

# St Hilda's Ashford



## CANDLEMAS

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

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# THE GATHERING

## Introit Hymn

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee;  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,  
All our weakness thou dost know;  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Self denying, death defying,  
Thou to Calvary didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy;  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy;  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

*[James Edmeston]*

## The Greeting

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

*All* Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**All and also with you.**

*Words of welcome and introduction are said.*

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.

### **Prayer of Preparation** – *Sit or kneel*

**All 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.

**All** **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.**

## **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** - *The Collect for the Week is said after a moment of silence*

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.  
Amen

**Old Testament Reading** – 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 judgment; 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.

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*    **Thanks be to God.**

### **New Testament Reading – Hebrews 2: 14-18**

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.

*At the end the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading – Luke 2: 22 – 40**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ  
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

**All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 turtledoves 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 seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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 favor of God was upon him.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel reading*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*    **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon** — *we sit*

**The Creed** — *we stand*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,  
who has brought us out of darkness  
and into his own marvellous light.

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

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

**The Peace** — *We 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  
*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **Offertory Hymn**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise;  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all His ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came.**

**O generous love! that he, who smote  
In Man for man the foe,  
The double agony in Man  
For man should undergo;**

**And in the garden secretly,  
And on the cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren, and inspire  
To suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise;**

**In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.**

*[John Henry Newman]*

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.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **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.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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.*

Let us proclaim the miracle of faith:

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Hilda and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**All 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.

**All 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 peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

**All Lord, give us this bread always.**

*The people and president receive communion.*

## **Communion Hymns**

*O thou who camest from above,  
The pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.*

*There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return,  
In humble prayer and fervent praise.*

*Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
To work and speak and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up thy gift in me.*

*Ready for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
'Til death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make my sacrifice complete.*

*[Charles Wesley]*

***Nunc Dimitis***

*[Thomas Morley, arranged by Sydney H. Nicholson]*

## **Prayer after Communion**

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**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

### **Blessing**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

Go in the light of Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

**At the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**At His voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,  
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.**

**Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom He came,  
Faithfully He bore it, spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious when from death He passed.**

**Bore it up triumphant with its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast;  
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
All that is not holy, all that is not true;  
He is God the Saviour, He is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
With the Father's glory, with His angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire meet upon His brow,  
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.**

*[Caroline Noel]*

## Contact Information

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