

# Worship at Home: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

## HYMN

In a world where people walk in darkness

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

In a world where people walk in darkness,  
let us turn our faces to the light,  
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,  
to the daystar scattering our night.

*For the light is stronger than the darkness  
and the day will overcome the night,  
though the shadows linger all around us,  
let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless  
casts a shadow all along the way,  
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness  
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

*Refrain*

Let us light a candle in the darkness,  
in the face of death a sign of life;  
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,  
as a sign of peace in place of strife.

*Refrain*

*Words: Robert A Willis (born 1947)*

*© Very Revd Robert A Willis*

*Tune: Let us light a candle*

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

*Rev Tiffer Robinson*

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

**All and also with you.**

## PREFACE

Around 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 last days Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this service, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, as we look back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his Passion.

## ANTHEM

Purify my heart

*Sung by Zena Baker*

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold and precious silver

Purify my heart

Let me be as gold, pure gold

Refiner's fire,

My heart's one desire

Is to be holy

Set apart for you, Lord

I choose to be holy

Set apart for you, my Master

Ready to do your will

*Words and Music: Brian Doerksen*

### *The president says*

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*

### *Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus open our eyes to your saving love

Christ, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word  
Lord, have mercy.  
**All**    **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you your sins,  
and bring you to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All**    **Amen.**

## **REFLECTION**

*Amy Scott Robinson, children's worker and author*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Malachi 3:1-5

*Read by Lisa Wolford*

A reading from the book of Malachi. (3.1–5)

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.**

## THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

*Read by John Wandless*

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then he took him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:  
For mine eyes have seen the glory of salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of the people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at these things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thine own soul also,) that the thought of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all men that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Land, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Thanks be to God.

## MUSIC

Nunc dimittis

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

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

*(Let your servant now go in peace, O Lord  
Now go in peace according to your word.)*

*Music by the Taizé Community*

## SERMON

*Rev Tiffer Robinson*

## DECLARATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge both 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.

## ANTHEM

Christ as a light

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Christ as a light, illumine and guide me,  
Christ as a shield, overshadow and cover me.  
Christ be under me, Christ be over me,  
Christ be beside me on left hand and on right.

Christ as a light, illumine and guide me,  
Christ as a shield, overshadow and cover me.  
Christ be before me, behind and about me,  
Christ this day be within and around me.

Christ as a light guide me.  
Christ as a shield cover me.

*Words: St Patrick (387 - 461)*

*Music: Margaret Rizza*

## PRAYERS

*Led by assorted children from the Benefice*

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.  
Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:  
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:  
look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

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

**All Christ, have mercy.**

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.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Father, 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.

**All Christ, 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.

**All Amen.**

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

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.

**All Amen.**

## BLESSING OF LIGHT

If you do have a candle, now would be the time to hold it, and if unlit to light it, or to ask an adult to light it. One of the reasons that this festival is often known as Candlemas is that in some churches people would bring their candles to be blessed, both those for use in home and in church. These winter months are cold and, especially now the Christmas lights have been put away. One thing we do in our benefice is we hand out candles and we encourage everyone to light theirs for a few minutes each day throughout the winter, perhaps placed in a window, to pray and remind themselves that Christ has brought his light into our world, and will one day return to dispel all darkness. Please hold your candles as I 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 our homes 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.

**All** Amen.

## BLESSING

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
fill you with radiance  
and scatter the darkness from your path.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,  
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

## **HYMN**

### **Like a candle flame**

*Sung by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields*

Like a candle flame  
Flickering small in our darkness  
Uncreated light  
Shines through infant eyes

God is with us, alleluia (*Men*)  
God is with us, alleluia (*Women*)  
Come to save us, alleluia (*Men*)  
Come to save us (*Women*)  
Alleluia! (*All*)

Stars and angels sing  
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows  
Can this tiny spark  
Set a world on fire?

God is with us, alleluia (*Men*)  
God is with us, alleluia (*Women*)  
Come to save us, alleluia (*Men*)  
Come to save us (*Women*)  
Alleluia! (*All*)

Yet his light shall shine  
From our lives, Spirit blazing  
As we touch the flame  
Of his holy fire

God is with us, alleluia (*Men*)  
God is with us, alleluia (*Women*)  
Come to save us, alleluia (*Men*)  
Come to save us (*Women*)  
Alleluia! (*All*)

God is with us, alleluia (*Men*)  
God is with us, alleluia (*Women*)  
Come to save us, alleluia (*Men*)  
Come to save us (*Women*)  
Alleluia! (*All*)

*Words and Music: Graham Kendrick  
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*Bible readings accessed from <https://bible.oremus.org/> (New Revised Standard Version).*