

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.

**Sermon**    *We are Family*  
Rev. Sharon Carter  
Rev. Carol Ferguson

### Responding in Faith

**The Service of Giving** *\*all offerings today will go to the Christmas Joy offering\**  
**Prayer of Dedication**

**Offering Music** *O Come All Ye Faithful*  
Crescent Springs Praise Band

## Notes

**+Response** *Angels We Have Heard on High (v.3)*        #23

**The Service of Holy Communion**  
**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**  
**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord 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 truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy holy holy is the Lord of hosts. 2x)**

**The whole world is full of God’s glory.(3x)**

**Holy is the Lord!**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer after Communion**

### Going into the World

**+Hymn** *The Trees of the Field STF2279*

**Charge and Benediction**

**+Postlude**





December 31, 2017 • Christmas 1  
 +Stand as you are able  
*Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold type*

**Preparing Ourselves**

**Prelude**  
**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship**

L: Let us praise the Lord!  
**P: For God created the sun and moon, the heavens and the earth.**  
 L: Let us praise the Lord!  
**P: For God created plants and animals and human beings, and called them good.**  
 L: Let us praise the Lord!  
**P: For God is with us each and every day, bringing new life to all people.**  
*All: Let us lift up God's name above all names! Together let us praise the Lord!*

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray: **Holy God, you are the author of our existence, the maker of our world and the force behind all creation. May our worship today be joyful and pleasing to you; and may we feel you among us as we sing your praises. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together: 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 forever. Amen.*

**+Hymn** *Joy to the World* #40  
*Led by Crescent Springs Praise Band*

**Call to Confession**

**Confession**

Let us pray: **Patient God, we lay before you the things we have not done well, the people we have not treated well, and the experiences that have left us unwell. We confess especially the many cracks in our relationships, and how we struggle to see others as you see them. We confess to carrying the gift of your call to love and serve as a burden. Send your mercy over us;**

**As children of God, what are we heirs to? How can we live into that inheritance as humans living in a broken world?**

refresh us with your peace; grant us strength for the year ahead. We want to walk as your children. In Christ's name we pray, Amen. (moment of silence.)

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

L: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.  
**P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Song** *O Come All Ye Faithful (refrain)*  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**The Peace**

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.  
**P: And also with you.**

**Anthem** *How Many Kings?* Jeff Carter  
**Children's Time** Rev. Carol Ferguson

**Hearing the Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Readings**

**Galatians 1:4-7** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**Hymn** *Gather Us In* STF2236

**As a parent, how does it feel to hear people predict great things for your child? How might Mary and Joseph have felt upon hearing the prophecy from Simeon and Anna?**

**Luke 2:22-40** When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they 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