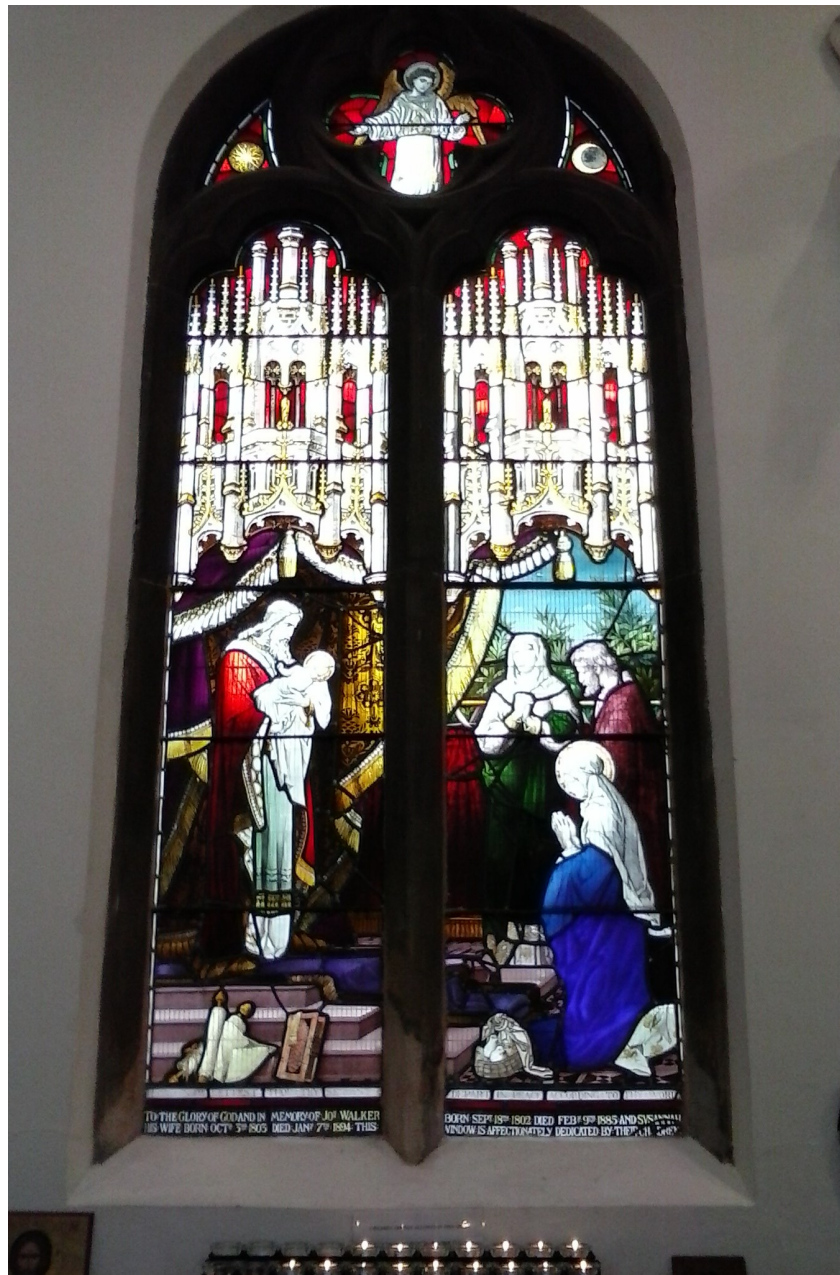


The Parish Church of St Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



The Eucharist on the Feast of the Presentation of
Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

31st January 2021, 10.15 a.m.

Live Streamed on Facebook from St Giles' Church

Welcome

Once again government restrictions prevent us to from attending worship in person. Below is the service sheet for Candlemas. If you are able, you could use this and join us on Facebook at 10.15 a.m. next Sunday January 31st to worship together in spirit, if not in body. The link is -

<https://www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract>

I look forward to the day when we can again share Parish Mass together.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Canon June

A period of quiet reflection is kept during which you may wish to use the Prayer of Preparation:

**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

A bell is rung to begin our worship.

The Gathering

‡In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

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 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.

Invitation to confession

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

Prayer of Penitence

**Father eternal, 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.

The president says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

***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 for Candlemas

Let us pray.

Silence is kept

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

First Reading Hebrews 2.14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, 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.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.22-40

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.

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 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.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
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.

Prayers of Intercession

We come in faith to the throne of grace, offering our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
 hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

David; Morag; Jonathan; Stephanie; Brenda; Roger; Jessie; Diane; Cynthia; Ali; Daniel; Mar; Bridget and Barrie; Janis Gallagher, Jenny & Andrew Priest; Jonathan Bellamy; Rhys Williams; Lucy Nicholl; Frances Kemp; Pat Steel; Maureen Steane; Anita Murray; David Murray; Robert Metcalfe; Barbara Berridge; Gayle Abelthorpe; Fred Ruddick.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Evelyn Sarah Leigh; Elsie Hill, Evelyn Jackson; Mollie Lowe.

Those whose years mind falls at this time:

Brian Swindell; Alan Ackling; Geoffrey Bullock; Guildford Walker

At the end: Merciful Father

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

and also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of Glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
The Saviour of the world is here.*

*O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ as Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!*

*Come then, O Saviour, and abide
our hearts to Thee be open wide;
may all Thy inward presence feel,
to all Thy grace and love reveal.*

Georg Weisell (1590-1635)
trans Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Father, 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.

Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name.
for our good
and the good of all his church.**



The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray.

The Lord is here.

His 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 give 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.

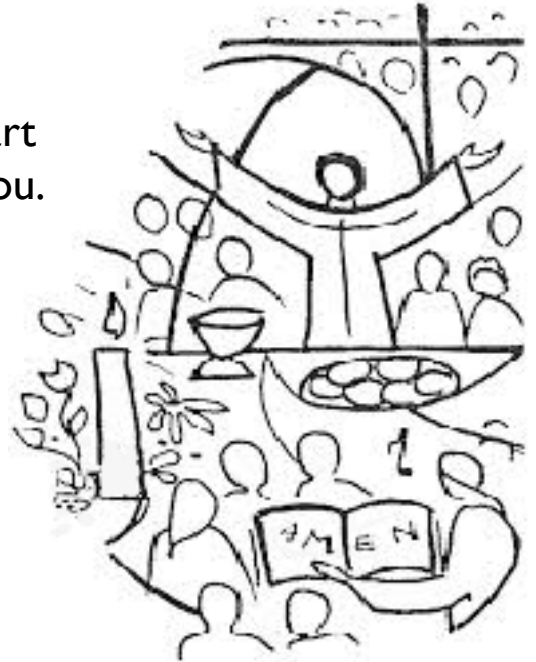
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

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:

Sanctus & Benedictus

**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.**



Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

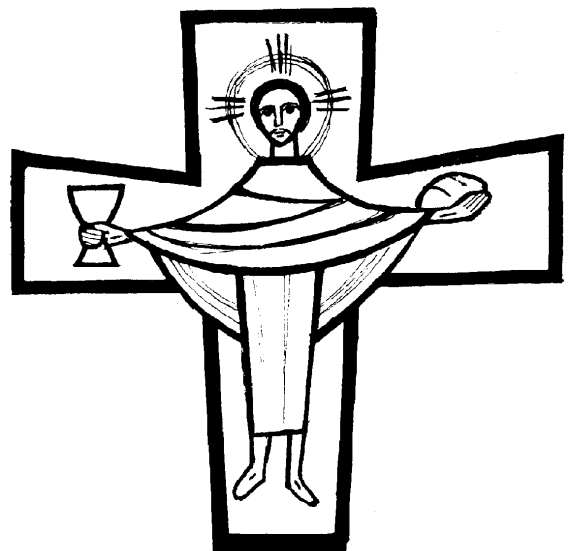
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.**



Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

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.'**

The president receives communion.

You may wish to use this prayer as a spiritual act of communion.

**In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise
and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the
earnest wish that I may always be united to you.**

**And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to
come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace
you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you
from me.**

May I live and die in your love.

Amen.

Hymn

*Virgin-born, we bow before Thee:
blessèd was the womb that bore Thee;
Mary, Mother meek and mild,
blessèd was she in her Child.*

*Blessèd was the breast that fed Thee;
blessèd was the hand that led Thee;
blessèd was the parent's eye
that watched Thy slumbering infancy.*

*Blessèd she by all creation,
who brought forth the world's salvation,
and blessèd they - for ever blest,
who love Thee most and serve Thee best.*

*Virgin-born, we bow before Thee;
blessèd was the womb that bore Thee;
Mary, Mother meek and mild,
blessèd was she in her Child.*

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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

A candle is lit

Let us 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 this kindling flame
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.

The president says

Father, 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 rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**Help us, who know the Lord to be in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

Help us never to forsake the light of Christ.

The candle is extinguished.

Here we recall our 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.**

The 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. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The clergy depart

Nunc Dimittis

*A light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of thy people Israel.*

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;*

*Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;*

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

Luke 2.29-32

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.*

*A light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of thy people Israel.*

Candlemas Prayer

I left my candle burning. Lit from light
Borrowed from another, it stood there
Witness to Christ, Light of the world;
Prayer that light would overcome darkness.
As I left, another lit a candle from my light,
Dispelling gloom with added strength.
Who knows how many joined their light to those,
Or drew fresh courage from their company;
Who knows how many took a step, drawn by the
Light of Christ from darkness to new life?

Lord Christ, set me on fire.
Burn from me all that dims your light,
Kindle an answering flame in lives around;
That darkness may be driven back,
And glory stream into this world,
Transforming it with love.

Ann Lewin, from *Candles and Kingfishers* © Ann Lewin, 1997



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