

St Andrew's, Chesterton All-age Communion

30 January 2022

**Candlemas: Presentation of Christ
in the Temple**



¶ The Gathering

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn

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

*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.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

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

The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

The light is increasing and spring's in the air.
Look back with thanksgiving! Look forward with awe!

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

Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936)

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Prayers of Penitence

In a dark and disfigured world
we have not held out the light of life:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In a hungry and despairing world
we have failed to share our bread:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

In a cold and loveless world
we have kept the love of God to ourselves:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president declares God's forgiveness

The Collect

**Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore 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. Because 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

Please stand

**Alle-, alle-, allelu-i-a,
Alle-, alle-, allelu-i-a!**

**Lo! Here is Emmanuel, here is the Child,
The Son that was promised to Mary so mild;**

**Alle-, alle-, allelu-i-a,
Alle-, alle-, allelu-i-a!**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philipians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn

- 1 Hail to the Lord who comes,
comes to his temple gate,
not with his angel host,
not in his kingly state :
no shouts proclaim him nigh,
no crowds his coming wait.
- 2 But borne upon the throne
of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her duteous love,
in her fond arms at rest ;
thus to his Father's house
he comes, the heavenly guest.
- 3 There Joseph at her side
in reverent wonder stands ;
and, filled with holy joy,
old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised child,
the glory of all lands.
- 4 O Light of all the earth,
thy children wait for thee :
come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be.

John Ellerton (1826–1893)

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Prayer at the preparation of the table

Father,
in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the offering of your Church
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 re-
demption.
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 God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,
hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who
comes in the name,
he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,
hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The president recalls the Last Supper

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

The Eucharistic Prayer ends with
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has 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

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace, 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. Visitors who are communicant members of their home churches are welcome to receive communion at St Andrew's. If you have not been prepared for communion or would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please signify this by bringing your order of service with you.

Please wait to be invited forward to receive Communion. You will receive communion in both kinds (the bread will be dipped in the wine) unless you indicate to the minister that you would prefer just to receive the bread.

During Communion

- 1 There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

- 2 Jesus my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain :

- 3 When I stand in glory
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever
in that holy place.

Keith Green (1953–1982) and Melody Green (b. 1946)

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Prayer after Communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts
beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

¶ The Dismissal

Notices

Candlemas Procession

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.
Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.
You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.
Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.
As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

*The ministers go in procession to the font; the congregation
turns to face them as the canticle is sung*

The Song of Simeon (Nunc dimittis)

- 1 Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease ;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.
- 2 All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.
- 3 This your great deliverance
sets your people free ;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.
- 4 Christ, your people's glory !
Watching, doubting cease :
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)
based on Luke 2.29-32 (*Nunc Dimittis, The Song of Simeon*)

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Final Responsoy

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and
angels: may Christ be born in our hearts today.

Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

Praise to Christ our light.

The Conclusion

We stand near the place of new birth.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

We turn from the crib to the cross.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

Thanks be to God.

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