



## Holy Communion

All Saints' 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.*

*After the service refreshments are served at the back of church, please do join us.*

*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.**

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.**

## **GLORIA**

**All/choir Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
of heav'nly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship you, to you our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
you bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, your glorious vict'ry won,  
receive our pray'r, grant us your peace within.**

**Alone, O Christ, you only are the Lord,  
at God's right hand in majesty most high:  
who with the Spirit worshipped and adored:  
with all the heav'nly host we glorify.**

## **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 Name of all majesty,  
fathomless mystery,  
King of the ages  
by angels adored;  
power and authority,  
splendour and dignity,  
bow to his mastery,  
Jesus is Lord!

- 2 Child of our destiny,  
God from eternity,  
love of the Father  
on sinners outpoured;  
see now what God has done  
sending his only Son,  
Christ the beloved One,  
Jesus is Lord!
- 3 Saviour of Calvary,  
costliest victory,  
darkness defeated  
and Eden restored;  
born as a man to die,  
nailed to a cross on high,  
cold in the grave to lie,  
Jesus is Lord!
- 4 Source of all sovereignty,  
light, immortality,  
life everlasting  
and heaven assured;  
so with the ransomed, we  
praise him eternally,  
Christ in his majesty,  
Jesus is Lord!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) Words: © Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa. Oxford University Press*

## **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

### AFFIRMATION 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

### HYMN

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.
- 2 Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
- 3 Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.

- 4       Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
- 5       Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;
- 6       Changed from glory into glory  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707–1788)*

## 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.**

**All/choir**    **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord!  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord!  
Jesus is the Lord God almighty,**

who was, and is, and is to come,  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord!

## 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 Howells: Mine eyes for beauty pine

## 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*

## 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 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)

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

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

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## 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.

**Answers to the Christmas Quiz** are at the back of the church. If you would like them e-mailed to you, send a message to Caroline ([caroline\\_skinner@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline_skinner@btinternet.com)).

**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.

## 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

## 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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