



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Candlemas)

7pm Choral Communion



The service will feature a candlelight procession in which all who are present will take part. As we will hear in the Gospel reading, the ancient Simeon greeted the arrival of the Infant Jesus with the words: “Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace.” Simeon recognized the Christ Child as his Saviour and carried Jesus, the Light of the world, in his arms, and so we too will carry our lighted candles as a sign of that light that came into the world. During this service, all the candles for the next year will be blessed.

Mass Setting: *Missa Dixit Maria* – Hans Leo Hassler
Motet: *Senex puerum portabat* – William Byrd

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(The Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, BCP, page 266)

Saint George's Anglican Church, 2222 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS, B3K 2Z3

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