



**St. Michael and All Angels  
Amersham on the Hill**



**EUCCHARIST OF CANDLEMAS  
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

***A warm welcome to this service***

*'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.'*

Luke 2.29-32

## The Gathering

### Introit

### Processional Hymn

*Please stand, if able.*

### The Greeting

*All* The Lord of glory be with you  
**and also with you.**

### Introduction and welcome

*Please sit.*

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. In their old age, Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, 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.

*The minister prays over the water in the font.*

God our Father, bless this water and, as we recall how Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, may it be a reminder for us of our baptism. Help us to live as people of light and to follow Christ, the Light of the World.

*All* **Amen.**

### Invitation to Confession

*Deacon* The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Please remain seated or kneel.*

*We pause for reflection.*

### Confession

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.  
Lord, have mercy.

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

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.  
Christ, have mercy.  
*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.  
Lord, have mercy.  
*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution**

*President* 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.**

*Water from the font is sprinkled among the people as a sign of  
God's forgiveness.*

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*Please stand, if able.*

*All* **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.**

### **The 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 Liturgy of the Word**

*Please sit*

#### **Old Testament 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.

For the word of the Lord

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 24.7-10**

*The choir will sing the response, which is then repeated by the congregation.*

**Response:**

**Lift up your heads, O you gates, and let the King of Glory in.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

**Response**

'Who is the King of glory?'

'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

**Response**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

**Response**

'Who is this King of glory?'

'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

**Response**

### **New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2.14-end**

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.

*All*

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn**

*Please stand, if able.*

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 2.22-40.**

*Please turn to face the Gospel*

*All*

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple  
in substance of our mortal nature.  
**Alleluia.**

*All*

Today the Blessed Virgin comes  
to be purified in accordance with the law.  
**Alleluia.**

*All*

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ  
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.  
**Alleluia.**

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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

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

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

*Please stand, if able.*

Let us declare our faith in God.

*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**

*Please sit or kneel to pray.*

*The congregation and choir sing the Taizé chant after each intercession. As the chant is sung each time, a candle is lit.*

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

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:  
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

*All sing* **O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
when I call answer me,  
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
come and listen to me.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:  
look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

*All sing*      **O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
when I call answer me,  
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
come and listen to me.**

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor: look  
in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

*All sing*      **O Lord hear my prayer...**

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their  
peace: look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your  
salvation.

*All sing*      **O Lord hear my prayer...**

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:  
look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

*All sing*      **O Lord hear my prayer...**

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them  
the infant King. Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,  
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

*All sing*      **O Lord hear my prayer...**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*Please stand, if able.*

*For those who would like to, you are welcome to join hands as we  
sing or say the Peace.*

*All sing*      **Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it,  
protect it like a candle-flame, with tenderness enfold it.**

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

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Offertory Hymn**

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.  
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The President takes the bread and wine.*

### **Preparation of the Table**

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for all people;  
accept the gifts we bring before you  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer D**

*Please remain standing, if able.*

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

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

*All* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

*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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

*All sing*

This is his story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

*All sing*

This is his story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

*All sing*

This is our story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

*All sing*

**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All sing*

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Please sit or kneel.*

As our Saviour taught us, in our own language, so we pray:

*All*

**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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

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.**



## Agnus Dei

*All*

**O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts  
and take our sins away.  
O Lamb of God, your grace impart,  
and let our guilty fear depart,  
have mercy, Lord, we pray,  
have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore,  
our guilty souls release.  
Into our lives your Spirit pour  
and let us live for evermore  
in perfect heav'nly peace,  
in perfect heav'nly peace.**

## Giving of Communion

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.**

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.  
After receiving the bread and the wine please respond "Amen" or, if  
you would like a blessing, please place your hands across your  
chest.*

## Post Communion Hymn

### Post Communion 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.**

### Chant

*The congregation's candles are lit, while we sing:*

*All sing:*

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation,  
in him I trust, in him I trust.**

### The Candlemas Proclamation

*Please stand, if able.*

O God, fountain and principle of every light,  
who today revealed to Simeon  
the Christ, this true light of all people:  
bless the candles that we light to your glory,  
and hear the prayer of your people  
who come to you with these luminous signs  
and hymns of praise;  
guide us along the road of good,  
until we reach the light without end;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Please raise your candles as we all sing:*

*All sing*

**A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of thy people Israel.**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.

*All sing*

**A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of thy people Israel.**

For mine eyes have seen:  
thy salvation.

*All sing*      **A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of thy people Israel.**

Which thou hast prepared:  
before the face of all people.

*All sing*      **A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of thy people Israel.**

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*All sing*      **A light to lighten the nations  
and 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.

*All sing*      **A light to lighten the nations  
and the glory of thy people Israel.**

*Please remain standing, if able.*

## **The Dismissal**

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 the bread of life,  
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.**

*All* Here we stand near the place of baptism.  
**Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

*All* Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.  
**Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

*All* Here we bless one another in your name.  
**Help us, who now go in peace,  
to shine with your light in the world.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

*All* Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*Deacon* We stand near the place of new birth.  
*All* **Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
We turn from the crib to the cross.  
*All* **Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
We go to carry his light.  
*All* **Let us shine with the light of your love.  
Thanks be to God.**

### **Recessional hymn verse**

*All sing* **Christ is the world's true light,  
its captain of salvation,  
the daystar clear and bright  
of ev'ry race and nation;  
new life, new hope awakes,  
where'er we own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.**



