



The Eucharist on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple; Feast of Candlemas

Welcome to St Matthew Croydon.

If you are new to our church, please make yourself known at the end of the service to one of the wardens or a member of the clergy.

We meet after church to share tea and coffee and enjoy learning more about each other.

We do have a hearing loop – please switch your hearing aids to the ‘T’ position if you need this help.

Toilets are available, and the warden will happily direct you should you need it.

Fire exits are clearly marked and, in the event of any incident, you will be calmly directed to the correct exit.

Please turn your mobile phone off – and if you can’t do that, please ensure that the sound is off.

Our services are often livestreamed – if you have any queries about this, please speak to the warden at the back of the church. If you don’t want to appear on video please look for the labelled seats.

No filming of any of our services is permitted.

Our children usually go to Young Church in the middle of our service, and any children visiting are welcome to join them.

Please join in the words in bold print.

Don’t forget to silence your mobile!

¶ The Gathering

♪ Hymn 753 ♪

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise Him in the height;
rejoice in His word, ye angels of
light;
ye heavens, adore Him
by Whom ye were made,
and worship before Him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise Him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new
birth;
praise Him who hath brought you
His grace from above,
praise Him Who hath taught you
to sing of His love.

O praise ye the Lord,
all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, His glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story
of what He hath done.

O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to Him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord!
(Amen, amen.)

*Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) based on Psalms
148 and 150*

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Introduction

The president introduces the day's liturgy:

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 the Father and shown to his 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.

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your

Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, + pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

We sing

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

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

Silence is kept.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Malachi 3.1-5

Thus says the Lord God: ¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Please be seated

♪ Hymn 719 ♪

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth You now bring us:

shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth Your word, Lord,
and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by the blood I may enter Your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:
shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
so our faces display Your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here may our lives tell Your story:
shine on me, shine on me.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1987 Make Way Music

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-18

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature.

Alleluia.

Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law.

Alleluia.

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

The Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

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'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner

thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of
God, eternally begotten of the
Father, God from God, Light
from Light, true God from true
God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were
made. For us and for our
salvation he came down from
heaven, was incarnate from the**

**Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man. For our
sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried. On the
third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again in
glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have
no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who
proceeds from the Father and
the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, who has spoken
through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church. We
acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins. We look
for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world
to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through
Christ who is our light and life.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the
glory of Israel: look in mercy on your
Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world: look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor: look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace: look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected: look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King.

Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfilment; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

The Peace

The President introduces the Peace with these or other suitable words

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
and then says

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

♪ **Offertory Hymn 698** ♪

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love Thee;
and, that love may never cease,
I will move Thee.

Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring Thee.

Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise Thee.

Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol Thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol Thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Prayer of Preparation

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give 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:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and
resurrection
you have set us free. You are
the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

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.

Agnus Dei

The Agnus Dei is sung:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us, Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us, Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The president and people receive communion.

♪ **Anthem** ♪

¶ Candlemas Procession

A Hymn *is sung while the candles are lit.*

♪ **Hymn 113** ♪

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

Refrain:

A glory dawns in every dark place, the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,

the child and his parents are left on their own.

Refrain

But Anna and Simeon recognize there the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

Refrain

They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
but trust is complete at the end of their life.

Refrain

For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross.

Refrain

Like Anna, like Simeon, may we have trust,
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last.

Refrain

The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on
Candlemas Day.

Refrain:

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace*

Elizabeth Cosnett (Copyright: © 1982 Stainer & Bell, Ltd)

Prayer

Silence is kept.

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the

darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Notices

Nunc dimittis

Sung to the plainchant tone

The ministers and choir go to the door of the church.

As they process the Nunc dimittis is sung choir and congregation

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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen

The Book of Common Prayer

Final Responsory

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna. Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

(Ministers and People extinguish their candles.)

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we bless one another in your name.

Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

The ministers and people depart.

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