

St Thomas

We strive to share God's Love through Welcome, Outreach & Worship



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

**ALL-AGES TOGETHER FAMILY
EUCCHARIST**

GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION – If you are Coeliac or Wheat Intolerant and would like to receive G/F Communion, please speak to a sidesperson or server before the service. You will be given a green card, which you should carry to the communion rail and show clearly to the priest. Please leave your card at the end of the service.

A COLLECTION is not taken, however there is an offertory plate by the door for use either before or after the service. Please fill in a Gift Aid envelope if possible, so we can reclaim the tax. Alternatively, if you would like to join our PLANNED GIVING scheme using weekly envelopes or Banker's Standing Order, there are forms at the back of the church. Forms should be passed to the Treasurer (Fiona Rorbye 674954), who can offer advice.

We now have a card reader available for contactless payment by card - please speak to a steward



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

The Parish Office can be contacted on

Telephone: 672335 Email: office@stthomaswells.co.uk





WE GATHER

Words of welcome and introduction

Dear friends, almost 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 recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this service, we look back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his dying on the cross and rising again.

We stand

Hymn: Shine Jesus shine

**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!
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.*

**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.**

Refrain

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Jesus is the light of the world. Come, let us worship.
Come, let us worship.

Jesus is light in our lives. Come, let us worship.
Come, let us worship.

Saying sorry

Light shows up things that have been forgotten or lost or hidden. As we come into Jesus' presence, his light reminds us of all the good things we have forgotten to do and all of the things we have hidden away. But saying sorry means we can walk in the light with our heads held up high.

For all the times we have ignored people in need.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the times we have deliberately decided to make a wrong choice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For all the times we have forgotten your love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his never-ending love for us, in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peruvian Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen, alleluia ame—n.

Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.

Glory to God, glory to God, son of the Father.

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen, alleluia ame—n.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.

To him be glory forever.

To him be glory forever.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia, amen.

Alleluia amen, alleluia ame—n.

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world,
shine among us and within us;
turn us from darkness
and bring us to your everlasting light.

Amen.



WE LISTEN

We sit

1st Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Saviour took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

We stand

Hymn: In our darkness, light has shone

**In our darkness light has shone, alleluia,
still today the light shines on, alleluia;
Word made flesh in human birth, alleluia,
light and life of all the earth, alleluia!**

**Christ the Son incarnate see, alleluia,
by whom all things came to be, alleluia;
through the world his splendours shine, alleluia,
full of grace and truth divine, alleluia!**

**All who now in him believe, alleluia,
everlasting life receive, alleluia;
born of God and in his care, alleluia,
we his name and nature share, alleluia!**

**Christ a child on earth appears, alleluia,
crown of all creation's years, alleluia;
God's eternal Word has come, alleluia,
he shall lead his people home, alleluia!**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

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

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law. In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God: God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see: A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel.

Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother, 'This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel, a figure misunderstood and contradicted—the pain of a sword-thrust through you— but the rejection will force honesty, as God reveals who they really are.'

Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshipping night and day with her fasting and prayers.

At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.

When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

We sit

Talk

We stand



WE RESPOND

What we believe

Let's remind ourselves that we are all people of light, believing in the same God, sharing the same love:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and 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.

We sit

Prayers

The prayers end

Loving 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, friend and brother. **Amen.**

We stand

The Peace

God makes peace within us...let us claim it.

God makes peace between us...let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Song: 10,000 reasons

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name,
sing like never before, oh my soul.
I'll worship your holy name.*

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever
lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.**
Refrain.

**You're rich in love and you're slow to anger;
your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing,
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**
Refrain

**And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come;
still my soul will sing your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore.**
Refrain



WE REMEMBER

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

Father, you made the world and love all you have created.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

On the night Jesus was betrayed, at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

This is my body, broken for you. Eat it to remember me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him;

his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,

he gave you thanks and said;

Drink this all of you. This is my blood,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him;

his blood is shed for all.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine that they may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts, make us one in Christ.

With your whole Church throughout the world, and with the angels and archangels, we sing your hymn of praise:

**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.

We sit or kneel

The Lord's Prayer

**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

The Priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

**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.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Priest and people receive communion.

All are welcome at God's table.

*If you cannot come forward for communion, we can bring the
bread and wine to you.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing instead of bread and wine,
please bring this booklet with you.*

***Please indicate by pointing right if you'd prefer to drink from
the common cup, otherwise your wafer will be dipped in the
wine by the priest.***

During the distribution, music will be played and/or singing.

Post-Communion Prayer

Loving God, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
treasure them all of our days. Amen.

Notices



WE GO OUT

We stand

Blessing of Candles

Music will be played as our candles are lit. When lit, the following prayer will be said:

Lord God, who came as light to the whole world,
bless these candles that they might shine with your light, in our church, in our homes, in our worship, leading us towards you and reminding everyone of your love. **Amen.**

During this next hymn we head to or face towards the font:

Song: This little light of mine

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

**The light that shines is the light of love,
lights the darkness from above,
it shines on me and it shines on you,
and shows what the power of love can do.
I'm gonna shine my light both far and near,
I'm gonna shine my light both bright and clear.
Where there's a dark corner in this land,
I'm gonna let my little light shine.**

Refrain

**On Monday he gave me the gift of love.
Tuesday peace came from above.
On Wednesday he told me to have more faith.
On Thursday he gave me a little more grace.
Friday, he told me just to watch and pray.
Saturday, he told me just what to say.
On Sunday he gave me the power divine
to let my little light shine.**

Refrain

**When I am feeling dull and grey,
and sunshine seems so far away,
when I don't know quite where to start,
I remember the stardust in my heart:
all it needs is a tiny spark
to get me shining in the dark,
So Jesus, give me your fire divine
to let my little light shine!**

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

At the font

The Song of Simeon (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.**

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 now extinguish these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

We blow out our candles

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.**

