

Parish of Central Windsor

SUNG EUCHARIST

Sunday 1st February 2026

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)



**A warm welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church
for our service today**

On most Sundays we offer Sunday Club during the service.

Children are welcome to gather at the front of the church after the Collect on page 4 before they go out to their activities with our Sunday Club leaders.

If you have babies or small children with you, you are welcome to stay in church. Please don't be embarrassed if they cry or make a noise.

Please stand for:

OPENING HYMN

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.**

Refrain:

***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.**

Refrain:

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

Refrain:

**But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.**

Refrain:

**The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.**

Refrain:

**They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.**

Refrain:

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.**

Refrain:

Elizabeth Cosnett (1936-2024)

THE GREETING

The priest says

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

All **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

 The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Please sit for:

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES

Please stand for:

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.

THE KYRIE ELEISON is sung:

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

ABSOLUTION

The priest says

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 GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

All

**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

The priest says:

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

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 Sunday Club are invited to gather together at the front of the church before going to their activities.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for:

FIRST READING

Malachi 3.1–5

3 ¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ 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.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24

The congregation is invited to sing the response

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory

The earth is the Lord's and / all that fills it ,
the compass of the world and all who / dwell therein.
for he has founded it up / on the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers / of the deep. **Response**

Who shall ascend the hill / of the lord,
or who can rise up in his / holy place?

Those who have clean hands / and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath / to a lie.

Response

‘They shall receive a blessing / from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of / their salvation.’
Such is the company of / those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O / God of Jacob. **Response**

Lift up your / heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you ever / lasting doors:
and the King of glory / shall come in. **Response**

'Who is the / King of glory?'
'The Lord, / strong and mighty,
the Lord migh / ty in battle.' **Response**

Lift up your / heads, O gates,
be lifted up, you ever / lasting doors:
and the King of glory / shall come in. **Response**

'Who is this / King of glory?'
'The / Lord of hosts,
he is the / King of glory.'
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.14–end

2¹⁴ Since, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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,¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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.**

Please stand for:

Gradual Hymn

**Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.**

**All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.**

**This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.**

**Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)
Luke 2.29-32

Please remain standing for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Alleluia, alleluia
Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and
believed in throughout the world

All

Alleluia, alleluia

All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22–40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

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

³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The 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 sit for:

SERMON

Please stand for:

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

All **We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Please sit for:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

And 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

Please stand for:

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.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
 and also with you.
 Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed.
It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church.
Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

*If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday worship in one of
our churches, but are not with us every week, have you considered giving
through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do. Details are in the weekly
Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or speak to any of our churchwardens*

OFFERTORY HYMN

**Hail to the Lord who comes,
comes to his temple gate,
not with his angel host,
not in his kingly state;
no shouts proclaim him nigh,
no crowds his coming wait;**

**But, borne upon the throne
of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her dutious love,
in her fond arms at rest;
thus to his Father's house
he comes, the heavenly Guest.**

**There Joseph at her side
in reverent wonder stands,
and, filled with holy joy,
old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised Child,
the glory of all lands.**

**O Light of all the earth,
thy children wait for thee!
come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be!**

John Ellerton (1826-1893)

Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world;
you have become one with us
that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith

All

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins
of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Stephen, St
Agnes, St John the Baptist and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The priest says

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

Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary version as we pray together

All Our Father, who art in heaven, All
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.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

**All 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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The priest says the invitation to communion

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.

All Amen.

If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you or simply bow your head as you approach the altar so we know you wish to receive a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

During the administration of communion the following will be sung:

**Christ is the world's light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother;
if we have seen him, we have seen the Father.
Glory to God on high.**

**Christ is the world's peace, he and none other;
no one can serve him and despise a brother
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.**

**Christ is the world's Life, he and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.
He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.**

**Give God the Glory, God and none other;
give God the Glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the Glory, God in man my brother.
Glory to God on high.**

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

ANTHEM: O thou the central orb (*Wood*)

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
 to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

The congregational candles are lit and the priest changes from the gold vestments of the Christmas season to the purple vestments of Lent to mark the end of the season of celebration of Christ birth and the anticipation of his Passion. Once all the candles have been lit, the priest says:

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 ministers process up the aisle and the congregation turn to face the font. At the font this responsory is used.

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.**

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.**

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.**

Luke 2.29-32

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.

Amen.

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

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

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.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

The priest says

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises
and obey his will,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Final Hymn

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me:

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!***

Lord I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:
shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story:
shine on me, shine on me:

Shine, Jesus, shine

Graham Kendrick b1950

The priest says

Go in the light and peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

The ministers and people depart.

Please stay for refreshments which will be served after the service.

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you
for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the
Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org**

WEB SITE:
www.windsorchurches.org.uk

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