

Epiphany IV



Simeon & Anna See Jesus

**February 2, 2025
10 am**

**Church of the Holy Nativity
4238 Pimlico Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
www.holynativitybaltimore.org**

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer
Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Our help is in the name of the Lord;

The maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Gracious Father, almighty and eternal God, you created all things out of nothing, and by your command caused the labor of bees to be revealed in the perfection of wax. You commanded your servant Moses to keep lamps continually burning before you. Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of the true light who enlightens everyone coming into the world. As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the darkness of night, so also may our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit that we might avoid the darkness of sin, see your salvation, and attain to the Light that never fades away. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

1 How bright appears the Morning Star,
with mercy beaming from afar;
the host of heaven rejoices;
O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!
We, too, will lift our voices:
Jesus, Jesus!
Holy, holy, yet most lowly,
draw thou near us;
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

2 Though circled by the hosts on high,
he deigned to cast a pitying eye
upon his helpless creature;
the whole creation's Head and Lord,
by highest seraphim adored,

H497- *How Bright Appears the Morning Star*

assumed our very nature;
Jesus, grant us,
through thy merit, to inherit
thy salvation;
hear, O hear our supplication.

3 Rejoice, ye heavens; thou earth, reply;
with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,
for this his Incarnation.
Incarnate God, put forth thy power,
ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,
till all know thy salvation.
Amen, amen!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise be given
evermore, by earth and heaven.

How bright appears the Morning Star, #497 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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

LEVAS 243

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,

Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.

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, Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,

Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.

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.

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,

Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. Amen.

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day 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.

OLD TESTAMENT

Malachi 3:1-

4Thus says the Lord, 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.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 24:7-10

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

8 “Who is this King of glory?” *
**“The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle.”**

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

10 “Who is he, this King of glory?” *
**“The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.”**

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God’s children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

H616 – *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* (v. 1 & 2)

1 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed,
great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

2 He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

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

Glorify to you, Lord Christ.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

4 Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing;
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

H616 – *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (v. 4 & 5)

5 O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his Name shall stand for ever,
his changeless Name of Love.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, #616 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: We are the beloved children of God. In faith and love we come to pray for the church and for the world, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For Donald, our President, Wes, our Governor, and Brandon, our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For peace on earth and in the hearts of national leaders, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For all the people on earth that they may listen to the prophets God sends, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For all who teach God's word, that they may be faithful in guiding people to the light of truth and light, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For parents, teachers, and youth workers, that they may live with the gospel each day, sharing their love with all, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the young people in our community, that they may be inspired by the ideals of Jesus and follow him in their daily living, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For all who are afflicted with pain, sorrow, or loneliness and all who care for them. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus and Shirley. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayers

Celebrant: God of all nations, look with love on this world and its people. Bless the work of your creation, and help us to be strong in following Jesus, who is our brother and our Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

Celebrant: 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.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

Senior Warden

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2 King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

H324 – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

his own self for heavenly food.
3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4 At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, #324 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

DOXOLOGY

H380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

+ *The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface, then continues,*

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:

SANCTUS

S130

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 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. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to [sing],

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.
Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN

LEVAS 95 - *O How I Love Jesus*

1 There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

3 It tells me what my Father hath
In store for ev'ry day,
And though I tread a darksome path,
Yields sunshine all the way.

*O how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!*

Refrain

2 It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea.

4 It tells of one whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part,
That none can bear below.

Refrain

Refrain

O How I Love Jesus, #95 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Frederick Whitfield (1829-1904). Music: American Melody.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the

Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you, those you love, and all those God calls you to love, this day and forevermore.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

TBD

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Let Us Build a House

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B $\flat$ C Dm



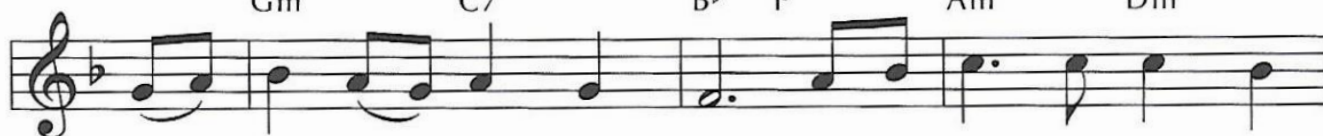
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B $\flat$ F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B $\flat$



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B $\flat$ A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B $\flat$ F C7

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus and Shirley.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

Announcements

Soup, Sandwich & Prayer
Wednesdays – Noon -1:15pm
Hope House

Zoom Bible Study – Isaiah
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm
Meeting ID: 869 7275 3486
Passcode: 145505

February 2, 2025	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany First Sunday Meal 4:30 pm Celebration of New Ministry and Institution of Rev. Dr. Mario Conliffe St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
February 15, 2025	Absalom Jones Celebration 11 am Cathedral of the Incarnation Holy Nativity's Community Choir will perform
February 23, 2025	Youth Activity – Sneaker Ball (ages 12-15) 4-6 pm Church lower level No fee but registration required
March 2, 2025	Karaoke for Christ 4-6 pm A Holy Nativity fundraiser will be held at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church 4711 Edmondson Ave.
March 3, 2025	Pancake Supper
March 5, 2025	Ash Wednesday Service at 12 Noon
March 9, 2025	Lent I First Sunday Meal
March 16, 2025	Lent II Guest Preacher: Deacon Neva Brown

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
