



Welcome to St Alban's Church Candlemas

Before the children leave for Junior Church we pray together:

Dear God, this church is a family:

***Help us to learn together, to worship together,
to share together and to pray together, in Jesus' name. Amen.***

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in our human flesh.

Alleluia!

Today the Blessed Virgin Mary comes to be purified according to the law.

Alleluia!

Today Old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations.

Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN *Prudentius (348-413) tr. J M Neale, H W Baker*

**1 Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!**

**2 By his word was all created:
He commanded, it was done:
Heaven and earth and depth of ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that grows beneath the shining
of the light of moon and sun:
evermore and evermore!**

**3 He, by prophets sung, is here now,
promised since the world began,
now on earth in flesh descended
to atone for sins of man.
All creation praise its Master,
See fulfillment of his plan
evermore and evermore!**

**4 Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
persons three, yet Godhead one.
Glory be from all creation
while eternal ages run
evermore and evermore!**

We are gathered together as one body

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord of glory be with you. **The Lord bless you.**

Dear brothers and sisters, 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.

GLORIA *Copyright 2012 David Thorne Music*

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.
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

**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.
*Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

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.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

After each: This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Old Testament: Malachi 3.1-5; New Testament: Hebrews 2.14-end

THE GOSPEL

We sing....Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *Please stand if you are able*

**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;
he 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 PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us worship the Saviour with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

Each prayer ends: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say together:

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

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.

We say together.....

**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.**

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 PEACE *Please stand if you are able*

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 one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Bernardette Farrell © Bernardette Farrel, OCP Publications*

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

**Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

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.

Christ, be our light...

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.**

Christ, be our light...

4 Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

**Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

Christ, be our light...

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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 EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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:

**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.**

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
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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and 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.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour 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.
And 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**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.**

Thorne, Mass of St Thomas ©2012 David Thorne Music

**God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

COMMUNION HYMN

**1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights. *And I will trust...***

**3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know. *And I will trust...***

Candlemas Procession

We wait for thy loving kindness O Lord:

In the midst of thy temple.

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you:

The Lord bless you.

We light our candles.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Elizabeth Cosnett © 1982 Stainer & Bell, Ltd.*

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.**

***A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own. *A glory dawns...***

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor. *A glory dawns...***

**But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year. *A glory dawns...***

**The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young. *A glory dawns...***

**They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
but trust is complete at the end of their life. *A glory dawns...***

**For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross. *A glory dawns...***

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day. *A glory dawns...***

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 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.**

We say together the Nunc Dimittis...

**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.**

**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.**

We stand near the place of new birth.
Let us shine with the light of your love.

We turn from the crib to the cross.
Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.
Let us shine with the light of your love.
Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

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