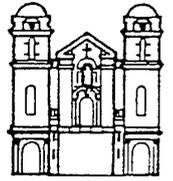


Welcome to
The Church of St James the Greater
Leicester



A Service for Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Sunday 30 January 2022
at 6.30 pm

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION by The Reverend Andrew Quigley

The Service of Light

Please stand as the lights are dimmed.

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 Lift up your heads – Matthias

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 *during which the Choir moves to the Chancel*

**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 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 beheld my Saviour.**

He who speaks through the prophets.

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

Offering himself for us, in his own dwelling place.

Now I am set free, for I 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 ...**

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

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 VOLUNTARY – P. Hindemith (1895-1963): Sonata 2, 1st movement

Please be aware of those remaining to listen

Please take this leaflet away with you at the end of the Service.

Please place your offering in the baskets at the back of church.