

St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

**The Feast of Candlemas**

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**28th January 2018**

**THE GATHERING**

**Introit hymn:** 89 ‘O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness’

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

Priest: The Lord of glory be with you:

**All: The Lord bless you.**

Priest: 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. In their old age, Simeon and Anna recognised 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.

To prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins and ask God's forgiveness:

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Priest: 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.**

**All *(sing):* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.**

**The Collect:** Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi** *(Mal 3. 1–5)*

Thus says the Lord God: 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. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord:

All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:**  *(remain seated)* 244 ‘Virgin born, we bow before thee’

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** *(Heb 2. 14–18)*

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

**Gradual hymn:** 360 ‘Faithful vigil, ended’

##### msotw9_temp0THE GOSPEL

Priest: This child is the light to enlighten the nations,

and the glory of your people Israel.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke *(Lk 2. 22–40)*

All: Glory to you, O Lord

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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

**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

The Sermon:

*We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed*

Priest: We believe in one God,

**All: the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Intercession

Priest: Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life:

*Each section ends:* Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

* **those who are ill:**

(4) Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith (3) Mary Lowe, Jenson Wright, Barbara Cook, Val Carter, Bill Lowson, Eileen Chorley, Zenia (2)Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington, Eileen Whitehead, Stephen Rawling (1) Su Williams, Eleanor Moran, Carol Latimer, Vera Wood, Minnie Norman, Michael Holland, Peter O’Connor

* **those who have died:** Christine Peters, Les Parkinson
* **those whose year's mind falls at this time**:

***Sunday:*** Andrew Maudsley, Will Pugh, Eric Sanson

***Monday:*** Alan Blackmore, Annie Frangleton

***Wednesday:*** Robert Carey

***Thursday:*** Connie Lynskey

***Saturday:*** May Ashby, Margaret Cooper

After the final petition:

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

**The Peace**   *(please stand)*

Priest: 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 in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone is invited to exchange a sign of peace.

**Offertory Hymn:** 44 ‘Angels from the realms of glory’

Eucharistic Prayer E *(please kneel)*

Priest:The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Priest:Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Priest:Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: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:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth

*(sing)* **are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, highest. Hosanna in the highest, the highest, the highest, the highest.**

Priest:We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; 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, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All *(sing)* Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

Priest: Believing his promises, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: 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.

Priest: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

All: 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.

Priest: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Holy Communion is administered at the front of Church. Everyone is warmly invited to receive Holy Communion at this Eucharist. Those who prefer to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward at the same time.

**Hymn** during Communion:

94 ‘Hail to the Lord who comes’

*(After the communion, individual candles will be lit for the Procession. We sing):*

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king.

Angels are watching, stars are shining –

over the place where he is lying:

Sing Lullaby!

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king.

Soon will come sorrow with the morning,

soon will come bitter grief and weeping:

Sing Lullaby!

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now a-dozing, sing lullaby!

Hush, do not wake the infant king.

Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing –

then in the grave, at last, reposing:

Sing Lullaby!

Sing lullaby!

Lullaby is the babe awakening? sing lullaby!

Hush, do not stir the infant king.

Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,

conquering death, its bondage breaking:

Sing Lullaby!

Priest: This child is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected. And a sword shall pierce your own soul also.

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 temple where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Priest: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

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

Priest: My own eyes have seen the salvation:

which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

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

Priest: A light to reveal you to the nations:

and the glory of your people Israel.

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

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen

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

**Recessional hymn:** 80 ‘When candles are lighted’

(During this hymn, choir and congregation follow servers and priest to the Font. Please bring your sheet with you.)

Priest: Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

All: Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Priest: Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All: Help us, who have received the bread of life,

to be thankful for your gift.

Priest: Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All: Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,

to trust in your eternal promises.

Priest: Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

All: Help us, who now extinguish these candles,

never to forsake the light of Christ.

*All now extinguish their candles.*

Priest: Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

All: Help us, who are marked with the cross,

to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

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

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

Priest: Here we bless one another in your name.

All: Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Services and Notices for the coming week:**

Tues 30th: 7.00pm Parish Office [No choir practice this evening]

Wed 31st: 7.00pm Eucharist

7 for 7.30pm Deanery Synod at St Philip, Westbrook

Thu 2nd: 10.30am Eucharist

**Next Sunday The Second Sunday before Lent**

**(4th Feb) 10.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Coffee and Tea:** are served after this morning’s Eucharist. Do join us if you possibly can.

**Candlemass 28th January 2018**

Priest: Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life:

*(All kneel)*

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

We pray for those who bring light and hope through the spread of the gospel, both in this country and overseas; for the work of USPG, all who work with them and those who support them.

Lord, in your mercy

## All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Father, look in mercy on the nations, who long for Christ’s justice.

We hold before you the people of Syria, Myanmar, Turkey and Iraq.

Give comfort to refugees, the bereaved and the suffering, courage to survivors, wisdom to those who seek to help, and light to all who live in the shadow of death.

Lord, in your mercy

## All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor: look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

We pray for those who are sick, including Lynn Burman, Michael Stringer, Michelle Smith, Paul Hogden, Joyce Hetherington, Michael Thackeray, Pauline Smith, Barbara Cook, Val Carter, Bill Lowson, Eileen Chorley, Zenia, Rob Mudd, Mark Shepherd, Marion Greatorex, Eric Tickle, Barbara Boscoe, Jacqueline Willington, Eileen Whitehead, Stephen Rawling, Vera Wood, Minnie Norman and Peter O’Connor

Lord, in your mercy

## All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace: look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

We pray for Chris Peters and Les Parkinson who died recently and for Andrew Maudsley, Will Pugh, Eric Sanson, Alan Blackmore and Annie Frangleton whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Lord, in your mercy

## All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected: look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, in your mercy

## All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King.

**All: 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**

**Candlemass 28th January 2018**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi**

Thus says the LORD God: 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. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:**  *(remain seated)* 244 ‘Virgin born, we bow before thee’

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Candlemass 2018**

**At the beginning**

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

Priest: The Lord of glory be with you.

**All: The Lord bless you.**

Priest: 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. In their old age, Simeon and Anna recognised 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.

To prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins and ask God's forgiveness:

**After second Hymn at Communion**

Priest: This child is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected. And a sword shall pierce your own soul also.

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 temple where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: My own eyes have seen the salvation:

which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: A light to reveal you to the nations:

and the glory of your people Israel.

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now,

and shall be for ever. Amen

All: A light to lighten nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

**After Recessional Hymn**

*(During the last couple of verses, please follow servers and priest to the Font)*

Priest: Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

All: Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Priest: Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All: Help us, who have received the bread of life,

to be thankful for your gift.

Priest: Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All: Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,

to trust in your eternal promises.

Priest: Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

All: Help us, who now extinguish these candles,

never to forsake the light of Christ.

*All now extinguish their candles.*

Priest: Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

All: Help us, who are marked with the cross,

to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

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

All: Help us, for whom Lent is near,

to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Priest: Here we bless one another in your name.

All: Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Prayers not used this Candlemas**

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

Priest: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All: and also with you.

All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Priest: 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.

**After Communion:**

Priest: 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 is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

All: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Priest: 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**

Priest: Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen