



# Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

## Holy Eucharist

### The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025



## Web Edition

*Called to Life — Compelled to Love*



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

**May our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.**

All are welcome in the worship and fellowship of the Church of the Nativity. May you find grace and hope in this service.

*Streaming:* Our principal services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming is marked with an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

Prelude

*Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.*

*A bell is rung, and the service begins.*

*Opening Hymn*

# 349 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*<sup>1</sup>

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;  
come ye before him, and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk, he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,  
approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why, the Lord our God is good;  
his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Opening Acclamation <sup>2</sup>

Perfect Light of revelation,  
**as you shone in the life of Jesus,  
so shine in us and through us,  
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,  
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy.  
Amen.**

“Love”

Introduction

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to God and shown to God’s people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

The Collect <sup>3</sup>

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

God of Anna and Simeon,  
whose law makes known the gift of life,  
whose love exposes our hardness of heart:  
by your Spirit  
may we receive your faithful word to Gentile and to Jew  
and know your reconciling presence offered for all the world;  
through Jesus Christ, the Light and the Glory of God,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

# Unfolding the Scriptures

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

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.

*Malachi 3. 1 – 4*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 84*

*Quam dilecta! 4*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!  
**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;  
**by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my Sovereign and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way!**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**They will climb from height to height,  
and you, the God of gods, will reveal yourself in Zion.**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.

**Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,  
**and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

For you, Lord God, are both sun and shield;  
you will give grace and glory;  
**no good thing will you withhold, O Lord,  
from those who walk with integrity.**

O Lord of hosts,  
**happy are they who put their trust in you!**

A reading from the first letter to the followers of Jesus in Corinth.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

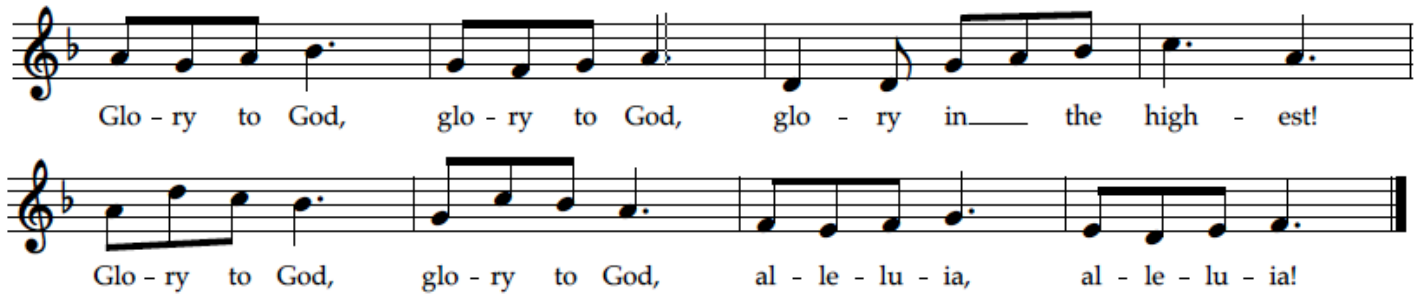
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*1 Corinthians 13. 1 – 13*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**



The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

♪ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** ♪

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 turtle-doves 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 for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped 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 favour of God was upon him.

*Luke 2. 22 – 40*

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. ♪

Homily

The Prayers of the People

✠ God of grace,  
✠ receive our prayer.

## Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbours;**

**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**

**we give in to scarcity and fear;**

**we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your loving-kindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**

**that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,

✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sin,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

**And also with you.**

# Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

*Monetary contributions to the Church of the Nativity and its ministries as we live out God's mission can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in the mailbox, or made via e-transfer to [donations.nativity@gmail.com](mailto:donations.nativity@gmail.com)*

Offertory Hymn

# 486 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*<sup>5</sup>

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver; let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.**

**Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,**

**changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!**

Prayer over the Gifts<sup>6</sup>

Almighty God,

accept the joyful offering of your Church,  
and grant that your Son may shine in us  
as the light that lightens every nation.

We ask this in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,

always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise

through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the temple

in substance of our flesh to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people

and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations

while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,

he was lifted high upon the cross

and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart

when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name that we, too,

have seen your salvation

and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, - God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
 for the goodness and love you have made known to us  
 in creation;  
 in calling Israel to be your people;  
 in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
 and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him  
 to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
 to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
 and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
 out of sin into righteousness,  
 out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
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, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death,**  
**we proclaim his resurrection,**  
**we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
almighty Father, now and for ever.



A musical score for the text "Amen, amen, amen." The score is written for a piano, with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The text "A - men, a - men, a - men." is written below the notes. The score consists of six measures. The first two measures are "A - men," the next two are "a - men," and the final two are "a - men." The melody is a simple, repetitive pattern of notes, and the accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus teaches us  
in the language and version of our comfort:

### **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 for ever.**

**who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever**

**Amen.**

*We keep silent and pray for a short time.*

### The Breaking of the Bread <sup>8</sup>

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

### Communion <sup>9</sup>

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.  
**Thanks be to God!**



## Spiritual Communion

*All who are unable to be physically present to receive the eucharist may wish to pray one of the following prayers of reception for spiritual communion <sup>10</sup>:*

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who gives yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

*or*

Come, Lord Jesus, and make in my heart your dwelling place and home. I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and so, through your presence in bread and wine I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God. As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people, rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

*or*

Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine. I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life. Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated from you. Amen.

**Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with us, our pattern and our King,**

**still to the lowly soul his presence doth impart  
and for a dwelling and a throne chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we your presence seek; may ours this blessing be:  
give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple fit for thee.**

## Prayer after Communion <sup>12</sup>

God for whom we wait,  
you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who did not die till they had welcomed the Messiah.  
Complete in us your perfect will,  
that we in Christ may share in your eternal kingdom;  
for he is Lord for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## Doxology <sup>13</sup>

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Parish Announcements

## The Blessing of the Candles

Our help is in the name of the Lord;  
**The maker of heaven and earth.**

*The choir will sing the Nunc Dimittis.*

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace  
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

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 labour 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.**

Blessing

...  
**Amen.**

*Closing Hymn*

# 380 *O Worship the King*<sup>14</sup>

Verses 1, 2, 4, & 6

**O worship the King, all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing his power and his love;  
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
his chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**O measureless Might, ineffable Love,  
while angels delight to hymn thee above,  
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Dismissal

**Go in peace; live in hope.  
Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

# Upcoming

## **Soup-er Bowl Sunday - February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Kansas City – that’s so last year.  
Philadelphia? Go Birds, I guess?

We’re continuing our tradition of many years: using the NFL’s Superbowl to help food banks in our community!

Join the ‘competition’! Next Sunday, we’ll all bring in soup—and see which side of the church (north toward parking lot, south toward King St) can ‘win’!

## **Annual Vestry - February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

Our parish’s annual vestry meeting will be held in person following the 10 o’clock service on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have reports or information that needs to be included in the Vestry Report, please have it to Laura by February 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Your Daily Prayers are Requested:**

### *For the Church:*

For Susan our bishop;

and for & all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;

For the parish of Holy Trinity (Chippawa), Niagara Falls;

For Anne, our Metropolitan Archbishop and Acting Primate;

For the worldwide Anglican Communion,

remembering the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand,  
and Polynesia;

### *For those in our parish cycle of prayer:*

For Brian & Shirley; for Brian, Eleanor, Michael, Meghan, & Maddie;

for Matthew, Lesley, & Owen;

### *For the needs of the world:*

### *For peace:*

### *For those we know in need of healing:*

### *For those who have died, and those who mourn:*

**Thank you for your daily prayers for the people, worship,  
fellowship, and ministries of the Church of the Nativity**





# The Church of the Nativity

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1831 King St. East  
Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8



(905) 549-4335



admin@worshipwithnativity.org

The Right Reverend Susan Bell  
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin  
The Reverend Canon David Linn  
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson  
Mr. Peter Harding  
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

*Bishop of Niagara*  
*Rector*  
*Honorary Assistant*  
*Parish Deacon*  
*Director of Music*  
*Parish Administrator*

Mrs. Jan Collinson  
Mr. David Eccles  
Ms. Gayle MacDonald  
Mr. Derek Smith

*Wardens*

## Sources

Our cover image is “La presentación de Cristo en el templo” by Kelly Latimore. She has granted permission for the non-commercial use of this image with attribution.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Text: Psalm 100; Eng. Para. attrib. William Kethe (1530? – 1594?). Music: Melody Geneva, 1551. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>2</sup> *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

<sup>3</sup> Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*, 2008. Drawn from *Alternative Collects for Years A, B & C of the Revised Common Lectionary and Seasonal Prayers over the Gifts and after Communion*, prepared by Liturgy Task Force of the General Synod’s Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee.

<sup>4</sup> *A Liturgical Psalter* (2016). General Synod from the Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>5</sup> Text: Charles Wesley (1707 – 88). Music: John Stainer (1840 – 1901). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>6</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>7</sup> Preface: Church of England, *Common Worship*. Canon: *Book of Alternative Services*, Prayer 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>9</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*.

<sup>10</sup> Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Text: St. 1, 4, John Keble (1792 – 1866), alt.; st. 2 – 3, *Mitre Hymn Book*, 1836, alt. Music: Melody Johann Balthasar König (1691 – 1758); adapt. William Henry Havergal (1793 – 1870); desc. Derek Holman (1931 – 2019) ©. Used under OneLicense A-604280.

<sup>12</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

<sup>13</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*.

<sup>14</sup> Text: Robert Grant (1779 – 1838). Music and bass: William Croft (1628 – 1727); desc. Alan Gray (1855 – 1935); fauxbourdon Harvey Grace (1874 – 1944). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

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<sup>15</sup> Latimore, Kelly. La presentación de Cristo en el templo, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54414> [retrieved January 28, 2025]. Original source: Kelly Latimore Icons, <https://kellylatimoreicons.com/>