



CHESTER  
CATHEDRAL

**A service of  
readings and music  
for Candlemas**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January,  
2022 at 6pm**

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

We come tonight to recall the time when Jesus was presented in the Temple and revealed to his people. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord and foretold the coming of the Saviour. As we hear their story this evening, may their faith, dedication in worship, care for the Holy Family and willingness to tell of their faith be qualities that can inspire and encourage us on in our mission and pilgrimage to proclaim Christ to the world. In renewing our faith in finding Christ in our lives, may we draw on Mary and Joseph's courage and faith to equip on the Lenten journey at the beginning of March and bear the cross with courage when our own hearts are pierced and when we wait for resurrection.

# READING

## The Ceremonies for Candlemas Day

Kindle the Christmas brand, and then  
till sunset let it burn;  
which quench'd, then lay it up again,  
till Christmas next return.

Part must be kept, wherewith to teend  
the Christmas log next year;  
and where 'tis safely kept, the fiend  
can do no mischief there.

*Robert Herrick (1591-1674)*

# HYMN

- 1 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;
- 2 But borne upon the throne  
of Mary's gentle breast,  
watched by her duteous love,  
in her fond arms at rest;  
thus to his Father's house  
He comes, the heavenly Guest.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

OLD 120TH

*John Ellerton (1826-93)*

*Este's Psalter, 1592, Harmony*

# OPENING RESPONSES

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
King of the universe.

You make our darkness to be light.

For with you is the well of life  
and in your light shall we see light.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

# READING

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.

*Malachi 3. 1-4*

# ANTHEM

Hodie beata Virgo Maria  
puerum Jesum presentavit in templo,  
Et Simeon, repletus Spiritu Sancto,  
accepit eum in ulnas suas,  
et benedixit Deum in aeternum.

*Today the Blessed Virgin Mary  
presented the child Jesus in the temple  
and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit,  
took Him in his arms,  
and blessed God for evermore.*

*William Byrd (1539-1623)*

# READINGS

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 turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

*Luke 2. 22 - 24*

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.

# READINGS

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 (born 1957)*

# PSALM 132

- 1 Lord remember David:  
and all his trouble;
- 2 How he swore unto the Lord:  
and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God  
of Jacob;
- 3 I will not come within the tabernacle of  
mine house:  
nor climb up into my bed;
- 4 I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor  
mine eye-lids to slumber:  
neither the temples of my head to take  
any rest;
- 5 Until I find out a place for the temple of  
the Lord:  
an habitation for the mighty God of  
Jacob.

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.

# HYMN

- 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 voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.
- 3 Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 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.
- 5 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 Havergal (1836-79)*

NOTTINGHAM  
*W A Mozart (1756-91)*

# READING

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

# READING

revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

Luke 2. 25-35

# ANTHEM

*The choir sings*

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,  
secundum verbum tuum in pace:

Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum  
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium  
populorum:

Lumen ad revelationem gentium,  
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*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.*

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

# READING

With certitude  
Simeon opened  
ancient arms  
to infant light.

Decades  
before the cross, the tomb  
and the new life,  
he knew  
new life.

What depth  
of faith he drew on,  
turning illumined  
towards deep night.

*Denise Levertov (1923-97)*

# HYMN

- 1 In his temple now behold him,  
see the long-expected Lord!  
Ancient prophets had foretold him;  
God hath now fulfilled his word.  
Now to praise him his redeemed  
shall break forth with one accord.
- 2 In the arms of her who bore him,  
Virgin pure, behold him lie,  
while his aged saints adore him,  
ere in perfect faith thy die:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Lo! the incarnate God most high!
- 3 Jesu, by thy Presentation,  
Thou who didst for us endure,  
make us see thy great salvation,  
seal us with thy promise sure;  
and present us in thy glory,  
to thy Father, cleansed and pure.
- 4 Prince and Author of salvation,  
be thy boundless love our theme!  
Jesu, praise to thee be given  
by the world thou didst redeem,  
with the Father and the Spirit,  
Lord of majesty supreme! Amen.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*Henry Pye (1825–93)*

*Henry Purcell (1659-95)*

# READING

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. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

*Luke 2. 36-40*

# ANTHEM

Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs;  
their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul  
he doth Himself impart;  
and for His cradle and His throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.

*Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)*

# READING

Lord, they Roman hyacinths  
are blooming in bowls and  
the winter sun creeps by the snow hills;  
the stubborn season has made stand.  
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,  
like a feather on the back of my hand.  
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners  
wait for the wind that chills towards the  
dead land.

Grant us they peace.

I have walked many years in this city,  
kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,  
have given and taken honour and ease.  
There went never any rejected  
from my door.

Who shall remember my house,  
where shall live my children's children?  
When the time of sorrow is come?  
They will take to the goat's path,  
and the fox's home,  
Fleeing from foreign faces  
and the foreign swords.

Before the time of cords and scourges  
and lamentation

Grant us thy peace.

Before the stations of the mountain  
of desolation,

# READINGS

before the certain hour  
of maternal sorrow,  
now at this birth season of decease,  
let the Infant,  
the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,  
grant Israel's consolation  
to one who has eighty years  
and no to-morrow.

According to thy word.  
they shall praise Thee  
and suffer in every generation  
with glory and derision,  
light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.  
Not for me the martyrdom,  
the ecstasy of thought and prayer,  
not for me the ultimate vision.  
Grant me thy peace.  
(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,  
Thine also).

I am tired with my own life  
and the lives of those after me,

I am dying in my own death and the deaths  
of those after me.

Let thy servant depart,  
Having seen thy salvation.

*T S Eliot (1888-1965)*

# PRAYERS

*At the end:*

And so together we pray

**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 forever. Amen.**

# HYMN

- 1 Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant  
his discharge in peace.
- 2 All the Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.
- 3 This your great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.
- 4 Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us your servants  
our discharge in peace.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926)*

GOTT EIN VATER  
*Philipp Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860)*

# CLOSING RESPONSES

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

Here we have rejoiced with those to be  
baptised and recalled our own baptism.  
**Help us who are marked with the  
cross,  
to share the Lord's death and  
resurrection.**

# CLOSING RESPONSES

Here we turn from Christ's birth  
to his passion.

**Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the Easter  
mystery.**

# FINAL READINGS

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

*2 Corinthians 4, 6, 8-12*

May there be a lamp in your heart, in your hand and in your mouth: let the lamp in your heart shine for yourself, the lamp in your hand and mouth shine for your neighbours. The lamp in your heart is a reverence for God inspired by faith: the lamp in your hand is the example of a good life; and the lamp in your mouth are the words of consolation you speak.

*Guerric of Igny (1080-1157)*

# HYMN

- 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.
- 6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.

*Words and Music: Richard Gillard (born 1953)*  
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# **DISMISSAL**

We are Christ's crucified body  
yet a Light in the World.

**Help us to go in peace  
to shine with your light in the world.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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