

**Parish of St Mary the Virgin
Great Shelford**

PARISH COMMUNION



Presentation of Christ in the Temple

CANDLEMAS

CANDLEMAS

Candlemas is a pivotal feast, ending the forty days of Christmas and the Epiphany.

The season of joyful celebration that began at Christmas and continued through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, now ends with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

It is fitting then that today we also mark Holocaust Memorial Day. We remember the six million Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust, along with millions of other groups of people killed under Nazi persecution. We also remember millions more who have been killed during more recent

genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

The theme going throughout the service is that the light is stronger than the darkness and we have an invitation to turn our faces to the light.

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night,
Through the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

Welcome to St Mary's, and to the service today.

If you would like to get to know us better, please talk to one of the clergy or Sidespersons.

If you would like a clergy visit,
please let us know.

The service begins on page four.

Suggested devotions before the service

We have beheld his glory,
glory as of the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John 1.14

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

Malcolm Guite

THE GATHERING

Please stand if you are able to sing

OPENING HYMN

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.
*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.
*A glory dawns...***

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.
*A glory dawns***

**But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.
*A glory dawns***

**The light is increasing and spring's in the air.
Look back with thanksgiving! Look forward with awe!
*A glory dawns***

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.
*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

THE GREETING

The president says

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

All Amen.

A welcome is given

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

Please be seated for the Holocaust Memorial

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust.

In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart. Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us. In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

A Candle is Lit

All Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

Introduction to Candlemas

The president introduces the liturgy

Welcome to this service of Candlemas.

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.

In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. At this moment in our service we are all generations worshipping together, in a moment we bless the children as they leave us for their activities. On this day we also bless those who are elderly as we remember the gifts of Simeon and Anna. Later we will hear about how, we at St Mary's are hoping to bless and nurture the senior members of our community through what is called Anna Chaplaincy.

In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of Christ's coming and we look forward to the coming days of his passion.

Please note that prayers of penitence occur later.

We stand if we are able and pray together for the children in our midst today.

All Creator God, we thank you for giving us Jesus as our Saviour: he blessed the children who came to him, and welcomes those who come to him now. Look with love upon these children and protect them with your care. May they grow in wisdom, age and strength in your presence and in the sight of all. We ask this through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remain standing

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, Heav'nly King, Almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.

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.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

THE COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silence

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

Silence is kept.

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the readings

FIRST READING Malachi 3. 1-5

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 washers' 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 judgment; 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.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Short silence

SECOND READING

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 become 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.

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Short silence then Please stand to sing and remain standing if you are able for the Gospel

GRADUAL HYMN 44: Faithful vigil ended

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.**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWuu_UfIHZI&t=15s

GOSPEL READING

This acclamation may herald the Gospel reading

Today faithful 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40

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 turtledoves 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 seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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.

At the end the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Short silence

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel as we bring our prayers of intercession.

These end with this prayer

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.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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. *cf 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.**

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 LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The children return and join their families

THE PEACE

Please stand if you are able

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*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

**We believe in God the Father,
God Almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.**

**We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's King to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Words By Timothy Dudley-Smith Music: Abbots Leigh

During the hymn, the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The gifts of bread and wine and our offerings will be brought to the altar

PRAYERS AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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 president takes the bread and wine.

Please remain standing if you are able

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

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.

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:

SANCTUS/BENEDICTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

David Thorne

Please sit or kneel

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord

All Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

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
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.

A brief silence is kept

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated 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.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

David Thorne

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

If you are a full member of a Christian Church you are welcome to receive the Sacrament. If you would like to receive a blessing please come to the Altar Rail carrying this Service Book

THE COMMUNION HYMN

During the Communion a hymn is sung. Please remain seated or kneeling for this.

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 FINAL HYMN 408: Love Divine, all loves excelling

- 1 Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.**

- 3 Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling \(Tune: Blaenwern - 3 double vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

During the hymn the candles are lit

At the end of the hymn, the ministers and choir go in procession to the door of the church, taking their candles with them. Everyone else remains in their seat. When they are at the back the president says,

'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :

Everyone joins in singing the Nunc Dimittis

NUNC DIMITTIS

**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;**

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Blessing

The Blessing of God almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and always

We stand near the place of new birth.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

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.

The ministers and people depart.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000

ST. MARY'S GREAT SHELFORD - WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Zoom Sunday Evening Worship: Trevor Ward is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Trevor Ward's Zoom Evening Worship

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5906920741?pwd=dTJldDBHV2REZFNlc0hLeEhLRGdlQT09>

Meeting ID: 590 692 0741

Passcode: 676561

Catherine Elizabeth Wilson RIP: Catherine died in December 2022.

There will be a memorial service to celebrate her life on 30 January 2023 in St Mary the Virgin Church at 11am. This will be followed by the interment of her ashes in the Churchyard.

Gift Day: The Gift Day Appeal total to date is £4,367. Thank you for your generous support. It is much appreciated.

We have had an offer to match any fundraising for the church to the end of January. If anyone was intending to make a Gift Day donation and would like to do this before the end of the month, this will be doubled.

Alms: In January the collections will be for Shelford School.

Community Room: Those who stay on for Sunday refreshments may have noticed that a 'Silent Santa' has passed by! A big thank you to the family who kindly gave us the new mugs: so much appreciated. Also thank you for your weekly donations for Coffee etc. What happened to your 2022 giving? £185 was sent to MACS (Malawi Association for Christian Support) - a group we have supported for many years. £185 was put into the PCC general fund and we also provided the liquid refreshments for the special occasions during the year.

£140 from the Christingle and Crib Services has been sent to the Children's Society, another charity we have supported for many years.

Cambridge City Foodbank: Our monthly collection takes place **next Sunday, 5th February**. Please do all you can to support the work of the Foodbank. All donations are appreciated and a list of foods and toiletries most urgently needed can be found on the website - <https://cambridgecity.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Food Box: The PCC has agreed to place a Food Box in the church porch containing tins and dried produce. This is in recognition that current conditions are making it difficult for some to make funds stretch to pay for food. We hope that those who need food will take it, and others will share what they have. This is to complement the food collection going to the Food Bank.

COFFEE MORNING: If the thought of a cup of coffee and some sociability together on a Saturday morning appeals to you, do please come to the Community Room between 10.30 – 12.00 on **Saturday 4th February**.

If you'd like to help in any way with this, please have a word with Maureen (details on pew sheet).

FAIR TRADE STALL

The global Fair Trade system ensures a set of standards protecting the rights, production and sale of goods of farmers and worker in developed and newly developing countries.

We would very much like to reintroduce a monthly Fair Trade stall when we meet, perhaps starting in a small way with the sale of packaged items such as tea, coffee, chocolate etc.

Would someone like to take this on at St. Mary's? It requires organisation of the ordering and display of goods and the provision of a certain amount of dry storage for them.

Do please talk about this with one of the Ministry Team if you're interested in such a worthwhile scheme. MD

The Pilgrim house group: Pilgrim Group Meeting in the Community Room on Mondays at 2pm in January until the start of Lent. We are going to spend some time looking at 'Living in Love and Faith'. This is a course which the national Church of England has asked local churches to consider. It looks at relationships and how we can live, work and love people who have different views from us. Our next meeting is on 30th January.

The Aitches playing live in our Parish Church on Saturday 25th February 7.30pm

The Aitches are four students from Bottisham Village College and myself, who formed a band before lockdown and have been together since.

The students have now left the College and go to sixth forms. We play in venues around Cambridge. We play music from Elton John, Adel, Abba, ELO, Prince, to name but a few.

Please come and support these young people.

Tickets £10.00 under 16s £5.00 from Kim Lane

All proceeds to the Organ Fund

Warm Hub: The hub has now opened. It provides a regular place where people can come to stay warm and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee each day at the following venues.

Monday - Great Shelford Free Church 10:00 - 16:00
(ties in with the Community Café in the morning)

Tuesday - Great Shelford Free Church 10:00 - 16:00

Wednesday - Great Shelford Memorial Hall 09:00 - 15:00
(ties in with the Country Market in the morning)

Thursday - Great Shelford Free Church 10:00 - 16:00

Friday - Great Shelford Free Church 10:00 - 16:00

We are looking for volunteers who can agree to be part of a rota to support this initiative. If you are able to offer a few hours over the coming months, to be present and welcoming to those who may need to spend time somewhere warm and friendly, then please contact. Libby White.

clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



Daily HOPE: This is an excellent national Church of England initiative for those who are especially isolated and do not have access to the internet. Daily HOPE is a freephone line, available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose

