

# THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE



THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST. WILFRID NORBERLEY

## The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

**Amen.**

### Hymn

The Lord be with you

**and also with 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.

**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.**

### Prayers of Penitence

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.

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you.

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you  
by temptations in the world around us.  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;  
Father, forgive us:  
**save us and help us.**

The almighty and merciful Lord  
grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **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**

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 Old Testament & Epistle Readings**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

Alleluia, alleluia.

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Anthem**

## **Sermon**

## **The Declaration of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Unlooked for, Christ comes.

To shepherds, watching their sheep through the long dark night,  
he comes with the glory of the angels' song and in the humility of the manger.

SILENCE

Loving God, we pray for our community of Mobberley.  
In the midst of our everyday lives,  
surprise us with glimpses of your glorious, humble love,  
at the heart of existence.

Lord, come to your people.

**In your mercy set us free.**

Searched for, Christ comes.

To the wise and powerful, star-led to Bethlehem, seeking a king,  
he comes, child of Mary, crowned with meekness, worthy of every gift.

SILENCE

Loving God we pray for the leaders of the world.  
Guide them with your light  
to seek wisdom, justice and peace.

Lord, come to your people.

**In your mercy set us free.**

Longed for, Christ comes.

To Anna and Simeon, whose lives are lived in faithful expectation,  
he comes, a new life to the old, a living prophecy of hope.

SILENCE

Loving God we pray for the Church in all the world.  
Unite us by your Spirit,  
and make us faithful witnesses to the hope we have in you.

Lord, come to your people.

**In your mercy set us free.**

Prayed for, Christ comes.

To men and women, girls and boys, crying out in darkness, pain and loneliness,

he comes, at one with us, our Saviour, healer and friend.

SILENCE

Loving God we pray for those whose lives are hard and painful or whose existence is sorrowful, bitter or empty.

In their need may they know your healing touch, reaching out to comfort, strengthen and restore.

Lord, come to your people.

**In your mercy set us free.**

Looked for, searched for, longed for and prayed for,

loving God you come to us now

as you have come to your people in every age.

We thank you for all who have reflected the light of Christ.

Help us to follow their example

and bring us with them to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

## **Offertory Hymn**

*The President gives thanks over the bread and the Wine and we respond*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,

the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;

for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you,**

**and of your own do we give you.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
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.

Let us proclaim 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.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done,**

**in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive them that 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.**

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.**

*The President invites us to receive Communion*



## The Post-Communion 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.**

## CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

### Hymn

*During this hymn the candles are lit.*

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.**

**Amen.**

*The President and Choir go in procession to the font.*

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.**

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 now extinguish these candles,  
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*All now extinguish their candles.*

Here we now 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.**

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.**

**Hymn**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In her name of Christ. Amen.**