

**December 31st, 2017**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**  
*(\*indicates standing as you are able.)*

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SONG "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" 2088

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Christians We Have Met To Worship"  
By: William Moore Arr. By: Mark Hayes  
Piano Duet Mrs. Arlene Zook and Ms. Maris Swartz

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is born; give him glory!

**People: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him.  
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

**People: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!**

\*HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" 240

PRAYER (Let us pray together)

**O mighty God, by the birth of your holy child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

SPIRIT CHOIR

LAMBS' TALK "Where Children Belong" 2233

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(using the word sins and sin)*

THE OFFERING

*(If you give electronically, you will find a Green E-Giving card, located in the pew-card rack, to place in the offering plate.)*

Offertory "Noel in G" by Daquin

\*Doxology (tune of "The First Noel")

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**  
**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN "There's A Song in the Air" 249

\*SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 22-40

SERMON Back to Galilee ... For the Time Being

\*THE APOSTLE'S CREED

\*HYMN "How Great Thou Art" 71

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE "Another Year Is Dawning" arr. by McDonak  
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Rev. Francis Norton  
Rev. Danny Lemons  
Ms. Bev Morton  
Mr. Don Dickinson  
Ms. Beth Dickinson  
Mrs. Arlene Zook

Associate Pastor  
Worship Leader  
Organist / Choir Accompanist  
Chancel Choir Director  
Spirit Choir Director  
Spirit Choir Accompanist

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Luke 2:22-40

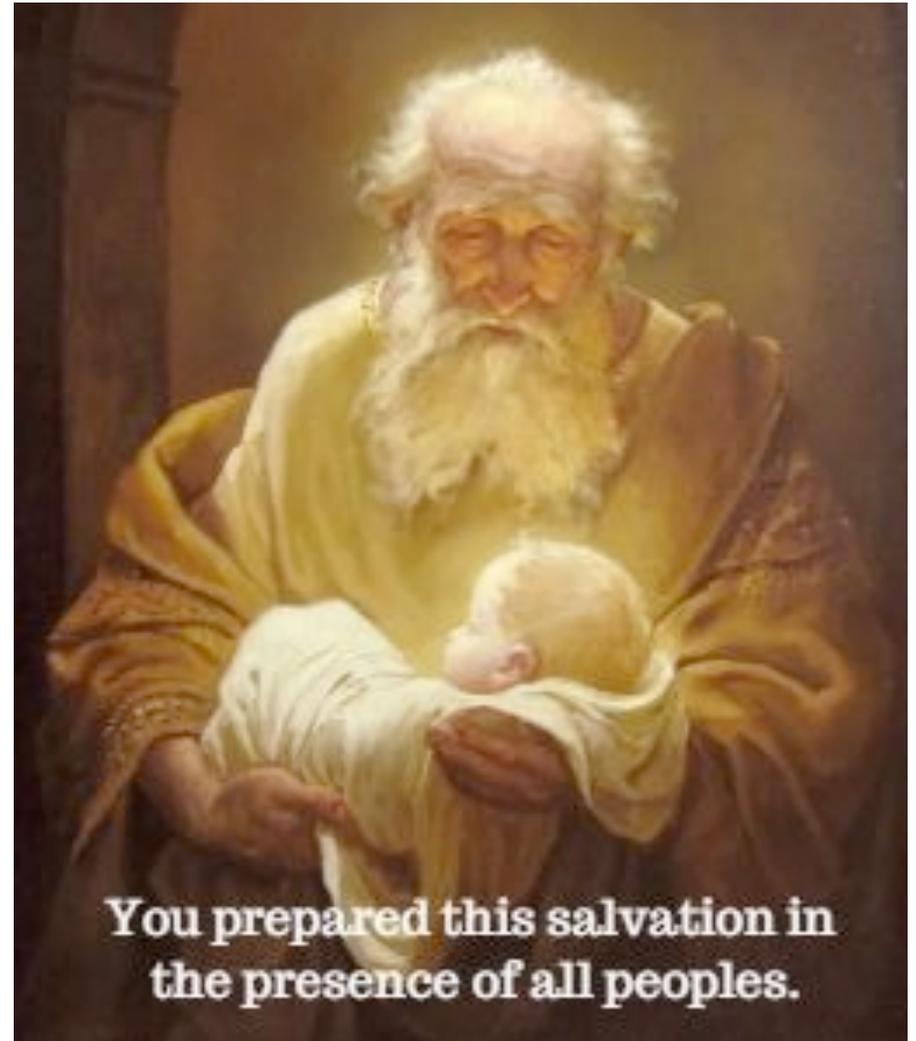
When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (It's written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.") They offered a sacrifice in keeping with what's stated in the Law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus' parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, Now master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel.

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an eighty-four year old widow. She never left the temple area but worshiped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.



 **MESSIAH Church**  
...GROWTH WITHIN, OUTREACH TO ALL...

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