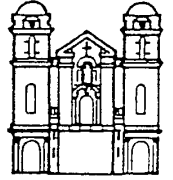


Welcome to  
**The Church of St James the Greater**  
Leicester



A Service  
for  
**Candlemas**

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020  
at 6.30 pm

# The Service of Light

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION by The Reverend Andrew Quigley

***Please stand and face the back of the Church as the choir processes in silence.***

*Priest* We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord,  
in the midst of your temple.

*Sanctuary candles are lit and then torches held by Acolytes*

*Priest* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe:  
to you be glory and praise for ever!  
For you are our light and our salvation  
and we your children wait for your loving kindness  
in the midst of your temple.  
In your Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,  
there is a light sprung up for the righteous  
and joyful gladness for those who are faithful.  
As we, like Simeon and Anna, welcome him with joy,  
presented before us as the light of the world;  
may we be filled with his Spirit and be made a living temple  
to the praise and glory of his holy name.  
And, as we join our praises with theirs,  
grant us a quiet night and a perfect end, now and for ever.

*The church is bathed in light*

*Choir* INTROIT Hail Gladdening Light – Wood

*Priest* Jesus Christ is the light of the world.  
*All* **A light which no darkness can quench.**

*Priest* As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
So may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise,  
now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

HYMN     **Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the Source, the Ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!**

**O that birth forever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race;  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!**

**O ye heights of heav'n, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing:  
powers, dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!**

*The Choir processes to the Chancel*

## **The Service of the Word**

*Sit*           FIRST LESSON  
Exodus 12.51; 13. 2, 11-16  
Consecrate to me all the first born.

*Priest*       Search the Scriptures, as Christ told us in the Gospels.  
*All*           **We find him born in our midst.**  
Presented in the temple and carried by Simeon.  
**We find him born in our midst.**  
In truth he has appeared in the world.  
**We find him born in our midst.**

*Priest*       O Lord, you have given us your word  
for a light to shine upon our path.  
Grant us so to meditate upon that word,

and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more  
until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Stand* HYMN 2 **Christ whose glory fills the skies ...**

*Sit* SECOND LESSON Leviticus 12. 6-8  
The Law of Purification

*Priest* From the Virgin Mary shines forth Jesus our Saviour.

*All* **Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.**

He gives light to those in darkness.

**Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.**

He is the one who offers and is offered for us

**Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.**

*Priest* Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have stooped to raise fallen humanity  
by the childbearing of blessed Mary.  
Grant that we who have seen your glory  
revealed in our human nature,  
and your love made perfect in our weakness,  
may daily be renewed in your image,  
and conformed to the pattern of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Stand* HYMN 317 **Virgin born, we bow before thee ...**

*Sit* THIRD LESSON Isaiah 6. 1- 8  
I saw the Lord, and his train filled the temple

*Priest* Simeon takes in his arms the Lord of glory

*All* **Now I am set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.**

He who speaks through the prophets.

**Now I am set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.**

Offering himself for us, in his own dwelling place.

**Now I am set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.**

*Priest* Lord God almighty,  
you have given us the vision of your holiness,  
and thereby of our own unworthiness to be your witnesses.  
Touch, we pray, our lips, with your cleansing fire;  
that so cleansed and hallowed,  
we may go out into the world with the authority of your  
commission;  
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

*Stand* HYMN 603 **Bright the vision ...**

*Sit* FOURTH LESSON Haggai 2.1-9  
I will fill this house with splendour

*Priest* Zion, adorn the bridal chamber.  
*All* **Welcome Christ the King of glory**  
He comes to earth and appears in the temple.  
**Welcome Christ the King of glory**  
Praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, giver of life.  
**Welcome Christ the King of glory.**

*Priest* Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the  
*Temple*  
and acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations:  
grant that in him we may be presented to you  
and in the world may reflect his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All* **Amen.**

*Stand* HYMN 110 **Hail to the Lord who comes ...**

*during which a collection is taken*

***Kneel or sit***

## **The Prayers**

LITANY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
By the mystery of the Word made flesh  
*All* **Good Lord, deliver us.**  
By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the Baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

For the kingdoms of this world,

That they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For your holy, catholic and apostolic Church, that it may be one

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the witness of your faithful people

That they may be lights in the world.

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer;

That they may be relieved and protected,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the aged, for refugees and all in danger,

That they may be strengthened and defended,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

For those who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death,

That they may come to your eternal light,

**We pray to you, O Lord.**

Father, source of light and life,

grant the prayers of your faithful people,

and fill the world with your glory,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, we pray:

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

Sit ANTHEM O Nata lux (O born light of light) – Tallis

***The Congregation's candles are lit during the anthem***

ORGAN INTERLUDE

*Electric lights are lowered.*

***All stand*** as the procession moves into the nave

## **The Gospel and Procession**

ACCLAMATION

Choir When to the Temple Mary went - Eccard

Priest GOSPEL Luke 2. 22-28  
CANTICLE *Nunc Dimittis*, the Song of Simeon

Choir Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
According to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation :  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

***Candles are raised for the last verse of the Canticle***

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Luke 2. 29-32

GOSPEL Luke 2. 33-40

ACCLAMATION

Priest Let us acclaim the living God. He was born of the Virgin Mary.

All **Revealed in his glory.**

Worshipped by angels,

**Proclaimed among the nations.**

Believed in throughout the world.

**Exalted to the highest heavens.**

Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN **The heavenly Child in stature grows,  
and, growing, learns to die;  
and still his early training shows  
his coming agony.**

**The Son of God his glory hides  
to dwell with parents poor;  
and he, who made the heavens, abides  
in dwelling-place obscure.**

**Those mighty hands that rule the sky  
no earthly toil refuse;  
the Maker of the stars on high  
a humble trade pursues.**

**He, whom the choirs of angels praise,**

bearing each dread decree,  
his earthly parents now obeys  
in glad humility.

For this thy lowliness revealed,  
Jesus, we thee adore;  
and praise to God the Father yield  
and Spirit evermore.

*The Procession moves to the Font  
and the congregation turn to face the Baptistry*

*Priest* 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.**

Here, in Holy Scripture, we have heard of the loving purposes of God.

**Help us, who have heard the Word, 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 greeted the light of the world.

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

***All now extinguish their candles, as the Church lights are raised.***

*Priest* Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

*All* **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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**



# ORGAN POSTLUDE