

St Paul's Church, Egham Hythe
Zoom Gathering 31st January 2021
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)



*You might like to have the following available for use in the service:
A bowl with some water and a candle or a torch.*

Opening prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: I will enter his gates *Leona von Brethorst © 1976 Maranatha! Music*

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.



Prayers of Penitence *(A Candle is lit)*

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 8.12

All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. **Amen.**

Song: Purify my heart *Brian Doerksen ©1990 Mercury/Vinyard Publishing.*

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.

Purify my heart, Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire Is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.

I choose to be holy, set apart for you my master, ready to do your will.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.

Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within. *Refiner's fire...*

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray that we may know and share the love of Christ. (Silence may be kept).

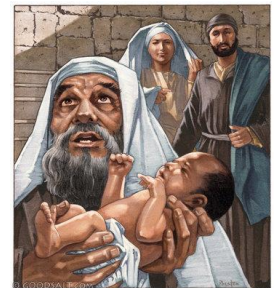
Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. **Amen.**

Reading: Luke 2: 22-40 Jesus Is Presented in the Temple *(Good News Translation)*

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

**"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."**



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

An interview with Simeon, then we listen to a version of Simeon' song.



There was a very old prophet, 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 worshiped 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. When

Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

An interview with Anna, followed by our own response...



Song: Cornerstone

Songwriters: Reuben Timothy Morgan / Jonas Carl Gustaf Myrin / Eric Liljero

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest friend
But wholly trust in Jesus name.

*Christ alone, cornerstone, weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. *Christ alone...*

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh, may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne. *Christ alone...*

Prayers of Intercession

Biddings may be given before the Prayers of Intercession

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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. **All Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

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.



Lighting of the Candles

As we are able we go and open a door or window and stand with our candle...

Here we turn from our celebration of Christ's coming into the world and towards Lent and Easter; turning from his birth to his passion and resurrection. We remember that he came among us and that he shares our joys and sorrows. May we let the light of the Lord shine in our hearts, lives and homes and bring his light into the world. **Amen.**

Song: Shine Jesus Shine *Graham Kendrick © (1987) Make Way Music*

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

*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*

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. *Shine, Jesus, shine...*

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. *Shine, Jesus, shine...*



Blessing

The Lord Jesus give light to our eyes, give light to our minds, give light to our hearts, give light to our whole lives, that we may witness to him today and forever and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you now and evermore. **Amen.**