



***A United Service of Holy  
Communion  
The Feast of the Presentation of  
Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)***

**Welcome to St James**, the parish Church of Bulkington. Thank you for joining us today, whether you are in the building or participating online. We are very glad to be with you.

**Holy Communion (or the Eucharist)** is the central act of Christian worship. Through our community celebration of the Eucharist, we tell the story of God with his people throughout history, and proclaim that this God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, is real among us. The season of **Epiphany** continues the joyful celebration of Christmas and shows us how Christ's coming is good news for the whole world. **Today's feast** reminds us that the good news includes the manger and the cross, as we turn towards Easter.

**We are following Government and Church of England guidelines** to ensure that we have the safest possible experience of being with each other for our worship. Please care for yourself and others by:

- Sanitising your hands
- Wearing a face covering, unless exempt from doing so

**Please give generously to support St James.** You can

- Leave a cash donation (including brown envelopes) in the plate provided on your way in or out of Church
- Join the Parish Giving Scheme (please speak to Rev Charles about this)
- Online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5o6gncq> (the QR code will take you to this page. Please note that a small proportion of your donation does not reach the Church)
- Make an electronic donation via bank transfer or standing order.



# **The Gathering**

We will be **welcomed to the service**, as we gather in God's name:

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

**All: Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you

**All: and also with you.**

## **Introduction**

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.

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,**

**and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

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*

**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.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

## The Collect

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

*We spend a moment in quiet prayer and then Rev Charles prays:*

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever  
**All: Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### 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. <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Hebrews 2:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn – Love divine, all loves excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
  
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.
  
3. Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace 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.
  
4. 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 heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## Gospel Reading – Luke 2:22-40

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), <sup>24</sup> 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.’

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*After the sermon, we share a time of quiet.*

## The Creed

**We believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy

**All: hear our prayer**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our  
Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

# ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

## **The Peace**

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.**

## **Hymn – Take My Life**

1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use

ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

*Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)*

## **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:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**All: Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## Breaking of the 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.**

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

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

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

## **Giving of Communion**

*We are invited to receive the bread or a blessing*

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may; not because you are strong but because you are weak; not because you have arrived but because you are still on a journey; come because you love the Lord a little and want to love him more. Above all, come because he loves you and gave himself for you.

*If you are joining with the service online, you might like to say this prayer of spiritual communion:*

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pain and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

*Before we go out into the week, we share any **notices**.*

## Hymn – We have a gospel to proclaim

1. We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.
2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
not in a royal house or hall,  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
3. Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save;  
in lonely suffering on the cross:  
for all he loved, his life he gave.
4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
empty the tomb, for he was free;  
he broke the pow'r of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.
5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.
6. Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

© Edward Joseph Burns (b.1938)

## Candlemas Procession

*We turn to face the font:*

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.**

## 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 Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.**

## Final Responsary

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 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.**

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.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

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

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.**

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.**

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.**