



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

## **THE EUCHARIST**

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
Candlemas

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**10.00am**

## Welcome to Lancaster Priory

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

Today is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Candlemas). This feast ends the joyful celebration of Christmas and season of Epiphany. The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

## The Gathering and Processional Hymn (LP 28)

*Please stand as the organ plays and the Procession enters and we sing.*

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.

*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 pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. Christ, be our light!

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.

*Christ, be our light!...*

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Christ, be our light!...*

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.

*Christ, be our light!...*

Bernadette Farrell b.1957

## **The Greeting** *The president says*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

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. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised 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.

## **Prayers of Penitence** *A minister introduces the confession and silence is kept.*

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.

*The choir sings the Kyrie*

Kyrie eleison,      *Lord have mercy upon us,*  
Christe eleison,      *Christ have mercy upon us,*  
Kyrie eleison.      *Lord have mercy upon us.*

*The president says*

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.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis** *The choir sings*

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
et in terra pax  
hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te, Benedicimus te,  
Adoramus te, Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam,  
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis  
Deus Pater omnipotens.

*Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace,  
goodwill towards men.  
We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee  
for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.*

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Filius Patris,  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God  
the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost, art most high  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

**The Collect** *The president says 'Let us pray' and silence is kept*

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word** *Please sit.*

**First Reading** Malachi 3:1-5 *A reading from the prophet Malachi.*

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. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn** (NEH 237) *Please stand.*

Mary and Joseph came to the temple,  
brought the boy Jesus, offered him there.  
People were waiting, wanting to greet him;  
long had they sought him, solace for care.

2. Anna had prayed there, widowed, long-waiting,  
worshipping God by day and by night.  
Now she is praising, filled with elation;  
here is God's promise, Christ is her light.

3. Simeon sings now, God proffers blessing,  
brilliantly gilding dawn of his day.  
Light in the darkness, never extinguished,  
light of all nations, light up our way.

Andrew Pratt (b.1948)

**Second Reading** Hebrews 2.14-end *A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

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

## **The Gospel Acclamation and Reading** Luke 2.22-40

*Please stand and face the Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

This child is the light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*The deacon says* The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 turtledoves 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *Please sit for the sermon.*

## **The Creed** *Please stand*

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** *Please kneel or sit.*

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

*And at the end* Merciful Father, **accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace** *Please stand. The president says*

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*And all may exchange a sign of peace.*

**Offertory Hymn** (NEH353) *A collection is taken and presented and the altar is prepared.*

Dear Lord our God, we gather here  
In this great house of prayer.  
We come just as we are to you  
as one who knows us through and through,  
and keeps us in your care,  
in love beyond compare.

2. Dear Lord our God, we praise the name  
of Jesus Christ your Son,  
The light for all the nations shines,  
we see how your salvation binds  
all people into one,  
and brings your children home.

3. Dear Lord our God, we sing your praise  
for promises come true.  
As young and old our voices raise  
and joyfully proclaim, "God's ways  
are heaven breaking through  
to make the earth anew.

4. So Lord our God, may each of us  
go out into the night  
to share the joy you give to us,  
to praise, to sing, to teach, to bless  
all people with your light,  
and make the darkness bright.

5. We praise you, Lord God, for you own  
our future and our past.  
Your promised kingdom soon shall come,  
and then, when earthly life is done  
your love will hold us fast,  
in heaven's peace at last.

Ally Barrett (b.1977)



## **The Eucharistic Prayer** *The president sings*

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

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

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

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:

*The choir sing*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast. From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, 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.

*The deacon says* Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace. Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

### **The Lord's Prayer** *Silence is kept.*

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*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

### **The Giving of Communion** *The president says*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Agnus Dei** *Please kneel or sit. The choir sings*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.*

The priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.

## **Choir Anthem** *If ye love me* (Tallis)

**Communion Chant** *This chant is sung after all have received communion and as we sing our candles are lit.*

With you, O Lord, is life in all its full - ness, and

in your light we shall see true light. With you, O Lord, is

life in all its full-ness, and in your light we shall see true light.

## **Post Communion Prayer** *Please stand.*

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. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing** *The president says*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn** (NEH 282) *During this Nunc Dimittis we turn to face the procession.*

Now Lord, let your servant  
Leave this life in peace:  
For your word has taught us –  
Love will never cease.

2. Eyes with wonder seeing  
In this moment's rite,  
Israel's promised glory,  
Every nation's light.

3. Holy people waiting  
For Christ's light to shine:  
Temple prayers now answered –  
Jesus is God's sign.

4. Sign and Son and saviour  
Held in Mary's arms:  
Promise for all peoples  
Sung in Israel's psalms.

Neil Thompson

**The Dismissal** *The deacon says*

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.  
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.  
Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
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.  
Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

Here we remember the place of our baptism.  
Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

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

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.

**Organ Voluntary** *Prelude on 'Dundee' (Parry)*

*Please remain standing while the servers and choir depart.*