

# St Mary's Church, Walkley



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

## Candlemas

## The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley**

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings**  
**Preacher: David, Reader at St Mary's**  
**Churchwarden on duty: Oli**

## **The Gathering and Opening Hymn**

*We stand and we sing the opening hymn.*

*President* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

*President* The Lord be with you.

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

*President* 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 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.

## **The Confession and Absolution**

*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*

*We keep a time of silence.*

*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.**

*President* 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.**

*We remain standing and we sing:*

### **The Gloria in Excelsis**

*Cantor* Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

*Cantor* 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.

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

*Cantor* 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.

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

*Cantor* 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.

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

### **The Collect**

*President* Let us pray.

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.**

*We sit.*

### **The Reading: Malachi 3. 1 - 5**

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

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.

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

## **The Gradual Hymn**

*We stand and we sing.*

## **The Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 22 - 40**

*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.**

*Minister* 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.

*Minister* This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

## **The Sermon**

*We stand.*

## The Creed

*President* Let us declare our faith in God,

*All*        **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.**

*We sit or kneel.*

## The Prayers of Intercession

*Intercessor* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Or another response is used.*

*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.**

*We stand.*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*President* 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.

*Luke 1.78,79*

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

*Minister* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We remain in our seats, sharing the peace through waves to those around us.*

### The Offertory Hymn

*We stand and we sing as gifts of bread and wine are brought to the front of church and the altar is prepared.*



## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* 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:

*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.**

*President* 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.

*Minister* Great is the mystery of faith:

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

*President* 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 Mary, Mark, John and 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*We sit or kneel.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*President* 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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*President* 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.**

## **The Giving of Communion**

*President* Jesus is the Christ, the Chosen of God,  
*All*        **the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

*The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front. Sanitising stations are available at the front of church to use before receiving.*

*During the distribution music may be played.*

## **The Candlemas liturgy**

*We remain standing and we sing during which our candles are lit.*

*President* 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.**

## **The Nunc dimittis: The Song of Simeon**

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

*President* Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.

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

*President* My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

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

*President* A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.

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

*President* Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

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

## The Final Responsory

*President* 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.**

*President* 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.**

*President* 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.**

*President* Here we have greeted the light of the world.

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

*President* 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.**

*President* 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.**

*President* 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.**

***Coffee and tea are served after the service please move  
to the hall through the door at the back of the church.***

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

For more information: [stmaryswalkley.co.uk](http://stmaryswalkley.co.uk)

