

# Holy Eucharist



## Candlemas

31<sup>st</sup> January 2021



Church of the Resurrection  
and St Barnabas, Eastlands

## *Hymn as we gather*

### **Faithful vigil ended**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant thy servant  
his discharge in peace.**
- 2 All thy Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.**
- 3 This thy great deliverance  
sets thy people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.**
- 4 Christ, thy people's glory!  
watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us thy servants  
our discharge in peace.**

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from Luke 2 vs 29-32*

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## **The Gathering**

In the name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **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 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**

*The minister invites the people to confess their sins using these words*

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.

*All*    **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

*The president pronounces 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.

*All*    **Amen.**

*The Gloria in excelsis is said*

*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**

*The president says the Collect, and all respond*

*All*    **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Gospel Reading

Today Jesus is presented in the Temple.

*All Alleluia.*

Today Mary comes to be purified.

*All Alleluia.*

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

*All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.*

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*.

*All 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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Homily**

### **The Creed**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**The Apostles' Creed**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Prayers end*

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

## **Hymn – Like a candle flame**

*sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields*

**1 Like a candle flame,  
flick'ring small in our darkness.  
Uncreated light  
shines through infant eyes.**

***Chorus  
God is with us, alleluia,  
God is with us, alleluia,  
come to save 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?**

***Chorus***

**3 Yet His light shall shine  
from our lives, Spirit blazing,  
as we touch the flame  
of His holy fire.**

***Chorus***

*Graham Kendrick (born 1950)*

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## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

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  
*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Preparation of the Table and the Offering**

*During the table is prepared by the president, the gifts of the people are gathered. You are encouraged to continue to give for your church during these uncertain times. May these words encourage you to continue to put the money in your envelopes or set up a Standing Order via your bank:*

*"Excel in this grace of giving" (2 Cor. 8:7)  
"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"  
(Mother Theresa)*



## Offertory Prayer

*All*    **Gracious God, accept these gifts,  
and with them our lives, to be used in your service;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

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.

*All*    **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

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

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

*The President praises God for his mighty acts*

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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 angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

*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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup  
and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of *St Barnabas* and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All*    **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence  
as our Saviour has 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.**

## **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.**

## **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.**

*The president lifts the priest wafer and says before receiving the bread*

The Body of Christ.

*All*    **Amen.**

*The president lifts the wine and says before receiving the wine*

The Blood of Christ.

*All*    **Amen.**

*You are encouraged to say The Act of Spiritual Communion words whilst the president receives the Communion on behalf of the people.*

*All*    **My Jesus, I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
*All* **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.**

## Notices

### Candlemas Procession

*You encouraged to light a candle now.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.  
Your light shines on us and all peoples shall see your glory.  
You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;  
he makes our darkness to be light.  
Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,  
bearing witness to your truth.  
As we bear your light,  
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

### Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

*Plainsong, arr. John Harper and sung by St Martin's Voices*

Now Lord you let your servant go in peace:  
**your word has been fulfilled.**  
My own eyes have seen: the salvation;  
**Which you have prepared: in the sight of every people,**  
A light to reveal you to the nations:  
**and the glory of your people Israel.**  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.**  
**Amen.**

*Luke 2.29-32*

## Final Responsory

We now bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth

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

*All* **Praise to Christ our light.**

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

*All* **Praise to Christ our light.**

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

*All* **Praise to Christ our light.**

## The Blessing

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus,  
who was wounded for our sins,  
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace  
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
+ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## Final Hymn

### **In a world where people walk in darkness**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

**1 In a world where people walk in darkness,  
let us turn our faces to the light,  
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,  
to the daystar scattering our night.  
*For the light is stronger than the darkness  
and the day will overcome the night,  
though the shadows linger all around us,  
let us turn our faces to the light.***

**2 In a world where suffering of the helpless  
casts a shadow all along the way,  
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness  
and proclaim the dawning of the day.**

***Chorus***

**3 Let us light a candle in the darkness,  
in the face of death a sign of life;  
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,  
as a sign of peace in place of strife.**

***Chorus***

*Robert A Willis (born 1947)  
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## **The Conclusion**

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.**