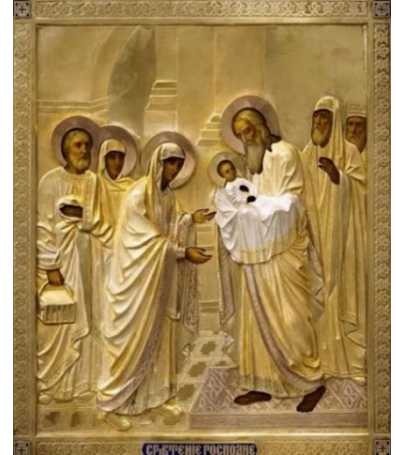


Sermon Notes-

The Presentation of Our Lord

[Malachi 3:1-4](#) [Hebrews 2:14-18](#) [Luke 2:22-40](#)

When Mary and Joseph go to the temple with Jesus after he was born, we get a glimpse into the life of a Jewish couple who are fulfilling the rituals of having a baby boy. We confirm that Mary and Joseph were a couple who did not have very much money; they brought two turtle doves to the Temple as an offering. As they walk into the temple they are greeted by two elders, a man and a woman Luke tells us carefully, and they notice Jesus. Simeon takes the child into his arms and praises God. Anna, a widow, also called a prophet, also praises God and speaks of the child for all who long “for the redemption of Jerusalem.



This story is about the Temple and where God is seen as present and the Child who is bringing God to the people. Anna and Simeon are seen at the Gate—not next to the Holy of Holies where the scribes and the Pharisees serve but where all can enter the temple. Luke is setting the scene again that this child who is sent is being sent to all the people. The widow who is marginalized sees the Savior and the elder who stands at the Gate recognize him.

What does it mean to get a glimpse of the Savior, the One who is promised, and not be able to see Him grow up? Simon tells us, it is enough.

“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.”

An encounter with the Holy changes us. When we reflect on that encounter, sharing the Good News of God’s Love, Truth, Justice, and Mercy, we also transform the world.

Traditionally this Feast Day is sometimes called Candlemas; the candles are blessed remembering Christ’s Light in the World, and we carry home the Light into homes and the homes of neighbors.

Howard Thurman writes—as we move into February:

After the prophets have spoken,
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart

Pray then for Peace in our broken world.

Pastor Susan+