



**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings**



***The Presentation of Jesus
in the Temple
[Candlemas]***

2nd February 2025

Opening Hymn: Church of God, elect and glorious

SG592 - Words: from 1 Peter 2 / James Seddon © Mrs M Seddon / Jubilate Hymns

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

- 1 Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs.**
- 2 God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvellous light;
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God's name is glorified;
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.**
- 3 Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love;
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel a Father's care;
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.**
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends;
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your master sends:
royal priests, fulfil your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service
sing his praise, his love declare.**

The Gathering

The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

Dear friends, 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.

As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing and renewal.

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.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

We sit

Collect: Ever-living God, your Son Jesus Christ
was presented as a child in the temple
to be the hope of your people;
**grant us pure hearts and minds
that we may be transformed into his likeness,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever.
Amen.**

Reading: Malachi 3: 1-5

After the Reading: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24: 7-10

7 Lift up your heads you gates,
lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors:
that the king of glory may come in.

8 ‘Who is the king of glory?’:
**‘It is the Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’**

9 Lift up your heads you gates,
lift yourselves up, you everlasting doors:
that the king of glory may come in.

10 ‘Who is the king of glory?’:
**‘It is the Lord, the Lord of hosts who
is the king of glory.’**

Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18

After the Reading: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: **Stars by night were shining**

Words: Emma Turl © Jubilate Group - Tune: NOEL NOUVELET

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Stars by night were shining
over a cattle-shed
where a babe, reclining,
slept in a manger bed.
Yet brighter far
than starlight in the sky,
God with us, our Saviour,
Jesus is Lord most high.</p> <p>2 Angel choirs were singing
praises to God above,
and to shepherds bringing
news of his gift of love.
This is his Son -
we marvel at his birth:
Mary's child, our brother,
treasure of priceless worth.</p> | <p>3 Simeon is waiting
for the anointed One;
Anna stands relating
all that the Lord has done.
Here they rejoice
to see the infant brought,
dawning light of nations
now in his temple court.</p> <p>4 Heaven-sent and glorious,
promised from ages past,
Christ will rise victorious,
conquering death at last.
First he must die
sin's captives to release -
welcome our redeemer,
Prince of eternal peace!</p> |
|---|--|

Gospel Acclamation:

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our human 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.

Gospel Reading: **Luke 2: 22-40**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter two,
beginning at the twenty-second verse.

Praise and glory to God.

After the reading: This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

*The Sermon is followed by a moment of silence and/or musical reflection;
then we sit or kneel.*

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to God, our heavenly Father,
through Christ who is our light and life.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, your Christ in his temple brings judgement
on the world:

look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Loving God, your Christ, who was rich,
for our sakes became poor:

look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants
find their peace:

look in mercy on the departed, that they may see
your salvation.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Loving God, 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.

Lord, 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*

**Eternal God, 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 Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

*As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar;
our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected
and presented also.*

Offertory Hymn: **Shine, Jesus, Shine**

SG614 / TIS675 / CP513 - www.grahamkendrick.co.uk
Words & Music: Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music

- 1 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:**

Refrain: **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!**

- 2 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:**

- 3 **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:**

The Blessing of Candles

The Presider blesses the candles to be used on the altar during the year, and the candles for distribution to the congregation during communion and lit at the Litany for Candlemas

Presider: Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the Temple, fulfilling the law of Moses, and at the same time going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we gather in this house of God and welcome Christ the Lord. Here we shall recognize him in the breaking of bread until he comes again in glory. Let us pray: Almighty God, source of all light, today you revealed to Simeon your Light of revelation to the nations. Bless + these candles and make them holy, that we who observe their light in your temple may come with joy to the light of glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to offer 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:

**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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you,
for 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,
to remember me.

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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 Invitation to Communion

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua,
tangohia ēnei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.
Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

*Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.*

If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.

*After receiving the bread and wine, please collect a Votive candle to have it ready for lighting as we sing the hymn '**Christ, be our Light**' following the Prayer after Communion.*

Prayer after Communion

God our heavenly Father, source of all light,
you revealed to aged Simeon your light
that enlightens all nations
and have now filled our hearts
with the light of faith through this holy supper.
**Lighten our path that we may walk in the way of holiness
until we come to the Light that shines forever, your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn:

Christ, be our Light

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell

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- 1 **Longing for light, we wait in darkness;
longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, you holy people,
light for the world to see.**

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

- 2 **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.**
- 3 **Longing for food, many are hungry;
longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**
- 4 **Longing for shelter, many are homeless;
longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

continued ... →

- 5 **Many the gifts, many the people;
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your Kingdom come.**

The Candlemas Procession

Presider: Today brings to a close the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Season, and so we pray:

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.

As we sing the next hymn, the 'Christ' candle is processed to the main entrance

Final Hymn: Nunc Dimittis - The Song of Simeon

*Luke 2: 29 - Adapted: James E Seddon - HFTC#611a - Tune: **NORTH COATES***

- 1 **Lord, now let your servant
go his way in peace -
your great love has brought me
joy that will not cease.**
- 2 **For my eyes have seen him
promised from of old -
saviour of all people,
shepherd of one fold.**

- 3 **Light of revelation
to the Gentiles shown,
light of Israel's glory
to the world made known.**

Closing Litany and Blessing

Presider: Loving God, 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 extinguish 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, may Christ the Son be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Go now in peace, and love,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Following the service, all are welcome to share morning tea/coffee served in the 'Hospitality Corner' at the southern side of the Church.



Acknowledgements:

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and

The Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-1#p206>

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<https://www.liturgybytlw.com/Epiph/Presenta.html>

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(encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings, St Peter's, Riverslea, & St Martin's, Mayfair)

Provoking faith in our communities

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