

St Mary's Church, Walkley



The Church on the Road:
Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God

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

Candlemas Carol Service

30th January 2022

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

At the moment we are not quite back to our usual way of worship. You will notice that:

- Half the seating is still arranged for people who want to keep physical distance.
- We will be singing whilst wearing face-coverings.

The Introduction

We remain seated as the cantor sings.

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

All **Alleluia.**

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

All **Alleluia.**

Minister 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.**

Words of welcome may be said.

Minister 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 recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this service, 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 Prayers of Penitence

Minister 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.

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.**

Minister May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Minister 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 First Reading: Hebrews 2. 14 - end

Reader 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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing hymn 98 tune 1.

The Second Reading: Luke 2. 22 - 40

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

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.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing a metrical version of the Magnificat, hymn 467.

The Sermon

We remain seated and wearing masks we sing.

Tune: Hyfrydol – Alleluia sing, to Jesus

**Angels sang in celebration,
sang a new age come to birth,
heralding a new creation,
promising God's peace on earth.
Still we ache to hear their singing,
long to know their word fulfilled
as another year is turning
with a hope not to be stilled.**

**Mary sang of liberation,
God at work among the poor,
come to heal the world's frustration,
love insistent at the door.
Longing for a new beginning,
myriad Marys sound her song;
round the world, while bells are ringing,
God is still at war with wrong.**

**Simeon sang to end his story,
sang of nations deep in night
soon to see both Israel's glory
and a whole world filled with light.
As we turn a page of history,
full of wonders, joy and pain,
we too pray to see God's victory
and the day when Christ will reign.**

Alan Luff b. 1928
© Stainer & Bell Ltd
Reproduced under Onelicense number A-632072
and CCLI licence number 290314

We sit or kneel.

The Prayers

Intercessor 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.**

Intercessor 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.**

Intercessor 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.**

Intercessor 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.**

Intercessor 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.**

Intercessor 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

Minister Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, 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.**

We stand.

The Candlemas Procession

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Minister Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Minister You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Minister Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Minister As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Minister Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

We remain standing as the cantor sings, most of the Nativity is removed and our candles are lit.

Minister Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We sit and wearing masks we sing a metrical version of the Nunc Dimittis, the Song of Simeon.

**Now let your servant go in peace;
for praise and blessing here increase;
for in our midst your will is done
and you have sent your Promised One.**

**Before the peoples you prepare
your way of life which all may share.
Your saving power is now made known;
among the nations love is shown.**

**Child, you are chosen as a sign
to test the human heart and mind;
for secrets hidden in the night
shall be revealed in piercing light.**

**Now let us sing our Saviour's praise,
and tell God's goodness all our days,
while breath is ours, let praise be heard
for God's own faithful, saving word. Amen.**

Words: Ruch M. Duck
© G.I.A. Publications Inc
Reproduced under Onelicense number A-632072
and CCLI licence number 290314

Minister 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.**

Minister 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.**

Minister 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.**

Minister Here we have greeted the light of the world.

All **Help us, who bear these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Minister Here we stand near the place of baptism.

All **Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Minister Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

All **Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Minister Here we bless one another in your name.

All **Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

We ask you to make your way out carefully being mindful of those who wish to maintain social distancing.

Please take this order of service away with you!

Beginning with the back rows of pews and chairs, please leave using the church porch and move away as quickly as possible to help others to leave too. If you use the ramp, please use the hall door as usual, and move away as quickly as you can.

Please be mindful of those who prefer to keep their distance from others at the moment.

More information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk/opt-in-to-hear-from-st-marys/