Prelude   "He is Born, the Holy Child" David Paxton
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Welcome

Opening Words Worship Ways

One: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,
Many: God is there.
One: When Jesus is presented at the temple,
Many: God is there.
One: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,
Many: God is there.
One: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,
Many: God is there.
One: This very morning,
Many: God is here.
One: In the future we cannot see,
Many: God is there.
Many: Let us worship God!

Opening Response   "Jeusu, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child"

Invocation   Worship Ways

Creator, the world you have made is powerful and dangerous, diverse and beautiful. By praising your goodness in all creation, we creatures learn our place and know our strength. Open us here to recognize the One you sent into this complicated world, Jesus--Holy One, Human One, Vulnerable Child— At home wherever there is rejoicing, or struggle, or anguish, or hope. Teach us to follow Jesus along the paths of praise and service which lead to You. Amen.

The Witness of Music Sue Clauss

Reading
Luke 2:22-40

22 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 [23](as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), [24]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.'
25 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. [26]It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. [27]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, **[28]Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,**
[29] 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
**   according to your word;**
[30] for my eyes have seen your salvation,
[31]   which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
[32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles
**   and for glory to your people Israel.'**
33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. [34]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 [35]so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 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, [37]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. **[38]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.**

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. [40]The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

For the wisdom contained in these words we give thanks. Amen.

Sermon Rev. Wendy Bruner

Hymn "What Child Is This?"

Joys and Concerns
  Prayer
    Creator, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be your name.
    Your kin-dom come, your will be done
    on earth as it is in heaven.
    Give us this day our daily bread,
    and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
    and lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
    For yours is the kin-dom, and the power,
    and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

How Shall We Join God's Work in the World
    Gracious God, we give thanks.
    We ask your blessings on these gifts of time,
    talent, and treasure as we use them to join
    Your work in the world. Amen

Closing

Postlude   "Let All Rejoice This Christmas Day" Ross Anderson
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