

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355 - (209) 522-3267

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

The Presentation/Candlemas

February 2, 2025



Mission Statement

We are a worshipping, inquiring and inclusive community united in Jesus' name to change the world.

Welcoming Statement

We invite everyone to join in the communal life of the body of Christ, through participation and leadership in this congregation, and by fully sharing in the life and sacraments of this church. We affirm that each person is a child of God, and that those of every race, ethnicity, creed, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation and gender identity are called to be one with us.

CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

All are welcome to join us as we make our Candlemas procession around the outside of the church. Those who wish are welcome to remain inside.

We gather outside the church entrance. All are provided with unlighted candles. The congregation stands facing the celebrant.

The Celebrant greets the people with these words

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The following canticle is then sung or said, during which the candles are lighted.

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 our Father, 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, and come to the Light that shines forever, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Procession

(Deacon) Let us go forth in peace.

In the Name of Christ. Amen.

During the procession, all carry lighted candles; As we process the priest prays the following:

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 for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brother; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

When we reach the back of the church the following antiphon is said by all:

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.

As we continue the procession the following psalm is said:

Psalm 48:1-2, 10-13

- 1 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; *
- 2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, *
the very center of the world and the city of the great King.
- 10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
- 11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; *
- 12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; *
- 13 This God is our God for ever and ever; *
he shall be our guide for evermore.

The opening hymn is sung as we enter the church. (see insert)

Opening Hymn #93 Angels from the realms of glory

Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

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.

The Lessons

The first lesson is 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



Musical notation for Psalm 24:7-10, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the second line of text. The lyrics are: "Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors."

Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O everlasting doors.

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."

The second reading is 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.

Gradual Hymn #497 How bright appears the Morning Star

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2:22-40

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson

The Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin

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.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make us instruments of your peace.

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Blessings and Celebrations

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when they stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if they fall; and in *their* hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wedding Anniversary Prayer

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His Church. Send, therefore, your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Anniversary of Baptism

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit through the teaching of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was first baptized by John in the Jordan River. Bless this *child* of yours on the anniversary of Baptism, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may ever remain with *them*, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Sick

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn #517 How lovely is thy dwelling place

Doxology

The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we

turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

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.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *Amen.*

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

Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven, Hal-lowed be thy Name, Thy king-dom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our
dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas-es, As we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us,
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil. Thine is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for-ev-er. A-men

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have
 mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dem - er, re - deem - er, of the
 world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

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 are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Gluten free wafers are available. If you want just a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your body.

Communion Hymn #324 Let all mortal flesh keep silent

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

Blessing

Closing Hymn #657 Love divine, all love excelling

Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia. Grace be with you.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace.

We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

Coffee Hour-Parish Hall following Worship

Enjoy coffee or tea and something delicious each week in the Parish Hall. Spend a little time getting to know your Christian brothers and sisters before heading out to enjoy your Sunday.

St. Paul's This Week

**Tues, Feb 4-Noon Day Prayer & Jump Start Bible Study-
Noon, in Guadalupe Chapel, Parish Hall**

Wed, Feb 3-Morning Prayer-10 am-Zoom-

Contact church office for link-209-522-3267

Wed, Feb 3-Bellchoir Practice-6:30 pm, Church

Thurs, Feb 4-Holy Eucharist-10 am, Guadalupe Chapel

No mid-week Eucharist, February 13



For Health, Peace and Comfort:

Cherie Sheaffer; Claudine Romegialli; Pam & Mike Cox; Suzy Cano; Elaine Paradise; Deacon George; Paige; Denise; Ryan Anderson; Ann Mootz's sister-in-law; Mary Kinnaman; Michael Thorington; Ismael Huggins; Ken & Trish Hart; Mary Griffin; Joshua Trautmann; Christine Judd; Joel; Fr. Bob and Alexis Woods; Lennyn; Bob Jensen; Nell; Clare; Susan Sell; Christine Jayne; Howard; Cheryl; Thomas; Keith and Ginny; Brett; Colleen; Priscilla; Dennis; Rocky; Loretta; Ed and Roberta; Craig and Marti; Carol; Joy; Roxy and Kristina; Marlene; Steven; Laurence; Mark; Sherrie; Louisa; Jack; Deanette; Toni; Bonnie; Kelly; Lisa S.; Sue; Tony L; Robin; Pam W.; Mauro; Annamary and Jim; Mark; Polly; Denise.

Praise God:

The many ways that God heals and comforts his children.

Please Pray For:

Kristina Frias, for success in her job search.

Gabe Trautmann for success in his job search.

Ally Young for success in her job search.

Please pray for the victims of the wildfires in Los Angeles

Please pray for those in war torn areas everywhere: Ukraine, Holy Land, Gaza, Palestine and Afghanistan.

Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.

Please pray for the American people to listen to God's will in their hearts and do unto others as they would want done to them and their families.

Please pray for all travelers as they journey to and from their destinations.

February Ministry Schedule

Dates	Feb 2 nd	Feb 9 th	Feb 16 th	Feb 23 rd
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Judy T.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Jim P.	Nancy S. Judy T.
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie G.	Nancy S.	Judy	Rex
Lectors	Stephanie G. Theresa G.	Nancy S. Stephanie H-W.	Joyce B. Alex S.	Barbara V. Judy T.
Intercessor	Ann M.	Joyce B.	Nancy S.	Peter K.
Ushers	Carolyn L. Greg B.	Phil M. David L.	Greg B. Claudine R.	Ishmael H. Carolyn L.
Greeters	Carolyn L. Greg B.	Phil M. David L.	Greg B. Claudine R.	Ishmael H. Carolyn L.
Vestry Rep.	Ann M.	Joyce B.	Nancy S.	Peter K.



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Stephanie Gilmer in
Memory of her Beloved Mother

Message from Cn. Anna

Friends,

Please support our siblings in Christ in the Diocese of Los Angeles and their communities as they struggle with and recover from the various wildfires.

Donations can be made through Episcopal Relief and Development here: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>

Thanks,

Cn. Anna

Checks may be sent to:

Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 3006, Harlan, IA, 51593-0024, marked "CA Wildfire Relief"

Contact the church office, 209-522-3267, with questions.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Pastoral Team

Fr. Brian Dawson.....209-897-1612.....FrBrianDawson@gmail.com
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Other Important Contacts

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Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net
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Praesidium AcademyStephanie Gilmer

Vestry

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Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604pmkjfc@att.net

Joyce Bell, Lora Burnett, Sarah Hartmann, Ishmael Huggins, Peter Krewko,
Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Greg Burnett

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List