

The Feast of Lights is (apparently) a modern application of the ancient celebration of the Feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Feb.2). Traditionally, Candlemas was celebrated by the People all bringing lighted candles to their churches on Candlemas Eve. They then processed into the dark church bearing their candles, thus celebrating Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the temple 40 days after his birth to present him to God as the Law commanded. The People remained in the Church, bearing their candles while a service was celebrated. They then returned to their homes bearing the blessed candles.

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Lights, as a liturgical, active reminder of all who have carried the Light and Word of Christ to the world through the centuries. In the Narrative, we will remember and honor the Apostles, Paul, the Bishops and other Clergy, and all who have borne Christ's light. Then, we will remember that we, too, are bearers of His Light, and act this out by liturgically carrying lighted candles out into the night. What we do is much more than lighting and bearing candles. We are reminding ourselves that it is we whom Christ left in the world to carry on his work, and to spread his light. It is customary to bear one's candle home where the flame may be transferred and allowed to burn for a time, reminding us that Christ is the light of the world, the light of our lives, and the light of our homes.

NOTE: If you have coats, it is suggested that you slip them on quietly during the reading of the Narrative. At the end of the reading, the Junior Young Churchmen will come down into the Nave and light the candles of those in the front of the church. Turn and light the candles of those in back of you until the light is spread throughout the church. At the end of the service, the congregation is asked to follow the procession out of the church, bearing their candles. It is customary to go right to your cars and return directly to your homes bearing the lighted candles.

Acolytes: Tom Wood
Carl Bottom

The Junior Young Churchmen will light the candles during the Narrative.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
10627 PATTERSON AVENUE
Phone - 282-2101

The Rev. Hugh A. Whitesell
Mr. Drew Cooke

Vicar
Organist

CANDLEMAS

February 3, 1974

Vespers and The Feast of Lights

8:00 p. m.

PROCESSIONAL - silent

Introit - Matthew 5:14

Vesper Prayers

THE VESPER HYMN 173 (sung kneeling)

The altar candles are put in place and the Christ Candle is lighted.

Psalm 67

The Word of God

1st Lesson: Luke 2: 22-23, 25-33, 39-40

Nunc Dimittis - HYMNAL 671

2nd Lesson: John 1: 1-9

HYMN 158 (2nd tune, omit vss. 3 & 4)

The Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Evening Litany

The Collects

A Minor Benediction

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THE FEAST OF LIGHTS

The Narrative

Geoffrey Wren

- 1) The True Light - Jesus the Christ
- 2) The Calling of the Twelve
- 3) The Light That Failed
- 4) Others Spread the Light
- 5) The Light is Spread to All People

The Blessing of the Lighted Candles
HYMN 20 (vss. 1 & 5 only)

Dismissal

RECESSIONAL HYMN 258