



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Candlemas
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
28th January 2024

Welcome to St Anne's today—it is great to have you with us. St Anne's is the local Church of England parish church and we are a very diverse group of people. We hope that you will feel welcome in our worship today. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask. We will be happy to help.

Our worship style is quite formal, but we hope relaxed—as we come to worship God in our midst.

All the words for the service will be on the screens at the front however, if you would prefer to have a printed copy in your hands, there are hymn books and service sheets at the back.



Today we mark the end of our Christmas celebration as the baby Jesus is taken by his parents and presented in the temple. Mary presented Jesus to God at the Temple in Jerusalem after observing the traditional 40-day period of purification (of mothers) following the birth of a new baby. We start our service facing the crib, during the service we will move with our candles as we turn our focus from the crib to the cross.

Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening Hymn 105 – Christ whose glory fills the skies

We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The President will introduce the service.

We make our confession for those things which separate us from God and from one another.

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

Silence is kept

**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.**

We sing together.

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

We are reminded of God's forgiveness.

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 President will remind us

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. In joyful expectation we sing:

**Refrain: *Glory to God, Glory to God,
 Glory to God in the highest.***

**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. *Refrain:***

**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. *Refrain:***

**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. Refrain.**

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer before 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.**

Liturgy of the Word (please sit as the young people leave us for their lessons. We hear a reading from the Old Testament.

Malachi is thought to be the last of the prophets. We know little about Malachi but the book describes a time of restless waiting in the history of the people of Judah. Today Malachi describes the patience and endurance that faith requires.

A reading from the prophet Malachi
(*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.

Thanks be to God.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

Hebrews is referred to by some scholars as the conclusion or fulfilment of the Old Testament Prophecies. It is written in the style of the prophets and sees the fulfilment of the expectations. Today's exert uses a collage of images to show who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. Once it becomes clear who Jesus is the early church needs to come to understand the cost and the benefits of this faith.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
(Hebrews 2: 14-end)

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

*We sing our **Gradual Hymn 836 – With joy we meditate on God** during which we stand for the Gospel procession.*

Today we hear one of the few accounts in the Gospels of Jesus' childhood. The scarcity of information about Jesus' childhood reminds us that the gospels are not biographies, or at least not primarily that. They are kerygmatic narratives — they seek to proclaim the gospel and to undergird and strengthen faith in Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

(Luke 2:22-40)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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.

We sit to listen to the sermon. After the sermon silence is kept.

We stand to affirm our faith:

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

**And 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 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.**

*We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this
community. A member of the congregation will lead these
After the biddings we pray*

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rest Eternal Grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace
And rise in glory

At the conclusion of the prayers

Merciful Father,

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

Liturgy of the Sacrament *(please stand)*

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

We share the peace with those around us in a way we are comfortable until the offertory Hymn is announced.

*We sing Hymn 479 – Lord the light of your love is
Shining during which a collection is taken.*

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.**

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

After the Consecration :

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again**

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer we sing **Amen.***

*We join in the prayer that Jesus taught his friends to say in
our preferred version and language.*

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**
**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us**
**Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

The Elevation

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father**

We receive communion. All who would normally receive are welcome to, and you may choose if you are ready to receive the chalice. We receive God's grace in one kind or two.

(Please do not intinct (dip)). *You may also like to come forward for a blessing; and you may wish to light a candle. During communion we listen to David play.*

At the end of communion, the priest will lead us in a period of silence, and then a short prayer:

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**

We listen to the notices about our community life.

We sing the first verse of hymn 223 as we light our candles

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose Word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.**

The priest and people will turn to the font

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.**

The Nunc Dimitis is read

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace : according to you word. For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation; Which You have prepared : before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of your people Israel.

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

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 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.**

(all candles are extinguished)

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 we bless one another in your name.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*We join in singing the remainder of our **final hymn – Glorious things of thee have spoken** during which the clergy depart.*

**2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply your sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows and thirst assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.**

**3 Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading
light by night and shade by day,
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.**

You are invited to join us for refreshments downstairs.

Our Community Life Together and Dates for your Diary

Laurence's Larder

As you know Laurence's Larder is back in full swing serving meals every Thursday, and providing some food bags as well. They continue to welcome Tuna but can also use **sardines and long life milk** – though any non perishable everyday food items are great!

Monthly Gardening Morning

Our next Gardening Morning is Saturday 10th February (which is the second Saturday of the month). Weather permitting! Come along anytime between 10am and 12noon and help keep our garden beautiful.

Mother Christine's Study leave

We are very happy that Mother Christine has the opportunity to take study leave from the 14th February until 9th May 2024. This will be a time of refreshment and we hope inspiration. We are looking for a few people who might fill some of the gaps while she is on leave. If you think you might be able to help, please speak to Mo C or one of the wardens. Tasks include regular washing of altar linen, to supporting Henri at My Move, supporting tea and chat, tidying up after services and keeping an eye on the church.

There will also be some changes during the time that Mo C is away. Three you need to be aware of are:

1. There will be no in person weekday morning prayer, though Tuesday morning prayer will be offered on zoom.
2. Our 1st Sunday Zoom service will conclude after the February service.
3. Tea and Chat will move to being the 2nd and 4th Friday's of the month.

Finance—St Anne's

Our current monthly target for congregational giving is **£2180**. In December we raised £2063. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

St Paul's Adult Learning

St Paul's Cathedral runs a year-round social justice and Christian spirituality programme. Some of these events are in person, and others take place online. You can also access the archive of previous sessions and articles. See more at <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/events-spirituality-and-social-justice>

Lent and Ash Wednesday

Lent starts this year on **Ash Wednesday – 14th February** and will run till Easter Sunday on the 31st March 2024.

Lent is a time when we focus our discipleship, meditation and prayer as we prepare for Easter. Instead of a Lent group this year we are inviting members of the congregation to gather in **small listening groups**. You will need to identify 3 or 4 people you would like to meet with once a week for 4 weeks. Materials to guide your reflection and discussion will be provided.



For our prayers— Peter, Olawale, Eunice, Marco, Irene, Patsy, Jean, Joyce, Guy and Renate, AnneMarie and Marion, Emma, Peter and Rhona, Florret, John and Josephine, Harriet, May, Mavis, Kay, Comfort, Jean, Pearl, Peter, Ruth, John and Cecilia. We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Geoffrey Walter, Bill Webb, Charles and Bellina Gabe, Anne Crawford, Ralph Keckwick, Ferry Hillman, Geoffrey Killick and Fr Derek New.

Services during the week 28th January 2024

Tuesday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom
Thursday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel
Friday	8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel 9.30am My Move Playgroup 2pm Tea and Chat
Sunday 4th	9 am Morning Prayer in Chapel and Zoom
<i>2nd before</i>	10am Sung Mass with Sunday School
<i>Lent</i>	5pm Zoom Service of the Day Office: 020 76043053

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