

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hold onto the peace of Christ, and right where you are, and pass it to those you see with a wave, a hand over your heart or some sign. Keep passing the peace throughout this day.

Prayer for Illumination

Mighty God,

Move among us now with your Holy Spirit, that we too might hear and experience the wonder and joy of the living Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Luke 2:22-40

BE THE CHURCH

Find a cell phone or computer.

Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

1 Our scripture passage for today tells the story of young Jesus being blessed in the temple by his community of faith. Two prophets, Anna and Simeon, proclaim praise and blessings for Jesus. The church is the people, and we cannot do faith without one another. Knowing that, take a moment to text or email someone in your faith community.

2. Think of the people who have served as Anna and Simeon in your life—pointing out good news and Jesus when they see it. Send those people a message or video message, of peace or a short blessing, giving thanks for them.

Reflective Music

*Hymn 22 vs. 1,4 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

SCRIPTURE REFLCTIONS on Luke 2:22-40

1. Notice the characters in this story. For each character, imagine what emotions they might be feeling. Which character(s) do you relate to most—Mary, Joseph, Simeon, or Anna?

2. The text today speaks of Jesus being presented in the temple. In many ways, this mirrors the ritual of baptizing babies at a young age in worship. Share a meaningful baptism memory.

3. Both Anna and Simeon publicly display their faith, telling all who will listen about Jesus and their dreams for Jerusalem's future. What things do you speak up about? What are things you have remained silent about? What prevents you from speaking?

Your Turn: Finally, focus on the "now what"? What is your takeaway from the story? What are you charged to do, think, or feel? _____

Hymn 36 vs. 1,2,4 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CREATIVE REFLECTION

1. Read the poem, "Swell" printed below.
2. Underline the words or phrases that stand out to you.
3. What topics of conversation create a swell of emotions for you?
4. What things are you so passionate about that you cannot help but speak them out loud?

Swell | Luke 2:22-40 —by Sarah Are
*You know that feeling when you fall in love?
Time-stands-still and moves too fast.
You'd give up sleep just to talk all night,
Because there's so much to say and not enough time.*

*It's that full to the brim,
Over the stars,
Living is dreaming,
Too-good-to-be-true Kind of feeling?*

*I imagine that's how Simeon and Anna felt
When they saw Jesus that day.
I imagine it was that full to the brim,
Over the stars,
Living is dreaming,
Too-good-to-be-true
Good news kind of feeling.*

*I imagine it was love.
And I imagine that that good, good news
Swelled to the tip of their tongues
Until they could not keep silent.*

*So may we know what Simeon and Anna knew,
Which is that some dreams we hold close to our chest,
For ourselves to cherish and never forget.
But other dreams must be spoken out loud—*

*Dreams of justice and love and hope, here and now.
So today my prayer is to know that swell,
For there is good, good news
That we must tell.*

December 27th 10AM
1st Sunday After Christmas
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he
rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the commun-
ion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and
the life everlasting. Amen.

*Sung Response

The First Nowell Hymn 56 vs. 6

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, And with His blood our
life hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of
Israel.

Presenting Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would
bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I
can, I give him, give him my heart. Amen.**

Offertory

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy king-
dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

*Hymn 29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Liturgy

Here are in the midst of Christmas,

We speak of love.

We speak of joy.

We speak of candle light and hope.

We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

We speak of "glorias" and angel choruses.

All: We speak the words, "Do not be afraid."

Here in the midst of Christmas,

We are called to speak, for the world needs a light.

A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not over-
come it.

Light All the Candles

Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

*Hymn 56 vs. 1,2

The First Nowell

*Prayer of Confession

Generous God,

you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself,

but often we find it hard to take notice;

we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.

Forgive us, generous God,

for the casual way we treat your gift of love.

Cast out our sin and enter in,

be born in us today.

*Song of Assurance

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;

Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He

hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest for evermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!