

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"Joyful Mystery #4: Presentation" - James B. Janknegt

The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple 'Candlemas'

Rite II Holy Eucharist

February 7, 2021 at 8 AM

*The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Presider
Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music and Organist
John Beier, Senior Warden & Sydney O'Hagan, Junior Warden*

The bell is rung and the people stand.

Acclamation

BCP 355

Presider Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

Let us pray together the collect for purity.

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

BCP 356

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Collect of the Day

BCP 236

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that,
as your only-begotten Son was 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 people are seated.

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Reader 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84

Quam dilecta!

BCP 707

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!

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

Reader A reading from the letter to the 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The People stand.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Jesus' parents 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

Andy Kruger

Blessing the Water

Book of Alternate Services

The Presider moves to the pitcher of water.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Now bless this water, we pray you, that it may be a sign to us of our Baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord. Therefore let us stand and reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

The People stand.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as your self?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray

God of mercy and love, in baptism you welcome the sinner and restore the dead to life. You create a clean heart in those who repent, and give your Holy Spirit to all who ask. Grant that we may continue to grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ. Equip us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit, and fill us with faith in Jesus Christ and with love for all people, in the service of your kingdom. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Common Worship Alt

The Presider says

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.

The Intercessor prays

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:
look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

Lord, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:
look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

Lord, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:
look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Silence is kept for the people add their thanksgivings and petitions, then Presider concludes the prayers with the collect.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King.
Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfillment; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

**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.**

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.

Peace

BCP 360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people make a reverent bow to one another as an expression of peace. No physical contact is permitted.

Announcements

Andy Kruger

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Psalm 96:8

The Presider prepares the Altar, then People stand.

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider 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:

**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.

In a loud voice the People proclaim

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

BCP 364

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says

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

Invitation

BCP 364

Presider The Gifts of God:
People **for the People of God.**

Protocol for the Reception of Communion Bread

- ✠ *The people, starting from the pews closest to the sanctuary, are invited by the usher to receive Communion.*
- ✠ *Each Communicant must first sanitize their hands before proceeding to the Presider with hands cupped, the non-dominant hand on top, to receive the Bread.*
- ✠ *The Presider gives the Bread to each person saying: 'The Body of Christ.' The recipient replies: 'Amen.'*
- ✠ *After receiving the Bread, the communicant moves a short distance toward the right or left crossing door, removes their mask and consumes the Bread.*
- ✠ *After consuming the Bread the communicant may place their gift in the retiring offertory bowls stationed at each crossing door.*
- ✠ *The communicant then departs through the crossing door.*

What you need to know today ...

Baptismal Anniversaries When we think about birthdays, we immediately recall the date we were born and took our first breath in this world. But if we take a moment to reflect, we will realize that we have another "birthday" of even greater significance: the day we became members of the body of Christ...our Baptismal birthday. Through the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit anoints us and sets our inner compass, to walk in a path that is pleasing to God, to do all good works that God has planned for us, and to "seek God's face" [Psalm 27:8]. This is the path that ultimately leads us into abundant life both in this earthly existence, and in the world to come. Whether baptized as a child or an adult, we prayerfully grow in our understanding and appreciation of our baptismal identity, as individuals and as a community. Usually, on the first Sunday of every month, we acknowledge those who have a baptismal 'birthday' during the month in question and share with them in the renewal of baptismal vows. We hope this monthly recognition of our "birth from above" [John 3:3] will allow us to develop a deeper appreciation for the essence of our baptism.

Parishioners Celebrating Their Baptismal Anniversaries in February are:

Lynn Bianchini February 13
Max Bursack February 18
Maureen Frydlewicz February

Patricia Knapp February 5
Luke Robinson February 11
Stephanie Willix February 6
Joseph Erdody February 24

Confirmation Class Trinity's Confirmation class meets online this afternoon (Sunday, February 7), from 5 PM to 6 PM. Confirmation candidates are reminded to memorize the Lord's Prayer (contemporary version) on page 364 of the BCP.

Pledge Materials Pledge envelopes have been delivered by hand or mailed, please contact Sarah Gregory (908-347-6498) if you have not received your envelopes. Those which have not already been collected will be mailed or hand-delivered. Pledge Statements will be delivered or mailed with the distribution of ashes and holy water on Friday, February 12. An advance electronic copy may be requested by emailing Sarah Gregory at quanset19@gmail.com. The parish leadership is so grateful for your continued faithfulness. Please continue to mail pledges — labeled "To Financial Secretary" — to Trinity Church, 205 North Avenue East, Cranford, NJ, 07016.

"Remembrances and Recollections" The Trinity [website](#) contains a growing number of historical contributions from parishioners. There is a new entry from Bonnie Gentese, who spearheaded the annual "Breakfast with Santa" fund-raiser for many years, reflecting on the amount of work and great joy that resulted. Please share your story; contact any member of the Archival Committee: Vicki Goralski, Irene Telerico or Fran Witherington.

Forward Day by Day The Episcopal Church's devotional booklet covering the months of February, March and April are available. Email Marion Nechuta if you would like to receive a copy in the mail.

"From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference" "I have never been more profoundly aware of the need for passionate and practical commitment to the way of unselfish, sacrificial love that Jesus taught. Conversations with others across difference is not just a nice thing to do. It is a spiritual practice of love in action. It's how we reknit the fabric of our democracy and the human family of God." —[Presiding Bishop Curry] Click [here](#) to learn more.

What you need to know this week ...

The Parish Office Marion Nechuta is in the office on Thursday afternoons to field phone calls only, no in-person contact is permitted at this time. Marion may be contacted via the parish email or her cell (908-451-4498) during the rest of the week between 2 PM and 5 PM.

Intercessory Prayer List From Monday to Friday at Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each person on the prayer list is prayed for. You are encouraged to add and update your prayer requests using this [link](#). Please remember to move the person you are praying for to the 'Thanksgiving for Healing' section if/when that becomes appropriate.

The Daily Offices Morning and Evening Prayer are held online Monday through Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM respectively.

Emergency Food Supplies for St. Joseph's Social Service Center Bring supplies to Junior Warden Sydney O'Hagan (774-218-3461) and leave them on her front porch at 205 High Street, Cranford every Wednesday. Click [here](#) for a list of appropriate items.

Women's Bible Study Nancy Miller leads this group every Thursday from 10 AM to 11:30 AM via Trinity's online platform.

Virtual Choir Trinity's Virtual Choir meets online every Wednesday night from 8 PM to 8:45 PM. The Winter session runs through March 24 and the choir will prepare and present several anthems for Lent and Easter. Anyone who enjoys singing should consider participating, even without the ability to read music. Click [here](#) for more information and to sign-up or visit trinitycranford.org and click on 'Music.'

Compline Consider ending your day with the peaceful prayer office of Compline every Thursday night at 8 PM via Trinity's online platform.

Lent Parcel Project The Season of Lent begins with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 17. On that day Trinity will offer an in-person service of ashing at noon and an online service of ashing at 7 PM. Ashes will be distributed to every household in the parish allowing individuals to ash themselves or each other (in the case of families) at the appropriate time during the online service. In addition to ashes, holy water will be distributed at the same time for use during the Sunday services in Lent. Lent is the season par excellence for preparing for baptism and reviving our own baptismal identity. Every Sunday in Lent our gathering rite will include the penitential action of dipping one's fingers into holy water and making the sign of the cross as a reminder of the cleansing waters of baptism. Father Andy is looking for volunteers to help with both the packaging and distribution of the ashes and holy water on Friday, February 12. The packaging will take place in Witherington Hall from 11 AM until noon; the distribution will begin at noon but can happen over the weekend. If interested and available to help with either the packaging or distribution, please sign up using this [link](#).

What you need to know for the future ...

Handbells at Trinity The Handbell Choir resumes in-person rehearsals beginning this Wednesday, February 10. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6:30 PM to 7:15 PM through March 24 to prepare several pieces for Easter. Please note, there is no rehearsal for either choir on Ash Wednesday. Contact Anthony Rafaniello (anthonyrafaniello@gmail.com) to participate or if you have any questions.

Ash Wednesday This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 17. Trinity will hold an in-person service at noon and an online service at 7 PM. At the in-person service we will return to the ancient practice of sprinkling ashes on the head rather than the imposition on the forehead. This practice has the advantage of limiting touch during a pandemic and has been approved by Bishop Stokes. Those who participate in the online service are encouraged to use the blessed ashes which will be sent out as part of the Lent Parcel Project.

Sandwich Sunday On the third Sunday of the month, making it February 21 this month, food is delivered to our sister parish, St. John's in Elizabeth that same afternoon. Click this link for the items needed. Please deliver items to 310 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park by Saturday, February 20. Help is also needed to make sandwiches on Saturday, February 20, please contact Marion Nechuta (908-451-4498) if you would like to help.

St. John's Pantry Trinity can help stock the shelves. Click here for the list of items needed and which will be delivered with the sandwiches on February 21. Please deliver items to 310 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park by Saturday, February 20

Winter Clothing Outreach is also collecting warm clothes for our sister parish; click on this link to see the types of acceptable gifts. Please deliver items to 310 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park by Saturday, February 20

The Greening Committee This Committee is strategizing how to reduce our environmental footprint, both as a church and as individuals. The first suggestion is to bring your iPad or smartphone to church to access the bulletin on the church's new WiFi connection. It saves paper; plus, you can view the beautiful artwork in color, and even enlarge the font. The Committee's next meeting is Tuesday, February 23, at 7 PM via Trinity's online platform. Contact Casey Woodruff (cwoodruff@jonbramnick.com; 908-868-4915) to join or for more information.

"Embracing Lent: Inspiration from the Twelve Steps" This year's Lenten course will be facilitated by Patrick Milas who teaches research and some spirituality courses at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He asserts, "The 12 Steps have done wonders for the lives and families of mutual support groups such as AA and Al-Anon. But you don't have to struggle with addiction or dependency to benefit from the Gospel-laden 12 Steps. This Lent, explore with your Trinity Church family how to repent, reconcile and renew, step-by-step." The course consists of four sessions, between 7 and 8 PM, beginning on Thursday, February 25 via Trinity's online platform.

† February 25 – Peace with God: Steps 1-3

† March 4 – Peace with Ourselves: Steps 4-7

† March 11 – Peace with Others: Steps 8-10

† March 18 – Keeping the Peace: Steps 11-12

Seamen’s Institute For the month of February Outreach is collecting for the “Christmas at Sea” project. See the attached list. Interested in knitting hats for Seamen’s Institute? Please contact Marion Nechuta for patterns. For those who have already knitted hats for this ministry, please deliver them to the home of Marion Nechuta 310 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park by Saturday, February 27. They will be blessed before being delivered.

237th Annual Diocesan Convention, Saturday, March 6 Because of the unprecedented pandemic, the Diocesan Convention will be held virtually. Diocesan Convention is a time when clergy and representatives from around our diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome to worship together, conduct business, and listen to presentations, but only our elected delegates have the right to vote.

The Baptisms of Our Catechumens The sacrament of baptism will be offered at the Great Easter Vigil and on Sundays during the season of Easter at the 8 AM in-person and physically-distanced service. Only one person, or multiple members of the same family, will be baptized at each service. During the Easter season a significant number of ‘seats’ will be reserved for the catechumen and their family members. But due to the nature of baptism, some ‘seats’ must be available to members of the parish; also, the baptisms will be streamed online. All services other than the Easter Vigil are at 8 AM. Those seeking baptism for themselves or for their child are invited to request one of the following dates (if available):

- | | |
|--|--|
| † Easter Vigil, April 3 at 8 PM (Evan Ortiz) | † Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2 (Lilianna Ilich) |
| † Second Sunday of Easter, April 11 (Henry DeVelde) | † Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9 |
| † Third Sunday of Easter, April 18 | † Last Sunday of Easter, May 16 (Wesley Ditzel IV) |
| † Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25 (Aurora Tsiolas) | † Day of Pentecost, May 23 (Matias Juarez) |

The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

Towards the end of the birth narrative of Jesus in St Luke’s Gospel, Jesus is presented in the Temple by his parents at the age of forty days, according to Jewish custom for all males; Luke conflates this with Mary’s purification, then required after childbirth. The aged Simeon and Anna are there to greet Jesus, the former uttering the *Nunc dimittis*, and prophesying about the contradictions of Jesus’ future ministry (Luke 2.22–40). This gospel event is celebrated in a festival forty days after the celebration of the Nativity, on February 2 in the Western calendar (we have transferred the fast to the first Sunday following). In the East, where it originated in the fourth century, it is invariably called *Hypapante*, the ‘meeting’ of the five, a sign of the new community. In the West, it has been variously called ‘The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary’ and treated as a Marian feast, or ‘The Presentation of the Lord’, as nowadays in both Anglican, Episcopal and Roman Catholic books. ‘Candlemas’ is a medieval nickname, of North European origin, referring to the ancient custom of a procession with lighted candles before the Eucharist on this day (see Luke 2.32).

Paul F. Bradshaw. New SCM Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship . Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd. Kindle Edition.

Trinity Episcopal Church

205 North Avenue, East, Cranford NJ 07016

Phone: 908–276–4047 TrinityCranford@gmail.com – TrinityCranford.org

The Rev. Andrew David Kruger,

Rector of the Parish Trinity Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey

Personal Cell: (609) 933-5227 – Email: fr.andrew.kruger@gmail.com

Rector’s Sabbath: Father Andy takes his Sabbath on Mondays