

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

# THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



## CANDLEMAS CAROLS

*Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2025*

*6pm*



## ORGAN PRELUDE

Christum wir sollen loben schon, BWV 611  
J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

§ *Candles are lit during the organ prelude. All stand when the bell rings.*

**O**f the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that Fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun, *evermore...*

This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealèd  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry! *evermore...*

## INTRODUCTION & COLLECT

Beloved, today the forty days of the Christmas season draw to a close. We celebrate the day when Christ was presented in the Temple, when the aged Simeon recognised him as the Lord. Simeon saw his own promised salvation as he gazed on the Light of the World, and knew this Child was the Light of Life for all people. During this liturgy, we reflect on the great mystery of God's Light, shining out in Christ to redeem all creation and to draw all humanity together. We ask God's Light to guide us and sustain us; we whom Jesus calls to be lights in the world.

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech thy majesty,  
that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple, in  
substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and  
clean hearts, by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth  
with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Let us now hear the Good News of the Lord's Presentation.

### **MOTET**

Maria wallt zum Heiligtum und bringt ihr Kindlein dar,  
das schaut der greise Simeon, wie ihm verheißen war.  
Da nimmt er Jesum in den Arm und singt im Geiste froh:

Nun fahr' ich hin mit Freud,  
dich, Heiland, sah ich heut,  
du Trost von Israel, das Licht der Welt.  
Hilf nun, du liebster Jesu Christ, dass wir zu jeder Frist  
an dir wie auch der Simeon all uns're Freude han  
und kommt die Zeit, sanft schlafen ein und also singen froh:  
Nun fahr' ich hin mit Freud...

*Mary made a pilgrimage to the temple and brought her child there,  
who was seen by the aged Simeon, as the prophets had foretold.  
Simeon took Jesus in his arms, and joyfully sang:*

*Now I go forth with joy,  
for today I have seen You, Saviour —  
comfort of Israel, light of the World.  
O dear Jesus, grant now that we at all times  
find all our joy in Thee, just as Simeon did,  
and that, when the time comes, we pass away gently and thus sing gladly:  
Now I go forth with joy...*

Johannes Eccard, 1553-1611

§ *All turn to face the Gospel book.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** St Luke 2.22-35; 39-40

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

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

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 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; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

In our carols and readings tonight, let us ponder the Light of the Nations,  
and invite that light into our lives.

§ *The hymn resumes.*

**Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,  
Evermore and evermore.**

**Word Made Flesh enters his temple,  
Light of Nations glorified!  
Simeon's vigil now is ended;  
Faithful waiting justified.  
Mary ponders all that she has seen  
And is humbly purified, *evermore...***

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering, *evermore...***

Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-413

*with local additions*

Tr R.F. Davis, 1866-1937

**DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**

*Melody from Piaae Cantiones*

Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582

§ *All sit.*

## **FIRST READING** Exodus 13.1-3; 11-16

*The Lord commands that every firstborn be consecrated to him.*

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. And it shall be when the Lord shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, That thou shalt set apart unto the Lord all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the Lord's. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the Lord slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem. And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt.

## **MOTET**

Long since in Egypt's plenteous land  
Our fathers were oppressed;  
But God, whose chosen folk they were,  
Smote those who long enslaved them there,  
And all their woes redressed.

The Red Sea stayed them not at all,  
Nor depths of liquid green;

On either hand a mighty wall  
Of waters clear rose high at His call,  
And they passed through between.

In deserts wild they wandered long,  
They sinned and went astray;  
But yet His arm to help was strong,  
He pardoned them, though they did wrong,  
And brought them on their way.

At last to this good land they came,  
With fruitful plenty blest;  
Here glorious men won endless fame,  
Here God made holy Zion's name,  
And here He gave them rest.

O may we ne'er forget what He hath done,  
Nor prove unmindful of His love,  
That, like the constant sun,  
On Israel hath shone,  
And sent down blessings from above.

*from the Oratorio Judith*  
C.H.H. Parry, 1848-1918

## **SECOND READING** Malachi 3.1-4.5

*The prophet foretells the Lord's coming to the Temple.*

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you to judgment;



and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

## MOTET

Richte mich, Gott, und führe meine Sache wider das unheilige Volk und errette mich von den falschen und bösen Leuten.

Denn du bist der Gott meiner Stärke; Warum verstößest du mich?  
Warum lässest du mich so traurig geh'n, wenn mein Feind mich drängt?  
Sende dein Licht und deine Wahrheit, daß sie mich leiten  
zu deinem heiligen Berge, und zu deiner Wohnung.

Daß ich hineingehe zum Altar Gottes, zu dem Gott, der meine Freude und Wonne ist, und dir, Gott, auf der Harfe danke, mein Gott.

Was betrübst du dich, meine Seele, und bist so unruhig in mir?

Harre auf Gott! Denn ich werde ihm noch danken,  
daß er meines Angesichts Hülfe, und mein Gott ist.

*Give sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people  
O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.*

*For thou art the God of my strength, why hast thou put me from thee  
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?*

*O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me  
and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.*

*And that I may go unto the altar of God,  
even unto the God of my joy and gladness*

*and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.*

*Why art thou so heavy, O my soul and why art thou so disquieted within me?*

*O put thy trust in God, for I will yet give him thanks,  
which is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

Psalm 43

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, 1809-1847

### **THIRD READING** Sermon of St Sophronius the Sophist, 560-638

*Bishop Sophronius of Jerusalem encourages all to hasten to meet Christ.*

Let us receive the light whose brilliance is eternal. In honour of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendour of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him. The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God. The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendour, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendour. Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness. By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel.

## HYMN

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shade of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return,  
Till thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiance divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**RATISBON**

*Melody from J.G. Werner's Choralbuch, Leipzig, 1815*

*Harm. W.H. Havergal, 1793-1870*

## THE FOURTH READING 1 John 1-7

*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us:

and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

## **MOTET**

Hail! gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured  
Who is th'immortal Father, heavenly, blest,  
Holiest of Holies--Jesus Christ our Lord!

Now we are come to the Sun's hour of rest;  
The lights of evening round us shine;  
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine!

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung  
With undefiled tongue,  
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:  
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own. Amen.

Based on the ancient Christian hymn *Ὡς Παρὸν*  
*Tr* John Keble, 1792-1866

**Hail! gladdening light**  
Charles Wood, 1866-1926

§ *All stand.*

## **HYMN**

**Joy! Joy! the Mother comes,  
And in her arms she brings  
The Light of all the world,  
The Christ, the King of kings;  
And in her heart the while  
All silently she sings.**

Saint Joseph follows near,  
In rapture lost and love,  
While Angels round about  
In glowing circles move,  
And o'er the Mother broods  
The everlasting Dove.

There in the temple-court  
Doth Simeon's heart beat high;  
And Anna feeds her soul  
With food of prophecy;  
But, see! the shadows pass,  
The world's true Light draws nigh.

O Infant God, O Christ,  
O Light most beautiful,  
Thou comest, Joy of joys,  
All darkness to annul;  
And brightest lights of earth  
Beside thy Light are dull.

F.W. Faber, 1814-1863

**LAUDES DOMINI**  
Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

**FIFTH READING** St John Henry Newman, 1801-1890

*St John Henry Newman ponders the mystery of Candlemas.*

THE Angel-lights of Christmas morn,  
Which shot across the sky,  
Away they pass at Candlemas,  
They sparkle and they die.

Comfort of earth is brief at best,  
Although it be divine;  
Like funeral lights for Christmas gone,  
Old Simeon's tapers shine.

And then for eight long weeks and more,  
We wait in twilight grey,  
Till the high candle sheds a beam  
On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance-tide  
Of solemn fast and prayer;  
While song is hush'd, and lights grow dim  
In the sin-laden air.

And while the sword in Mary's soul  
Is driven home, we hide  
In our own hearts, and count the wounds  
Of passion and of pride.

And still, though Candlemas be spent  
And Alleluias o'er,  
Mary is music in our need,  
And Jesus light in store.

### **MOTET**

Hodie beata Virgo Maria  
puerum Jesum presentavit in templo,  
Et Simeon, repletus Spiritu Sancto,  
accepit eum in ulnas suas,  
et benedixit Deum in aeternum.  
Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,  
secundum verbum tuum, in pace.

*Today the Blessed Virgin Mary  
presented the child Jesus in the temple  
and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit,  
took Him in his arms,  
and blessed God for evermore.*

*Now let your servant depart in peace, Lord, according to your word.*

**Hodie beata Virgo Maria**  
Peter Philips, 1560-1628

**THE SIXTH READING** St Matthew 5.13-16

*Let your light so shine before men.*

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

§ *All extinguish their candles.*

**BENEDICTION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

§ *When the bell rings as the Blessed Sacrament is enthroned, all kneel.*

**Hail to the Lord who comes,  
Comes to his temple gate!  
Not with his angel host,  
Not in his kingly state;  
No shouts proclaim him nigh,  
No crowds his coming wait;**

**But borne upon the throne  
Of Mary's gentle breast,  
Watched by her duteous love,  
In her fond arms at rest;  
Thus to his Father's house  
He comes, the heavenly guest.**

**There Joseph at her side  
In reverent wonder stands;  
And, filled with holy joy,  
Old Simeon in his hands  
Takes up the promised Child,  
The glory of all lands.**

**Hail to the great First-born,  
Whose ransom-price they pay!  
The Son before all worlds,  
The Child of man to-day,  
That he might ransom us  
Who still in bondage lay.**

**O Light of all the earth,  
Thy children wait for thee!  
Come to thy temples here,  
That we, from sin set free,  
Before thy Father's face  
May all presented be!**

John Ellerton, 1826-1893

**OLD 120<sup>TH</sup>**

*Melody as in Este's Psalter, 1592*

*Harm. Ravenscroft's Psalmes, 1621*

**Blessed praised and hallowed be Jesus Christ upon His Throne  
of Glory and in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. [x3]**

## **PRAYERS**

Lord Jesus Christ: **Our eyes have seen thy salvation.**

§ *Silence is kept.*

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

**Have mercy on us. [x3]**

## **TANTUM ERGO**

Therefore we, before him bending,  
This great Sacrament revere;  
Types and shadows have their ending,  
For the newer rite is here;  
Faith, our outward sense befriending,  
Makes the inward vision clear.



Glory let us give, and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
Honour, might, and praise addressing,  
While eternal ages run;  
Ever too his love confessing,  
Who from both with both is One. Amen.

St Thomas Aquinas, c.1225-1274  
Tr J.M. Neale, 1818-1866

Tomás Luis de Victoria, 1548-1611

Thou gavest them bread from heaven.  
**Containing within itself all sweetness.**

O God, who in a wonderful sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may evermore perceive within ourselves the fruits of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

§ *Benediction is given.*

§ *All repeat the Divine Praises:*

**Blessed be God.**

**Blessed be his holy Name.**

**Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.**

**Blessed be the Name of Jesus.**

**Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.**

**Blessed be his most Precious Blood.**

**Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.**

**Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.**

**Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.**

**Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.**

**Blessed be her glorious Assumption.**

**Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.**

**Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste.**

**Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.**

§ *The Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle.*

Let us adore, for ever, **the most holy Sacrament.**

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen : **praise him, all ye nations. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.**

*Cf. Psalm 117*

**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.**

Let us adore, for ever, **the most Holy Sacrament.**

§ *When the bell rings, all stand.*

## **VOLUNTARY**

Herr Gott, nun schleuß den himmel auf, BWV 617  
J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

*Welcome to All Saints'. Do join us in the Parish Bar after the liturgy.*





Donations to the Mission and Ministry of All Saints' can be made using this QR code, or the card machine at the back of church.

*Thank you!*