

ALL SAINTS' MARGARET STREET

# CANDLEMAS CAROL SERVICE

WITH BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2026  
6pm

Cover image:

*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

Jan Lievens, 1607-1674

§ *Candles are lit. All stand to sing when the bell rings.*

**OF 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 & BLESSING OF CANDLES

Beloved, at Candlemas 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, and the Light of Life for all people. We reflect tonight on the great mystery of God's Light, shining out in Christ to redeem creation and draw humanity together. We ask God to guide us and sustain us, whom Jesus calls to be lights in the world.

§ *The people hold up their candles, and the officiant blesses them.*

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that you sanctify these candles with your blessing. Let us carry them in praise of your name, and fill our hearts with the brilliance of your perpetual light, so that all who are brightened in your holy temple by the splendour of these candles may reach the everlasting light of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

§ *The Deacon sings:*

Let us go forth in peace.

§ *All respond:*

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

§ *The hymn resumes.*

Word Made Flesh his temple enters,  
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...*

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.

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 Piae Cantiones*

Theoderici Petri Nylandensis 1582

§ *All sit.*

**FIRST READING** *From a Candlemas homily*

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. 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 received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel.

St Sophronius the Sophist, 560-638

**ANTHEM HAIL! GLADDENING LIGHT**

Charles Wood, 1866-1926

*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 hymn *Phos Hilaron*

Tr John Keble, 1792-1866

§ *All stand to sing.*

SING we of the blessèd Mother  
Who received the angel's word,  
And obedient to his summons  
Bore in love the infant Lord;  
Sing we of the joys of Mary  
At whose breast that child was fed  
Who is Son of God eternal  
And the everlasting Bread.

Sing once more of Mary's obedience,  
Christ she brings to his Father's house,  
There to offer in God's presence,  
With St Joseph her loving spouse,  
Sacrifice for purification  
As demands the ancient Law;  
Anna and Simeon with expectation  
Greet the child with love and awe.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,  
Of the sword that pierced her through,  
When beneath the cross of Jesus  
She his weight of suffering knew,  
Looked upon her Son and Saviour  
Reigning high on Calvary's Tree,  
Saw the price of man's redemption  
Paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary  
When she saw the risen Lord,  
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,  
Waited on his promised word:  
From on high the blazing glory  
Of the Spirit's presence came,  
Heavenly breath of God's own being,  
Manifest through wind and flame.

**Sing the chiefest joy of Mary  
When on earth her work was done,  
And the Lord of all creation  
Brought her to his heavenly home:  
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,  
Raised on high and crowned with grace,  
May your Son, the world's redeemer,  
Grant us all to see his face.**

G.B. Timms, 1910-1997

**ABBOT'S LEIGH**

Cyril Taylor, 1907-1991

SECOND READING *Isaiah 49.1-13*

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified. Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee. Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

§ *All sit.*

# ANTHEM SUSCEPIMUS, DEUS

William Byrd, 1540-1623

*Suscepimus, Deus, misericordiam tuam in medio templi tui, secundum nomen tuum, Deus. Ita et laus tua in fines terrae: Justitia plena est dextera tua. Magnus Dominus et laudabilis nimis in civitate Dei nostri, in monte sancto ejus. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.*

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God: in the midst of thy temple. O God, according to thy Name, so is thy praise unto the world's end: unto the ends of the earth; thy right hand is full of righteousness. Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised: in the city of God, even upon his holy hill. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Psalm 48.8-9; 1

§ *All stand to sing.*

**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

Harmony from Ravenscroft's *Psalms*, 1621

§ *All sit.*

THIRD READING *Malachi 3.1-4.5*

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.

## ANTHEM RICHTE MICH, GOTT

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

*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 gehen, wenn mich mein Feind dränget? Sende dein Licht und deine Wahrheit, daß sie mich leiten und bringen zu deinem heiligen Berg 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 betrübest du dich, meine Seele, und bist so unruhig in mir? Harre auf Gott; denn ich werde ihm noch danken, daß er meines Angesichts Hilfe 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 are thou so disquieted within me? O put thou thy trust in God: for I will yet give him thanks, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43

### FOURTH READING 1 John 1-7

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.

§ *All stand to sing.*

THOU whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,  
And took their flight;  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the gospel day  
Sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

Thou who didst come to bring  
On thy redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind, let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy Dove,  
Speed forth thy flight;  
Move on the water's face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place, let there be light.

Blessèd and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
Boundless as ocean's tide  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the world far and wide, let there be light.

John Marriot, 1780-1825

MOSCOW

F. Giardini, 1716-1796

§ *All sit.*

ANTHEM IN DEO SPERAVIT

Josef Rheinberger, 1839-1901

*In Deo speravit cor meum, et adjutus sum: et refloruit caro mea, et ex voluntate mea confitebor illi.*

In God hath my heart confided, and I have been helped. And my flesh hath flourished again, and with my will I will give praise to him.

Psalm 28.8

FIFTH READING *A Song for Simeon*

Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and  
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;  
The stubborn season has made stand.

My life is light, waiting for the death wind,  
Like a feather on the back of my hand.

Dust in sunlight and memory in corners  
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.

Grant us thy peace.

I have walked many years in this city,  
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,  
Have given and taken honour and ease.

There went never any rejected from my door.

Who shall remember my house, where shall live my children's children?  
When the time of sorrow is come?

They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,  
Fleeing from foreign faces and the foreign swords.

Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation  
Grant us thy peace.

Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,  
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,  
Now at this birth season of decease,

Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,  
Grant Israel's consolation

To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.

According to thy word.

They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation  
With glory and derision,

Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.

Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and prayer,  
Not for me the ultimate vision.

Grant me thy peace. (And a sword shall pierce thy heart, Thine also).

I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me,

I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after me.

Let thy servant depart, Having seen thy salvation.

T.S. Eliot, 1888-1965

§ *All stand for the Nunc Dimittis.*

## ANTHEM NUNC DIMITTIS

Heinrich Schütz, 1585-1672

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.

St Luke 2.29-32

§ *When the bell rings, all extinguish their candles and kneel before the Blessed Sacrament.*

## BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

### O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

Herbert Sumsion, 1899-1995

*O saving Victim, opening wide  
The gate of heaven to man below;  
Our foes press hard on every side,  
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.*

*All praise and thanks to thee ascend  
For evermore, blest One in Three;  
O grant us life that shall not end,  
In our true native land with thee. Amen.*

St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274

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

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, **Have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins. **Have mercy on us.**

Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in thee. **Have mercy on us.**

## TANTUM ERGO

George Henschel, 1850-1934

*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

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 then 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 Paraclete.**

**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.**

*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.**

**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.**

*§ The bell rings as the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle. All stand.*

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY  
FANTASIA & FUGUE IN G MINOR BWV542  
J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

*Welcome to All Saints'.  
Please join us for refreshments after Benediction.*



*Collection is taken at the card reader at the back of church,  
or by using this QR code. Thank you for your support.*