

# St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Welcome to our "Hybrid" Eucharist Service. We welcome those who are joining us here in Church, or via Zoom from their homes.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

## Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

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 service, 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.

## Hymn: Longing for Light (Sheet)

*As the hymn is sung Candles are lit in the Church.*

## Candlemas Procession

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

*All* **May the Lord bless you.**

**As we light a candle for the Church**, we ask God's blessing on Christians everywhere, especially those who are persecuted for their faith.

**As we light a candle for the world**, we ask God's help for all those areas where there is warfare or injustice.

**As we light a candle for ourselves**, we ask God's guidance in all our dealings with other people.

**As we light a candle for those who suffer**, we ask God's strength for them and for their loved ones.

**As we light a candle for those who have gone before us to our home in heaven**, we entrust them to God's loving care.

Let us pray that God will bless these candles and bring light to our homes.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

### Confession

God's servants nourish themselves by the means God has given. They respond to the leading of the Spirit. They speak out against injustice. May we bring to God those times when we have failed to do these things.

For when we have been insensitive to God's leading.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

For when we have not heeded the words brought to us by God's servants.

Christ, have mercy. *All* **Christ, have mercy.**

For when we have not paid attention to the unfairness and injustice suffered by so many of our fellow human beings.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

### Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself  
and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

### Gloria

**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.**

## 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.

*All* Amen.

## Reading: (Malachi 3:1-5)

A reading from the Prophet Malachi

The Lord Almighty says, “I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger you long to see will come and proclaim my covenant.”

But who will be able to endure the day when he comes? Who will be able to survive when he appears? He will be like strong soap, like a fire that refines metal. He will come to judge like one who refines and purifies silver. As a metalworker refines silver and gold, so the Lord's messenger will purify the priests, so that they will bring to the Lord the right kind of offerings. Then the offerings which the people of Judah and Jerusalem bring to the Lord will be pleasing to him, as they used to be in the past.

The Lord Almighty says, “I will appear among you to judge, and I will testify at once against those who practice magic, against adulterers, against those who give false testimony, those who cheat employees out of their wages, and those who take advantage of widows, orphans, and foreigners—against all who do not respect me.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 24

The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord;  
the earth and all who live on it are his.  
He built it on the deep waters beneath the earth  
and laid its foundations in the ocean depths.

**Who has the right to go up the Lord's hill?**

**Who may enter his holy Temple?**

**Those who are pure in act and in thought,  
who do not worship idols  
or make false promises.**

The Lord will bless them and save them;  
God will declare them innocent.

Such are the people who come to God,  
who come into the presence of the God of Jacob.

**Fling wide the gates,  
open the ancient doors,  
and the great king will come in.  
Who is this great king?**

He is the Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, victorious in battle.

Fling wide the gates,  
open the ancient doors,  
and the great king will come in.

**Who is this great king?  
The triumphant Lord—he is the great king!**

### **Hymn: Shine, Jesus, Shine (419)**

#### **Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people.

*All* Alleluia.

### **Gospel: (Luke 2:22-40)**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: “Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord.” They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

“Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,  
and you may let your servant go in peace.  
With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:  
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles  
and bring glory to your people Israel.”

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, “This child is chosen by

God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart.”

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord      **Praise to you, O Christ**

## Talk

### Affirmation of Faith

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

**All**    **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 has 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.**

### Intercessions

*Between the prayers we say*

Lord, in your mercy

**All**    **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers we say*

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

### Hymn: Kum Bah Yah (856)

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.      *All* **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.      *All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

And now we give you thanks  
because, by appearing in the Temple,  
he comes near to us in judgement;  
the Word made flesh searches the hearts of all your people  
and brings to light the brightness of your splendour.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

*All*    **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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All*    **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of St. Christopher and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

### **Distribution of Communion**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.*

## Hymn: Like a Candle Flame (399)

### Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for private prayer)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

### Closing Prayer

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.

*All* Amen

### Responsory

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

***All* 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.

***All* Help us, who have received these blessings, to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

***All* 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.

***All* Help us, who bear these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Here we stand and remember our baptism.

***All* 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.

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

Here we bless one another in your name.

***All* Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.**



## Hymn: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (819)

### Blessing and Dismissal

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance  
and scatter the darkness from your path.

*All* **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

*All* **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,  
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God**

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