



All-Age Service

All Saints Church

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

(Candlemas)

1 February 2026

A warm welcome to our worship this morning. Whether a regular or a visitor, we are delighted to have you with us, and hope that you will enjoy the service.

*All you need to **follow the service** is contained in this leaflet. For a large print, ask the person who gave you this leaflet. Please join in the responses in bold. It is custom to sit for the bible readings and stand to sing, however, if you need to sit at any time during the service, please do so. We will guide you throughout.*

*The service today is **a different style of worship**. It is interactive, involving young people and members of the ministry team. Your feedback is very welcome.*

*We don't take cash collection during the service, however we welcome **donations** towards our mission and ever increasing maintenance costs. These can be left in the collection plate or be made using our contactless card machine at the back of the church. Alternatively you can scan the QR code on the last page.*

The service begins as the children process in with unlighted candles that are placed at the front of the church to be blessed as part of the service.

Worship song

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.
- 7 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

Welcome

Words of welcome may be said.

Worship song

- 1 Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness.
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with You.
- Chorus *Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
All together worthy,
All together wonderful to me.*
- 2 King of all days
oh, so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor.
- 3 I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross.
[Repeat verse 2 more times]

Tim Hughes

Greeting

- Leader Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
- All **And also with you.**

Opening Prayers

- Today we remember
the presentation at the temple of the baby Jesus,
according to the holy law;
- All **Jesus is Christ our King.**
- Jesus is the light of the world;
- All **Jesus is our way.**
- With Jesus even the dark places are light;
- All **Jesus is the truth.**

All In Jesus we have seen, O Lord, your salvation;
Jesus is our Life.

All **God of the young and old,
God of the rich and poor,
God of the sad and the joyful,
God of our past, present and future,
We come to worship you. Amen.**

Confession

Leader 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.

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Christ, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Worship Song

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Chorus Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) Words and Music: © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP, USA

Reading Malachi 3:1-4

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading Luke 2: 22-40

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator 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:

Lawyer Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord.

Narrator 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:

Simeon 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.

Narrator The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother:

Simeon 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.

Narrator There was a very old prophetess, 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 worshipped 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

1 The Spirit lives to set us free,
walk, walk in the light;
he binds us all in unity,
walk, walk in the light.

2 Jesus promised life to all,
walk, walk in the light;
the dead were wakened by his call,
walk, walk in the light.

3 He died in pain on Calvary,
walk, walk in the light;
to save the lost like you and me,
walk, walk in the light.

4 We know his death was not the end,
walk, walk in the light;
he gave his Spirit to be our friend,
walk, walk in the light.

Chorus

*Walk in the light, walk in the light,
walk in the light, walk in the light
of the Lord.*

5 By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,
walk, walk in the light;
the Father's kindness is revealed,
walk, walk in the light.

6 The Spirit lives in you and me,
walk, walk in the light;
his light will shine for all to see,
walk, walk in the light.

Damian Lundy (1944–1996) Words and Music: © 1978, Kevin Mayhew Limited. Reproduced by permission of Kevin Mayhew Limited (www.kevinmayhew.com) Licence no. KM600006/1

Exploration

An exploration of today's reading.

Blessing of the Candles

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God.

You sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world.

On this day he was presented in the temple
and revealed as the light for all people.

We ask that you bless these candles.

May they remind us of Jesus,

who shines in the darkness and leads us in the way of peace.

As they are lit in this church throughout the year,

may they strengthen our faith and help us to follow Christ,
now and always.

All Amen.

Reflection Song

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

Affirmation of Faith

Leader We stand to affirm our shared faith.
We share together as God's family,
remembering all that we believe:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we all exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

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

Prayers of Intercession

We sit for our prayers of intercession led by our young people and members of our ministry team.

Leader Let us pray to the Father
through Christ who is our light and life.

This response may be included:

Lord, in your mercy,
All hear our prayer.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader With confidence we pray as our Saviour 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.

Notices

Blessing

Leader God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,

strengthen you to proclaim Christ as Lord;
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

Leader Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Worship Song

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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The people and ministers depart.

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Mon 2 Feb

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:15-11:00	All Hallows' Hall	Little Acorns pre-school group
18:00-19:15	St Mary's Hall	4th Cubs
18:15-19:30	All Hallows' Hall	Brownies & Rainbows
18:30-19:15	All Saints	Organ lesson
19:30-21:00	St Mary's Hall	4th Scouts

Tues 3 Feb**Anskar**

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows Hall	coffee shop
10:00-10:30	All Saints	Said Eucharist
14:00-15:00	All Hallows' Hall	Bible study

Wed 4 Feb

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
9:30-12:00	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
10:00-11:00	All Saints	school Candlemas service
10:30-13:00	All Hallows	open to the public
12:15-13:00	All Hallows	Holy Communion
19:00-20:30	All Hallows	Bell ringing
19:00-20:30	All Hallows' Hall	Guides

Thurs 5 Feb

9:00-9:30	Zoom	Morning Prayer
10:00-12:00	All Saints	open to the public
18:15-19:30	All Saints	4 th Beavers

Fri 6 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 7 Feb

9:30-10:15	All Hallows	MU Holy Communion
9:30-12:30	All Hallows' Hall	coffee shop
9:30-10:30	Dale End	4 th Squirrels
10:30-12:30	All Hallows	open to the public

Sun 8 Feb **2nd Sunday before Lent**

9:15-10:15	All Saints	Sung Eucharist
11:15-12:15	All Hallows	Sung Eucharist
18:00-18:30	Zoom	Compline
19:30-21:30	All Hallows' Hall	Pegasus Explorers

Our prayers are asked for

Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them Carol, Kay G, Diana Brown, Jo Thraves, Glennis Eades, Rita Hawkes, William, Steve Cavender, Anne.

The housebound and those in residential homes: Shirley Cockerill, Susan Poolman, Jenny Attewell, Margaret Eady, Susan Adams, Richard Hole.

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).

Remember the departed

Those whose anniversaries fell on this past week: William Henry Owen, Kenneth Moore, Joan Emms, Charles Stevens, Adrian John Harrison, Donald Raymond Stevens, Sidney Benford, Rosie Pateman, Leon Demster, John Burton, Martin Connolly, George Falkner, Jane Collins.

Notices

Monthly said Eucharist Tuesday 3 February 10:00, All Saints.

Bible studies on St Mark's Gospel continue:

Tuesday 3 February 14:00, All Hallows' Hall;

Monday 9 February 19:30, All Saints' Lady Chapel. All are welcome.

Lent Eucharist & quiet time Saturday 21 February, All Saints Church. We start with a *Celtic Eucharist at 9:30*, and you may wish to stay on for a time of Reflection based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son until 11:30.

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