

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



Holy Communion

For Candlemas

Including the celebration of Anna Chaplaincy

Sunday 2nd February 2025

Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Presiding & Preaching Canon Simon Stokes

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

(Please remain seated)

Welcome

Opening prayer



Forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which Jesus was presented in the temple by his parents who gave thanks to God for his life. As we remember Christmas we look forward to Easter, and to the sacrifice of love which Jesus made for us when he died on the cross. We celebrate the good news that light and love are stronger than darkness and death.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Jesus is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can quench.

Jesus Light of the World, shine in the darkness of our world. Help us to know that light is stronger than darkness and that love is stronger than hatred. **Amen.**

***1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.***

***2 In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.***

***3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.***

***4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!***

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

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.

CONFESSION (Please sit or kneel)

A moment of Silence

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.

May the Lord of love
Bring us back to himself
Forgive us our sins
And assure us of his eternal love
In Jesus Christ the light of the world. **Amen**

THE GLORIA (Please stand)

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

***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.***

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT (Prayer of the week – found on the pew sheet)

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

All Age Talk – Interview with Anna Chaplains Pam & Sarah

BIBLE READING(S)

New Testament: Hebrews 2: 14 – 18 Read by Gill

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.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 373 - Purify my heart

*1 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.*

**2 Purify my heart,
cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart
cleanse me from my sin, deep within.
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.**

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

GOSPEL READING Luke 2: 22-40

(Please remain standing)

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

Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Canon Simon

Recommissioning of our Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends

Do you believe that God is continuing to call you to this service?

I do

Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, seek to perform it prayerfully and in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek to develop the faith, gifts and skills God has given you as you share in Christ's mission and ministry?

With the help of God, I will

Heavenly Father, send down your Holy Spirit on your servants whom you have called to this ministry. Help them to listen patiently, respond wisely and pray faithfully. Give them courage to speak up for those whose voice may not otherwise be heard.

May their hands be ready to do your work.

May their eyes be open to recognise those in need.

May their ears hear soft spoken words of pain and sorrow.

May their voice speak of healing and peace.

May their feet walk the extra mile with those who falter,

and may they always be aware of your presence guiding them and your loving protection around them in all that they do.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Led by Pam
(Please sit or kneel)

These responses may be used
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end
Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE (please stand)

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN 113 - *When candles are lighted.*

(During the offertory hymn the bread and wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

**1 *When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.
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.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**3 *They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**4 *But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**5 *The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**6 *They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**13 *The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

Elizabeth J. Cosnett (b. 1936)

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please sit or kneel - The Choir may remain standing

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

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
and brings to light the brightness of your splendour.

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to
proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.***

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

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



When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.



So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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
God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life

The Agnus Dei

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.***

This is the table of our lord, where hurts are healed, and all is made new in the love of God. Come not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord; It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also sung during communion (please remain seated)

Anthem Nunc Dimittis in C minor (G. Dyson)

HYMN 74 - *Like a candle flame*

***1 Like a candle flame,
flickering small in our darkness,
uncreated light shines through infant eyes.
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?
God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.***

***3 Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame of his holy fire.
God is with us, alleluia,
come to save us, alleluia.***

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet
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.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

HYMN 719 - *Lord, the light of your love. [Shine Jesus shine]*

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.

*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.

***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.***

**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.**

***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.***

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Minister and Choir process to the font [Possibly with lit candles]

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

Praise to Christ our light.

Candles [if used in the procession] to be extinguished

Blessing

We stand near the place of new birth.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

We turn from the crib to the cross.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



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