

### *On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser*

This past Wednesday was the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, also known as Candlemas. Today we mark this feast with the blessing of candles to celebrate Jesus as the light of the world.

Forty days after Christmas, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple, where they met Simeon and then Anna, elderly people who had spent much of their lives hoping and waiting for God to send the Messiah. As soon as the Holy Family entered the door, Simeon immediately recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and took the baby into his arms, praising God. Simeon said, in so many words, that he was so happy and so fulfilled he could die.

The image of Simeon holding Jesus with such joy reminds me of my late grandfather, Papa. Papa always had a love for babies. I have a pretty large extended family, so I can't think of a time when there wasn't someone with a baby at our family reunions. Whenever I went to my grandparents for Thanksgiving or Christmas, Papa had a baby in his arms. Perhaps it was an excuse not to help my grandmother with the hosting. In any event, I knew that when Callaway was born, I would need to hand her over to Papa as soon as I walked in the front door. And that's exactly what happened.

This is what God does with each of us. When we are born, God takes us into God's arms, holds us tight, and rejoices. At Candlemas, we affirm that no matter what we've done or what has happened to us from birth until now, nothing can make us fall out of the arms of God.

This is most true when we're coming up short, feeling a bit off, or muddling through life. In fact, it's not in spite of our misgivings and failures, but because of them, that Jesus is near, presenting himself to us. He is the Light that no darkness can overcome, the Life that death could never kill, and the Love that will never, ever let us go.

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### **THE PRAYERFUL PLIE – February 17**

The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser is joining Faith on Pointe as a guest teacher for “The Prayerful Plié.” This six-week series blends ballet and spiritual direction. Each themed week pairs selected theological readings with a customized ballet class which concludes with a period of journaling and reflection, using movement from class as the basis for our conversation. “The Prayerful Plié” will be held on Zoom from **7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays starting February 17**. Go to [faithonpointe.com/classes](http://faithonpointe.com/classes) to learn more and register. Only two spots remain!

### **20s/30s OUTING – February 25**

The 20s/30s Group will meet at the Morgan Library & Museum (one block north of the church) **Friday, February 25, at 6:00 p.m.** and then head to a local bar for drinks and discussion at 7:00 p.m. Admission to the museum is free, but we must reserve tickets. Contact the Rev. Dr. Nate Lee at [nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:nlee@churchoftheincarnation.org) to RSVP and/or to be added to our 20s/30s email distribution list. More details to come!

### **“LUNDI GRAS” AT MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR – February 28**

The Moravian Open Door Committee is organizing a Mardi Gras bingo party to be held at Moravian Open Door (347 E. 18th St.), a transitional housing facility for homeless adults. The party will be from **6:00 to**

**8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28** – hence, Lundi Gras!

We are seeking donations of \$10 gift cards to serve as bingo prizes, as well as refreshments (individually wrapped, please. Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser at [adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org) to RSVP for the party and/or to make a donation for this event. Suggested gift cards include CVS, Starbucks, Chipotle, Subway, Trader Joe's and Whole Foods.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY – March 2**

Begin your observance of a Holy Lent with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. We offer services on Ash Wednesday at 8:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. The 12:15 p.m. service includes organ music with soloists from the Incarnation Choir and will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of our annual Confirmation and Inquirers' Class. If you are interested in becoming a member of Incarnation or would simply like to explore the basics of the Christian faith as experienced in the Episcopal tradition, you are encouraged to attend. **The class will be held on five consecutive Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Dining Room. Participants can also join by Zoom.**

Everyone should discover something of interest, find their faith enriched, and make deeper relationships within the parish. We will cover the fundamental doctrines of our faith, church history, reading the Bible, and more.

Confirmations will occur at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 3, when the Rt. Rev. Catherine Roskam, retired Suffragan Bishop of New York, will be with us to preach and celebrate the Eucharist. Contact the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser at [adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org](mailto:adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org) for more information or to enroll in the class.

### **EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION**

**Sunday Bible Study:** Bible Study is held in the Parish House on Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. (Masks are required.) We generally follow the Yale Bible Study program, which offers course materials on select books of the Bible, deepened by insights from Yale Divinity School professors.

**Sunday School for Children:** During the 11:00 a.m. service, children ages 3 to 10 depart the service with their teachers for Sunday School in the Parish House. (Masks are required, and all teachers have been vaccinated.) They return before the end of worship. See our website, [churchoftheincarnation.org](http://churchoftheincarnation.org), for more information on Children and Family Ministries.

**Wednesday Holy Eucharist:** Join us each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. for this Rite I spoken service of Holy Eucharist, which includes a brief homily and organ music.

**Thursday Candlelight Communion:** Join us each Thursday at 6:15 p.m. for Candlelight Communion, a service of Holy Eucharist that incorporates chant and silence as well as elements of contemporary worship. This service is informal and contemplative, with music led by a Cantor and a brief reflection by one of the clergy. You can also stream this service on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation](https://youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation).

**Daily Office:** Services of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer and Compline are held via Zoom. To receive Zoom access information and view the weekly schedule, join our email distribution list by filling out the yellow Connect Card found in your pew or signing up through our website.