



Holy Communion

Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)
29 January 2023

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor, it is good to have you here. Today we meet together with All Hallows Church for our joint Benefice Service, there is no Sunday School today as we stay together in church this morning. A special welcome to our guest preacher today, Revd Vic Hopkins.

*We ask that you do **not publish photographs** you take in our church, with children other than your own in them, on social media sites (Instagram, Facebook etc.)*

***We stand as the bell sounds** to mark the beginning of our worship. As we sing our first hymn the altar party and choir process into church.*

HYMN

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

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

2 The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936) Words: © 1992, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England

GREETING

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

All Amen.

Minister The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Minister Jesus is the light of the world. Come, let us worship.

All Come, let us worship.

Minister Jesus is the light of the world. Come, let us worship.

All Come, let us worship.

Words of welcome may be said.

WE SAY SORRY

Minister Light shows up things that have been forgotten or lost or hidden.
As we come into Jesus' presence, his light reminds us of all the good
things we have forgotten to do and all the things that we have hidden
away. But if we say sorry, then we can walk in the light.
So let's take a few moments now to say sorry to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister For all the times we have ignored people in need,
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Minister For all the times we have deliberately made wrong choices,
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy

Minister For all the times we have forgotten your love,
Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy

Minister May God,
who loves you and sheds his light upon you,
forgive your sins
and bring you back to himself,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' a younger member of our congregation leads us in prayer. The Collect is said:

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

Thus says the Lord God:

See, 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. But 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; he 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then 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.

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may be kept.

HYMN

Chorus *Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause!*

1 Now all the world belongs to Christ our Lord:
let all creation greet the living Word!

- 2 Who has the right to worship him today?
All those who gladly serve him and obey.
- 3 He comes to save all those who trust his name,
and will declare them free from guilt and shame.
- 4 Who is the victor glorious from the fight?
He is our king, our life, our Lord, our right!

*Michael Perry (1942–1996) based on Psalm 24 (A Song of the King's Glory)
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GOSPEL READING Luke 2.22-40

All/choir Alleluia!

Choir This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

All/choir Alleluia!

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

All/Choir Glory to you, O Lord.

When 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 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

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

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

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

that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

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

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

TALK *The Reverend Vic Hopkins*

After the Sermon silence may be kept.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Minister Let’s remind ourselves that we are all people of light, believing in the same things, sharing the same love:

All We believe in God, the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Minister Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

The response used in the prayers is:

We pray to you, God of light.

All We pray to you.

Silence is kept.

PEACE

Minister God makes peace within us - let us claim it.
God makes peace between us - let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

We share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

CHOIR ANTHEM

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about Thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee, transforming day
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917) Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)

TABLE PRAYER

Minister 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.

All **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Minister The Lord is here.

All His spirit is with us.

Minister Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

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
brings to light the brightness of your splendour.
And so we join with the angels
and sing your praise:

**All/Choir Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

Minister We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Silence may be kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Minister We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Minister God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Please wait to be directed forward to receive communion.

HYMNS

1 Like a candle flame,
flickering small in our darkness,
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.

*Chorus God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.*

2 Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark set a world on fire?

3 Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame of his holy fire.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) Words and Music: © 1988, Graham Kendrick / Make Way Music Ltd, PO Box 320,
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1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

- Chorus This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.
- 2 There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.
- 3 Come, see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.
- 4 So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Minister 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.

**All We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

NOTICES

BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

Minister Lord God,
who came as light to the whole world,

bless these candles that they might shine with your light,
in our church, in our homes, in our worship,
leading us towards you,
and reminding everyone of your love.

All **Amen.**

HYMN

1 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.

Chorus *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!*

2 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.

3 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)

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BLESSING

Minister May the light God's love
shine in your home
and shine in your heart,
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, this day and always.

All **Amen.**

The ministers move to the crib.

CONCLUSION

Minister We stand near the place of new birth.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

Minister We turn from the crib to the cross.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

Minister We go to carry his light.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

Thanks be to God.

The people and ministers depart.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY C. M. Widor: Toccata in F

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Richard H, Kay G, Jonathan, Kath T, June M, Jenny A, Andrew E, Hilly S, Diana B.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley C.

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please obtain the consent of the person you wish us to pray for. Then tell Pat Thomas whom to pray for and the reason why.

REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: David John Paradine, Carl Montague Ralph Howard, Harry William Miles, Freda Maud Rudd, Carolyne Randall, Hannah Payne, William Henry Owen, Kenneth Moore, Joan Emms, Charles Stevens, Adrian John Harrison, Ray Quartermain, Chris Webb, Carl Montague Ralph Howard, John Earth, Charles Hurl, Gordon Fisher, Grace Roper, Denise Bailey, Brian Walker, Arthur Fitzhugh, Pat Adams, Leon Demster, Martin Connolly.

NOTICES

Benefice Evensong THIS EVENING 18:00, All Saints. There will be no Compline online today.

A new group for pre-school children and their carers will be starting after the Easter school holidays. We need story tellers, crafters, music makers, refreshment providers. Could you help? Please come along to the Vicarage on 7 February at 7pm to find out more.

DIARY

Mon 30 Jan

19:30

King Charles I

All Saints Lady Chapel Joint PCCs Meeting

Tues 31 Jan

9:00-9:30

Zoom

Morning Prayer

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

Wed 1 Feb

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

10:00-11:00

All Saints

AS School Collective Worship

10:30-12:30

All Hallows

open to the public

12:15-13:00

All Hallows

Midweek Eucharist

Thurs 2 Feb

9:00-9:30

Zoom

Morning Prayer

10:00-10:30

All Saints

Holy Communion

Fri 3 Feb

Anskar

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

18:15-19:15

All Saints

AS choir practice

19:30-20:30

All Hallows

AH choir practice

Sat 4 Feb

9:30-12:00

All Hallows' Hall

coffee shop

9:30-10:30

All Hallows

MU Corporate Communion

10:30-12:30

All Hallows

open to the public

Sun 5 Feb

3rd Sunday before Lent

8:00-8:30

All Saints

Eucharist

9:15-10:15

All Hallows

Eucharist

11:15-12:15

All Hallows

Eucharist

18:00-19:00

Zoom

Compline

All Saints and All Hallows, Wellingborough

phone: 01933 278484

email: office@allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

website: allhallowsandallsaintswellingborough.co.uk

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