

The Parish of Berkswich  
in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

## Sung Eucharist for Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Welcome to our worship this morning.  
Because of the current situation, if you are joining us in church, unless exempt please wear a mask when singing or moving round the building. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing – please respect those who have done so. For those at home, the hymns not in full text can be accessed by clicking on the hymn link – please do continue to sing loudly, you will still be muted.

### The gathering



Today we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. For Mary's human son, this fulfilled the religious customs of the day. For God's incarnate Son, this fulfilled prophecies that the Lord would come to his Temple. So let us welcome Jesus into our hearts, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.  
Christ, be our light!...**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.  
Christ, be our light!...**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.  
Christ, be our light!...**

**Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.  
Christ, be our light!...**

*Bernadette Farrell*

### The greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord of glory be with you.  
**The Lord bless you.**

### Introduction

Dear friends, thirty-eight 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.

## Gloria

**Glory! Merrily on high  
In heaven the bells are ringing;  
Glory! Verily the sky  
Is riven with angels singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis (rpt)**

**Peace to all throughout the earth  
From heaven in the highest  
Worship, thankfulness and praise  
We sing to God our Father.  
Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis (rpt)**

**Jesus, Only Son of God  
Our Lord and Lamb, Messiah,  
Mercy, take away our sin,  
And hear the prayer we offer.  
Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis (rpt)**

## The Collect for the day

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

*Silence is kept*

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. **Amen.**

## The liturgy of the word

### First reading Malachi 3.1-15

#### A reading from the prophet Malachai

*Before judgement comes a chance of salvation. The Lord comes to the Temple to purify us until we present righteous offerings: respecting and protecting others.*



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 fullers' 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 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel reading



Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature.

**Alleluia.**

Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law.

**Alleluia.**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

**Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

2.22-20

*When Jesus is presented in the Temple, the Holy Spirit surprisingly reveals him to Simeon and Anna as God's promised salvation, although suffering will come first.*

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,

*Our choir sing a setting of the  
Nunc Dimittis by Geoffrey Burgon*

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 for seven years after her marriage, 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. 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.

40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**



## Affirmation of faith



**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

*If possible, kneel (or bow) at the following three lines as we honour the Incarnation – God stooping to earth to become human*

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

*Please stand*

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.



Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel: look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world: look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor: look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace: look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected: look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

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.

**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*

**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. **Amen**

## The liturgy of the sacrament

### The Peace



The Lord of glory be with you.

**And also with you**

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 1.78,79J*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### Offertory Prayer

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. **Amen**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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:

*Our virtual choir lead us in singing the Sanctus.  
The priest then continues the prayer, recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper during which our virtual choir will sing our Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer  
At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, we assent to the prayer by saying...*

**Amen!**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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  
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread as our virtual choir sing the Agnus Dei.*

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*As those in church receive, we sing this hymn*

**New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,  
a holy light no earthly light outshines;  
the light has dawned, the light that casts out  
fear,  
the light that evil dreads and love defines.**

**The light of glory shines to angels' song,  
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;  
a servant of the Lord, who waited long  
acclaims the light to lighten Gentiles eyes.**

**And priestly men sit listening to a boy,  
they see the dawning light within his face.  
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips  
employ!  
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.**

**O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,  
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;  
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,  
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.**

*Paul Wigmore (1925-2014)*

# Candlemas Procession



*As we sing our candlemas hymn, the candles are lit and the crib is stripped. Once the crib is stripped, please join the procession to the font*

**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 recognise there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the  
year.  
*A glory dawns...***

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

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

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

**They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,  
but trust is complete at the end of their life.  
*A glory dawns...***

**For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,  
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross.  
*A glory dawns...***

**O Spirit of God, with like courage inspire  
your everyday saints who face up to despair.  
*A glory dawns...***

**They pass through temptation, through  
failure, through death.  
When darkness descends they plod onward in  
faith.  
*A glory dawns...***

**Like Anna, like Simeon, may they have trust,  
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last.  
*A glory dawns...***

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray  
When Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas  
day.  
*A glory dawns...*  
*Elizabeth J Cosnett (b. 1936)***

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. **Amen.**

## Final Responsory

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

**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.

**Help us, who have received the bread of life,  
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 have greeted the light of the world.

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

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

**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.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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# Prayer diary for January from



## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - Nebbi in Uganda**

All Praise to God sustaining us, redeeming and transforming us, thanksgiving in Eternity, all Praise Beloved Trinity. *New Zealand Prayer Book*

## **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> - Bida in Nigeria; Llandaff in Wales; Kanyakumari in India**

Loving Lord, transform our lives that we may reflect the glory of Christ. Continue in us the work of your Spirit; the miracle of transformation to reflect the glory of Christ and share his love in the world. Amen

## **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> - Matisolane in South Africa; Mumias in Kenya**

Generous God, we are so grateful for all you have given to us in life. Help us use your resources wisely to bring change for good in the world, and to enable others to do the same. Amen

## **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Eha-Amufu in Nigeria; Ballarat in Australia**

Open my eyes Lord, that I may see the wonders of your law. As I hear and read your word and spend time in prayer, may I also put your commandment into action and truly love my neighbour as myself.

## **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Niagra in Canada**

You are the potter; I am the clay. Loving Lord, you created each of us in your own image; may we always see you in everyone we meet and reach out to them in love and kindness as your hands, wherever there is a need.

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> - North Kerala in India**

God is love. Father, may I be a witness of your love in a troubled, anxious world, a love that casts out fear and that never ends. Lord, you give light to the world; may I be so filled with your light that others find their way to you.

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> - Botswana; Marsabit in Kenya**

Generous God, we are blessed by your lavish abundance; your total and constant provision. We praise you that, in every facet of life, you provide for our diverse needs as individuals, in our families and communities



### Key Contacts...

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*Fr Graham's usual day off is Monday*

**The Parish Office is situated behind Holy Trinity Church and is closed at the current time**

Please send all items for next week's News from the Pews to Sue on [ssnhatton@gmail.com](mailto:ssnhatton@gmail.com) (or 661767) by the end of Wednesday

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

**HT** = Holy Trinity Church  
**ST** = St Thomas's Church **AS** = All Saints Church  
**V** = Vicarage **CH** = Community Hall **OL** = Online

#### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Candlemas

0845	Sung Eucharist	AS
1045	Sung Eucharist	HT
1830	Evening Prayer	OL

#### Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January

#### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

1000	Drop In	HT
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#### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

1000	Private Prayer	AS
1200	Said Eucharist	AS
2000	Compline	OL

#### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

1000	Private Prayer	ST
1030	Sung Eucharist	ST

#### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February

1000	Crafty Café	HT
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#### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Fourth Sunday Before Lent

0930	Parish Sung Eucharist	HT
1830	Evening Prayer followed with sermon series discussion group	OL

### Daily Bible Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Psalms 4, 7 1 Chronicles 10.1-11.9 John 13.1-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalms 9, 10 1 Chronicles 13 John 13.12-20
<b>Wed</b>	Psalms 11, 12, 13 1 Chronicles 15.1-16.3 John 13.21-30
<b>Thursday</b>	Psalms 18 1 Chronicles 17 John 13.31-end
<b>Friday</b>	Psalms 22 1 Chronicles 21.1-22.1 John 14.1-14
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalms 24, 25 1 Chronicles 22.2-end John 14.15-end

### Welcome!

**Welcome to you all** as we continue to try and meet at this unusual time in the history of our nation and world. We hope that you will join with us in prayer and worship, either in church, or via Zoom, Facebook or YouTube (details <http://www.berkswich.org.uk/coronavirus.html>)

**Sign up** for our weekly email newsletter, or see older issues here <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5991be44ea1b9738d6262c1e2&id=a28b74cddb>

**If you wish** to make a donation towards the life and work of the Parish, there is an opportunity to do so during the service. Please consider joining the Giving Direct scheme (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/finance/financegiftaid/financegivingdirect/>) or make a one-off donation via JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkswichparish>)

**You can follow us on Facebook!** To sign up for our weekly email newsletter, please email Fr Graham ([graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk](mailto:graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk))

## Points for Prayer

**For the world...** We ask you Lord to intervene in the lives of all those who face harassment, discrimination, violence, imprisonment or worse because of their religious beliefs or political convictions. Give power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Raise the poor from the dust and lift the needy from the ashes. (Psalm 113)

**For the church...** Father God, thank you for the calling and purpose you have given to all those who are part of Christian Solidarity Worldwide. We praise and thank you for your provision of their every need over so many years. Thank you for calling them for such a time as this, to tackle injustice and advocate for freedom.

**For our community...** Pray for all in our community who are facing financial hardship and the real possibility of fuel poverty in the face of rising prices and fixed incomes. Give thanks for the practical help provided by staff and volunteers of the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Stafford and for the food banks run by Christian Food Help and other organisations.

**For those known to us, near and far...**

**... who suffer in body, mind or spirit:**

Jim, Phyllis, Alistair, Ann, Sally, Wendy, Brenda, Olivia, Carolyn, Ruth, Pauline, Amelie, Martin, M, Clive, J, Pauline, C, Mark, Steve, Oscar, Vicky, Lou, Roger, Sheila, Hannah, Richard, Julie, Russell

**.... for the recently departed:** Baby Evie-Grace; Guy Parkes; Colin Parkes; Jean Marshall; Linda Lunn; June Thomson; Mary Hinds; Linda Carr; Doreen Tilstone; Doreen Tildesley

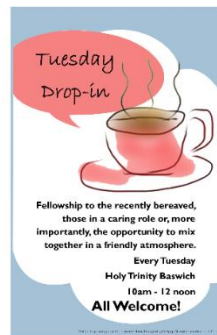
*+ May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**Some of our buildings are included in the Domesday book - can you help us maintain them?** The building and churchyard group are looking for people with knowledge/experience of buildings and services (ie wi-fi, audio-visual, gas, water, sewage, electricity, decorating etc) to advise on various projects. If you have such experience and would like to help with the physical development/maintenance of the parish then please contact Fr. Graham.



**Crafty Café** - do join us as we offer space to craft, chat and share ideas. Join us every Friday

between 10 and 12noon in Holy Trinity.



**Tuesday Drop-In** – fellowship to the recently bereaved, those in a caring role, or more importantly, the opportunity to mix together in a friendly atmosphere – takes place from 10am-12noon, every Tuesday, in Holy Trinity.

**How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?** The Church of England is challenging us to ask these questions – more information on how we as a parish are doing so will be available soon.

**Would you be interested** in reflecting more on the meaning of Scripture during lent? Join our Whatsapp group to receive a sentence of scripture and short reflection each day during Lent. You can join via <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BkfT6NH5giL697ToCYvmd>, tapping the tag at the back of our churches, or using the Whatsapp camera on your phone to scan:-



## News & Events

**Prayer requests** - please send to david.clark@berkswich.org.uk or call 07999 596590

**Do you wonder** why we do what we do during our Eucharistic services? We will be holding a new sermon series "Embodying Christ Together in our Worship", including discussion groups, in the weeks between Epiphanytide and Lent. THIS SERIES WILL BEGIN WITH A PARISH EUCHARIST ON SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEB AT 9.30 IN HOLY TRINITY. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE THERE