



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

CANDLEMAS

St Nicholas' Church, Worth

ORDER OF SERVICE

Everyone is invited to speak or sing the words in **bold**.

Please stand for the blessing of candles.

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

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

Blessed be God for ever.

Your light shines on us and all peoples shall see your glory.

Blessed be God for ever.

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Priest blesses the candles, saying

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.**

Please remain standing to sing. During the hymn please come forward to collect and light a candle, then return to your place. The candles remain lit until after the Gospel.

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! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Please remain standing.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.
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.

Please remain standing for the Collect.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. **Amen.**

Please sit for the Old Testament Reading.

Reading

Psalm 24

A reading from the Psalms of David.

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 upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

'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;

'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.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is the King of glory?'

'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is this King of glory?'

'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

Gospel

Luke 2. 22-40

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.’ 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 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. The 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.

Please now extinguish your candle and sit for the Sermon.

Sermon

Please stand.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

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 kneel or sit.

Prayers of Intercession

All respond:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please stand to share the Peace.

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.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please remain standing to sing the offertory hymn, during which the Altar is prepared and a collection is received.

Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done,
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Please remain standing for the Great Thanksgiving.

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 always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator, loving and faithful,
holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit to bring new life
to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

**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.**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.
Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.
For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please remain standing to say the Lord's Prayer.

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.**

*Please remain standing for the Breaking of the Bread and Giving of Communion,
then be seated.*

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Jesus 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.

*All are welcome to come to the Altar Rail to receive Holy Communion or a Blessing.
Please sit or kneel for the Prayer after Communion.*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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 lives and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing the final hymn.

Let the storm and summer sunshine,
gliding stream and sounding shore,
sea and forest, frost and zephyr,
day and night their Lord adore;
let creation join to laud thee
through the ages evermore,
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



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