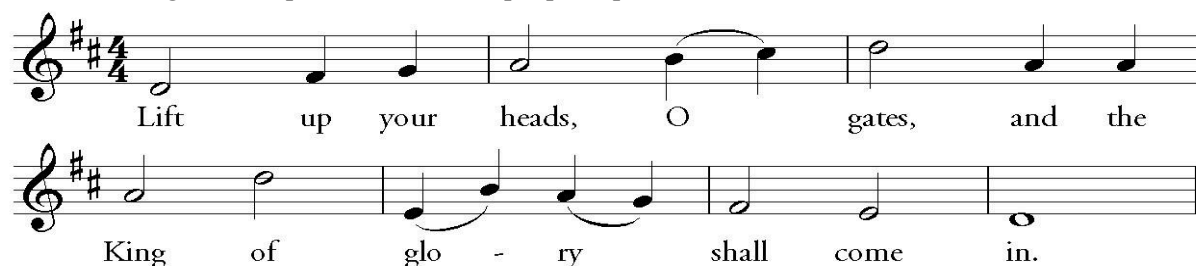
A Reading from the Prophet Malachi (Please be seated)

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

The cantor sings the antiphon and then the people repeat it



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the antiphon: "Lift up your heads, O gates, and the". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "King of glory shall come in." The lyrics are written below the notes.

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." **Antiphon**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

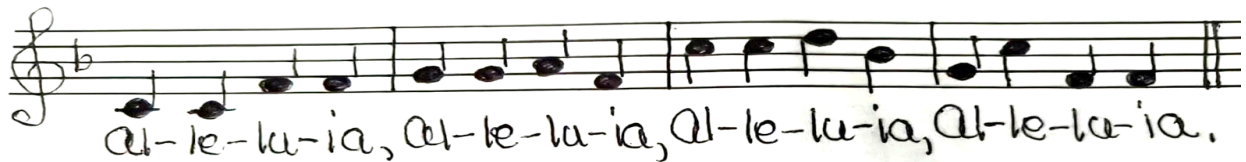
"Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory." **Antiphon**

A Reading from the Epistle 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. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

K. Shanklin



V: A Light of revelation to the gentiles, and the glory of your people, Israel.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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 the Lord.

The Homily

The Rev. Fr. Bruce Montgomery

The Nicene Creed
A Litany for God's Mission of the Church

BCP, 358
Please stand or kneel

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,
Have mercy on us.

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,
Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,
Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,
Have mercy on us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all
humankind for your love, *Savior, deliver us.*

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need
of your compassion, *Savior, deliver us.*

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from
lack of persistence and thoroughness, *Savior, deliver us.*

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading
the Gospel, *Savior, deliver us*

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom
in this time and place. *Hear us, O Christ.*

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation. *Hear us, O Christ.*

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of
refreshment. *Hear us, O Christ.*

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.
Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.
Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places. *Hear us, O Christ.*

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place. *Hear us, O Christ.*

Priest: Eternal God, you have promised your salvation to all peoples, and have given us a vision of a great multitude around your throne, from all nations, tribes, and languages: Help us as we bring this vision into our time and place; go with those who now undertake your work in this community ; and enable them to hear and to speak new words of hope and praise; through Jesus Christ, the living Word. Amen.

The Peace and Announcements

Offertory Choir Anthem: *The Lord Is My Light*

Lillian Bouknight

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
In the time of trouble, He shall hide me; whom shall I fear?*

Please stand to sing

Offertory Hymn *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*

Blue Hymnal, 277

The Liturgy of the Altar

Priest: Redeeming God, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name. Amen.

**The Eucharistic Prayer continues in the *Book of Common Prayer*, page 368
The Lord's Prayer *BCP*, 364
The Fraction and Lamb of God**

Lamb of God _____ you take a-way the sins of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God _____ you take a-way the sins of the world:
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God _____ you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

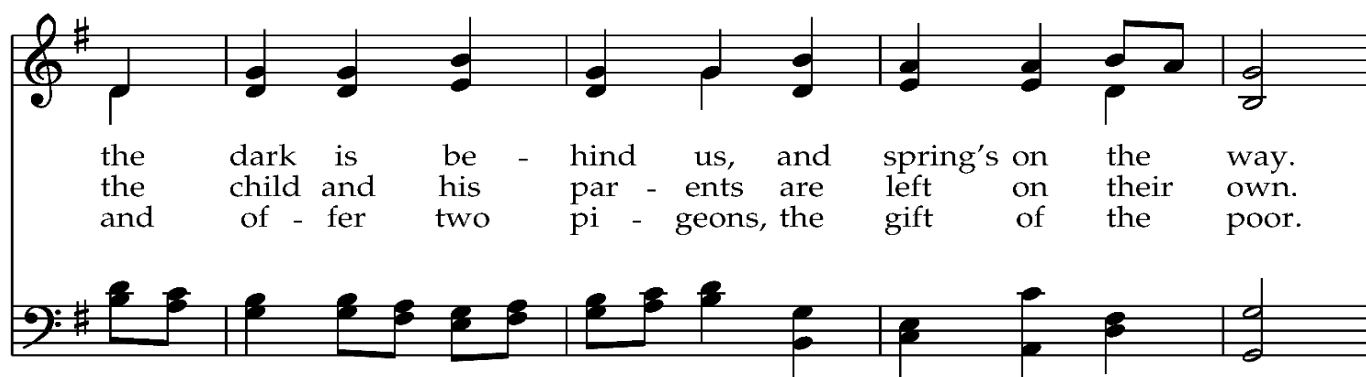
The Holy Communion

*All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
You may kneel or stand, you may receive the bread and the wine, or simply the bread.
If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

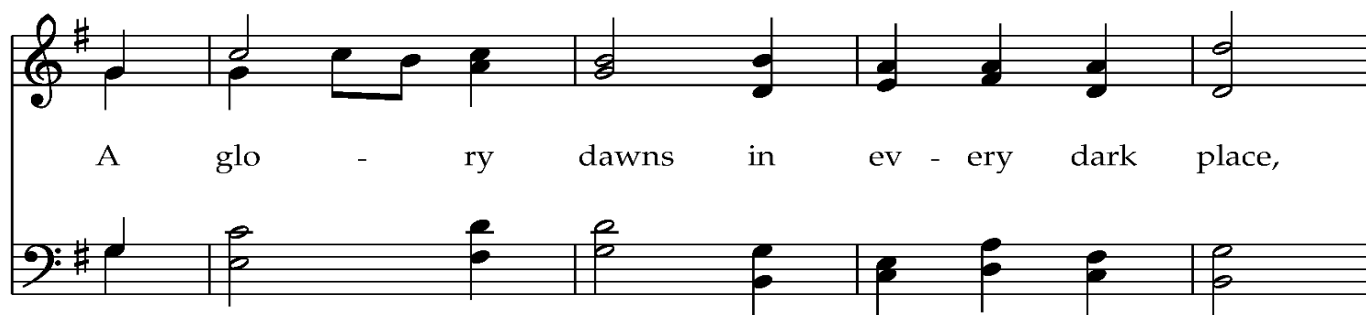
Communion Hymns



1 When can - dles are light - ed on Can - dle - mas Day
2 The kings have de - part - ed, the shep - herds have gone,
3 They go to the tem - ple, o - bey - ing the law,



the dark is be - hind us, and spring's on the way.
the child and his par - ents are left on their own.
and of - fer two pi - geons, the gift of the poor.



A glo - ry dawns in ev - ery dark place,



the light of Christ, the full - ness of grace.

**Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel or stand*)
Blessing and Dismissal**

BCP, 365

Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation* vv, 1,4,5

Blue Hymnal, 525

Serving Today

Thurifer: Fausto Beleno Crucifer: Nick Persson

Lector: Ben Todoroff Eucharistic Minister: Jennifer Persson

Ushers: David Persson,

Choir: Beth Hixenbaugh, Alison Jandak, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Preacher: Father Bruce Montgomery +

Celebrant: Father Rob Laws +

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesdays, 6 pm- Mass in the Lady Chapel

Sunday, February 9- Sabbatical Committee, 11:30 am

Sunday, February 16- Vestry Meeting, 11:30 am

Sunday, February 16 - Blood Drive in the Undercroft