

February 2025

Dear St. Timothy Folk,

As I mentioned last month, Epiphany is the season of manifestation and revelation. This year we hear of one of the less well-known events of Epiphany, the Presentation. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is always celebrated on February 2nd, 40 days after the Nativity. Also known as Candlemas and the Feast of the Purification, it commemorates the presentation of Jesus and the purification of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple forty days after Jesus' birth, by the requirements of Jewish law (Lv 12:2-8). According to the account of Lk 2:22-39, the presentation of Jesus was also the occasion of the meeting of Jesus with Simeon and Anna. Simeon's prayer of blessing is the basis for the canticle *Nunc dimittis* (see BCP, p. 120). Celebration of the feast dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem. It was introduced in Rome in the seventh century, where it included a procession with candles and the singing of the *Nunc dimittis*. The celebration came to include the lighting and blessing of candles which were carried in procession. This feast was known as Candlemas." [Episcopal Dictionary of the Church]

On February 9th, we hear the story of the miraculous catch of fish, and Peter, Andrew, James, and John leaving their boats to follow Jesus. February 16th and 23rd we hear parts of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, which shares core teachings with the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew.

On February 16th we expect to have Deacon Devon Smyth with us. Many of you will remember Devon from her seven months with us in 2022 when she was a candidate for the diaconate. After two years in Carrolton, she has now been assigned to the Northwest Georgia Convocation, and the six Episcopal churches in NW Georgia will be the beneficiaries of her presence and preaching on a regular basis. Blessings in this Epiphany season!

Rev. Linda+