



# Holy Communion

All Hallows Church

Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
(Candlemas)

28 January 2024

*A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether you are here for the first time or a more regular worshipper, we are delighted to have you with us, and we hope that you will enjoy the service.*

*All that you need to follow the service from beginning to end is contained in this leaflet. If you would prefer a large print copy, please indicate this to the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold.*

*Refreshments are served before the service, feel free to take your drink to your pew for the start of the service.*

*There is no cash collection taken during the service, however, we welcome donations (large and small!) towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine, both of which can be found at the back of the 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.**

*Words of welcome may be said.*

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

Deacon 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.

*cf John*

**All God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong  
that we have thought and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,**

and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **ABSOLUTION**

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.

## **GLORIA**

All/choir Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God heav'nly 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, 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.

## **FIRST 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.**

## **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, 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.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN**

- 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)  
Words: © Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa*

## **GOSPEL READING** Luke 2.22-40

**All/choir Alleluia!**

Cantor 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.

## SERMON

## CREED

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 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

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 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 in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*cf Luke 1.78,79*

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

### HYMN

- 1 Virgin-born, we bow before thee:  
blessèd was the womb that bore thee;  
Mary, mother meek and mild,  
blessèd was she in her child.
- 2 Blessèd was the breast that fed thee;  
blessèd was the hand that led thee;  
blessèd was the parent's eye  
that watched thy slumbering infancy.

3        Blessed she by all creation,  
          who brought forth the world's Salvation  
          blessèd they, for ever blest,  
          who love thee most and serve thee best.

4        Virgin-born, we bow before thee:  
          blessèd was the womb that bore thee;  
          Mary, mother meek and mild,  
          blessèd was she in her child.

*Reginald Heber (1783–1826)*

## 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    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:

**All/choir Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n 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.**

Minister We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died  
he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat;  
this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you  
the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Minister    Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and 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.**

All/choir **Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: Have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us peace.**

## **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.*

## **COMMUNION MOTET** Herbert Sumsion: Nunc Dimittis in A

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.

## **HYMN**

- 1 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,  
body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,  
blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,  
wash me with water flowing from thy side.
- 2 Strength and protection may thy Passion be,  
O blessèd Jesu, hear and answer me;  
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,  
so shall I never, never part from thee.

3 Guard and defend me from the foe malign,  
in death's dread moments make me only thine;  
call me and bid me come to thee on high  
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.

*Anima Christi, sanctifica me, sometimes ascribed to Pope John XXII (1249–1334) translator unknown*

## 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

### 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)

Words and Music: © 1987, Graham Kendrick / Make Way Music Ltd. Used by permission

## BLESSING 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.

*Please stand. The ministers and the choir process to the font, singing.*

## NUNC DIMITTIS

### BLESSING

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

## DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

*The people and ministers depart.*

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY J. S. Bach: Fugue in G minor

## LENT BIBLE STUDIES

Studying *St Paul's Letter to the Philippians*  
and considering what message it has for us and our churches in 2024.

**Mondays 19 & 26 February and 4 & 11 March**  
19:30 Lady Chapel, All Saints Church

Come and enjoy informal reflection and fellowship led by Canon John.  
All welcome.

**Please sign up** on the sheet in church,  
**or let Canon John know** if you intend to come or need transport:  
01933 653140, revdjohn.westwood55@gmail.com

## OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Those who suffer in **body, mind or spirit**, among them Richard Hole, Kay G, Jonathan, Kath Thomas, June Morby, Jenny Attewell, Diana Brown, Graham Earl, Don Stevens, Marion Dent, John Burton, Janet, Susan Adams, Jennifer Allen.

**The housebound and those in residential homes:** Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman, Mary Ricketts.

*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 please email Pat Thomas ([pat\\_hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pat_hotmail.co.uk)) with the name of the person to pray for and the reason why.*

## REMEMBER THE DEPARTED

**Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week:** Caroline Deaton, David John Paradine, Carl Montague Ralph Howard, Harry William Miles, Freda Maud Rudd, Carolyne Randall, Hannah Payne, William Henry Owen, Kenneth Moore, Joan Emms, 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.

## NOTICES

**Cancelled:** Evensong tonight at All Saints.

**Concert with Belcanto Female Voice Choir** Saturday 10 February 19:30, All Hallows. Tickets £10, available from Tony.

**Pancake Party and Beetle Drive** for everyone Tuesday 13 February 19:00, All Hallows Church Hall. Tickets £5 per adult, under 16s free. Please put your names on the list in church to help with catering. Various pancakes, both savoury and sweet.

**Emergency contact forms** will allow us to notify someone you nominate, in case of an emergency. Please pick up a form from the church desk, fill it in, and hand it over to a churchwarden.

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## DIARY

### Mon 29 Jan

9:15-11:00 All Hallows' Hall Little Acorns pre-school group

### Tues 30 Jan

#### King Charles I

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer  
9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop

### Wed 31 Jan

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop  
10:30-12:30 All Hallows open to the public  
12:15-12:45 All Hallows Midweek Eucharist

### Thurs 1 Feb

9:00-9:30 Zoom Morning Prayer

### Fri 2 Feb

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop  
18:30-19:45 All Hallows junior choir practice  
19:30-21:00 All Hallows adult choir practice

### Sat 3 Feb

#### Anskar

9:30-12:00 All Hallows' Hall coffee shop  
9:30-10:15 All Hallows MU Holy Communion  
10:15-10:45 All Hallows Benefice Prayer Group  
10:30-12:30 All Hallows open to the public

### Sun 4 Feb

#### 2 before Lent

8:00-8:30 All Saints Holy Communion  
9:15-10:15 All Saints Family Eucharist  
11:15-12:15 All Hallows Eucharist  
15:00-16:00 All Hallows Civic Service  
18:00-18:30 Zoom Compline

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