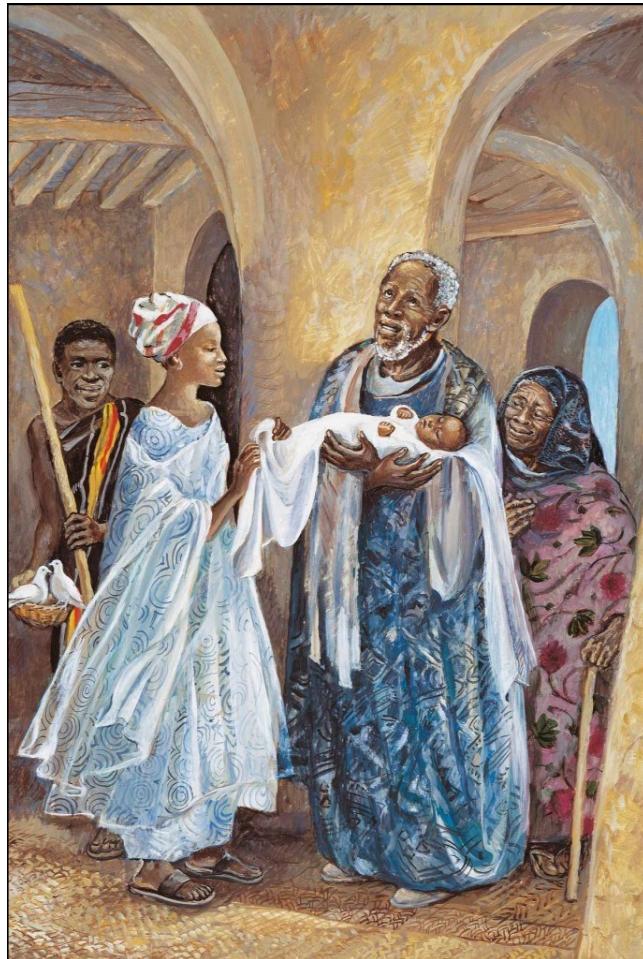


**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings**



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

**1st February 2026
St Matthew's Church**

Presider: This is the day which the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We stand

Opening Hymn: New Light has Dawned

SG375 - Words: Paul Wigmore (adapted) © Jubilate Hymns

Alt. tune: **WOODLANDS**

- 1 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.
- 2 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 Gentile eyes.
- 3 And those who teach 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.
- 4 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,
dispel the dark, and let your light come in.

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.

And so, together, we say ...

**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 or kneel

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. *John 8.12*

Silence

**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.**

Presider: 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.

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

Silence

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: **Praise the One who breaks the darkness**

Words: Rusty Edwards © Hope Publishing - Tune: **NETTLETON**

- 1 **Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel
healing every dread disease.
Calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness seeing what our God has done.
Praise the One redeeming glory
Praise the One who makes us one.

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 stand

Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(adapted from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)

**Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.**

**V: Loving God, in your mercy:
R: Hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence,
we pray for ourselves and our own needs.

Silence

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,
and showed them the infant Christ.

**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.

The Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

The Peace

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

We may exchange a sign of Christ's peace with those around us.

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: Longing for light, we wait in darkness (Christ, be our Light)

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, 2000 B Farrell, published by OCP

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.
- 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.

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

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

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

Creator God, 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 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 ...

**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 take home, where you may wish to light it as a reminder that Christ is the 'Light of the World'.



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.**

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, when we light our candles,
to remember 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.

We may share any notices, news, or celebrations

Closing Hymn: ***I am the Light of the Word***

WOV669 - Words & Music: © 1969 Jim Strathdee
(the refrain is sung at the beginning, then after each verse)

Refrain: ***'I am the Light of the World.
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.***

- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds
have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun!**
- 2 To find the lonely and the lost,
to heal their broken souls with love,
to feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!**
- 3 To free the prisoners from their chains,
to make the powerful care,
to re-build the nations with strength of goodwill,
to be at one with people every-where.**
- 4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old one's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!**

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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*[https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/
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