



The Chapel of  
The Transfiguration

# Sung Eucharist

## Presentation of Christ in the Temple

(Candlemas)

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026  
7.30 am



Candlemas describes a vital episode in the life of Jesus the Jew. The Presentation in the Temple simultaneously offers past and future perspectives, both affirming Jesus' heritage and presaging the suffering of the Messiah and his followers. The central role of Simeon and Anna also give Candlemas its particular charism in affirming the work of those who faithfully give of their time and talents week by week to glorify God and maintain the beauty of holiness in church worship. As we hear the familiar words of the Nunc dimittis in a less familiar context, are we sufficiently attuned to Malachi's prospect of the Lord coming suddenly to his temple?



Music before the Service

*Mit Fried' und Freud' BWV 616*  
(Lord, now lettest thou thy servant)

*J. S. Bach (1685–1750)*

## Order of Service

*The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.*

*If you are unable to stand at any point during the service, please feel free to remain seated.*

*The service is sung by  
The Chapel Choir of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.*

*Please remain silent before the service.*

# The Gathering

*Remain seated as the Choir enters*

*The Acolytes light the candles of the congregation. Please pass the flame to those around you.*

*All stand as the procession of Clergy and Servers enter and move to the Sanctuary*

*The Chaplain says*

Let us proceed in peace

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

## Processional Hymn



**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 and evermore.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
by the Holy Ghost conceived;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
in her loving arms received,  
evermore and evermore.**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
sang in ages long gone by;  
this is he of old revealed  
in the page of prophecy;  
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
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 and evermore.**

Words: Aurelius Prudentius (348-410)

Tune: Divine Mysterium

Arranged by Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015)

*All remain standing.*

## The Greeting

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

**Amen.**

*The Celebrant introduces the service,*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, 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 recognised 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.

“The Lord will be your everlasting light  
and your God will be your glory.”

Isaiah 60.19

Blessed be God.

**Blessed be God's reign for ever. Amen.**

*The candles are extinguished.*

*The Lay Assistant continues*

## Prayer of Preparation

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.**

*The Lay Assistant invites all to confess their sins*

## Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

*All kneel and silence is kept.*

Most merciful God,

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought,  
word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

*The Choir sings*

Kyrie Eleison

*Lord, have mercy*

Christe Eleison

*Christ, have mercy*

Kyrie Eleison

*Lord, have mercy*

*The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution*

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.**

*All stand to sing*

## Gloria

Glory be to God on high,

**and in earth peace, good will towards men,**

**We praise thee we bless thee,**

**we worship thee, we glorify thee.**

**We give thanks to thee for thy great**

**glory, O Lord God, heavenly King,**

**God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son,**

**Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb**

**of God, Son of the Father that**

**takest away the sin of the world,**

**have mercy upon us. Thou that**

**takest away the sin of the world,**

**have mercy upon us. Thou that**

**takest away the sin of the world,**

**receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord: thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

*The Lay Assistant continues*

## The Collect for the Day

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray

Almighty and ever-living God,  
who art clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple  
in the substance of our flesh:  
grant that 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.**

*All sit*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Book of 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 judgement; 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated. The Choir sings*

from Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up,  
you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
'Who is the King of glory?'  
'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'  
Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.  
'Who is this King of glory?'  
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Music: William Mathias (1934–92)

*Remain seated*

## The New Testament Reading

A reading from the Letter to the 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand to sing*

## Gradual Hymn



**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**



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

*At the end,*

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Praise be to thee, O Christ**

*Remain standing until invited to be seated*

Sermon

*given by*

Rev'd. Canon Joshua Ratnam | *Visiting Preacher*

*All stand to sing*

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God,

**the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten  
of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
By whom all things were made:  
Who for us men, and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
Virgin Mary, and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate,  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day he rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.  
And he shall come again with glory to judge  
both the quick and the dead:  
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
Who proceedeth from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who spake by the Prophets.  
And we believe One Holy Catholic  
and Apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism  
for the remission of sins.  
And we look for the Resurrection of the dead,  
And the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*All kneel or sit*

## Prayers of Intercession

*during which the following response is used*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*All stand*

### Greeting of 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.**

### Preparation of the Table



*Remain standing. The Celebrant invites all to say,*

**All things come from you and of your own do we give you, Creator and Lord of the universe, ever adored by the holy Angels. Accept these gifts of bread and wine and these offerings which we present at your holy table and with them the dedication of our lives for your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Remain standing. The Celebrant continues*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God  
**It is meet and right so to do**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

And now we give thee thanks, because, by his appearing in the Temple, he draweth nigh unto us in judgement; the Word made flesh searcheth the hearts of all thy people and bringeth to light the brightness of thy glory.

Therefore with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

*The Choir sings*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee,  
O Lord most high.

*The people may sit, kneel or remain standing*

Holy indeed are you Almighty Father eternal Sovereign, who in all your gifts and works manifests your holiness to all humanity. Holy is your Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, through whom you did order the universe. And Holy is your ever blessed Spirit who reveals all things, even the deep things of you O God. Just as you yourself are holy, so also you created us in your own image that we might live in holy fellowship.

And when we disobeyed your commandments, you did not abandon us but you guided us as a merciful Father; you revealed yourself to us through the Sages, the Law and the Prophets, and through your redeeming acts in history, and when the time was ripe, you came among us through your Son Jesus, whom you sent into the world to share our human nature in order that the Lord Jesus might revive your own image in us.

**Generous God, Jesus loves us  
and sacrificed himself for us  
and heralded the new life  
in breaking bread with companions.**

On the very night that he was betrayed to suffer death upon the cross for us, the Lord Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks to you Almighty Father, 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 manner after supper, he took the cup also, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them saying:

Drink, all of you from this,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the Bread of Life

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory**

And so Father, we present this bread and cup in communion with your whole church, in fellowship with Blessed Mary, St. Thomas and all the saints, and in union with all creation we celebrate your Son's death and victory; giving thanks for all that Christ has done for us; for preparing us for all that lies ahead, we receive the benefits of Christ's life, death, resurrection and session in glory, and we eagerly await the heavenly banquet after Christ's coming again.

And we entreat you most merciful God to hear us and send your All Holy Spirit on us and on these your gifts, that they being blessed and hallowed by that life giving power, may be for us the Body and Blood of your most dearly loved Son, to the end that we receiving the same may be sanctified and filled with your grace and heavenly blessing.

**Accept this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving; make us one body in Jesus Christ our  
Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be to  
you Almighty Father, world without end.**

*All sing:* **Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break  
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

**We being many are one bread,  
one body for we all partake of the one bread.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray

*All sing*

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 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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you.**

The gifts of God for the people of God

*The Choir sings*

Benedictus

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## Deep Silence

*The Choir sings*

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world  
Have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world  
Have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world  
Grant us thy peace.

## Giving of Communion

*The Celebrant invites the people to receive the Holy Communion, saying*

Draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*All sit. If you receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here.*

*Remain seated or kneeling to sing*

### Communion Hymn



**Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant  
his discharge in peace.**

**All the Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.**

**This your great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.**

**Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us your servants  
our discharge in peace.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926–2024)

Tune: Eudoxia  
S. Baring Gould (1834–1924)

*All kneel or remain seated*

## Prayers after Communion

*The Celebrant says,*

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious.  
**God's mercy endures forever.**

“I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 49.6

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the Body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through Christ we offer you ourselves  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live  
and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*All stand*

## Candlemas Procession

*During the singing of the Nunc Dimittis, the Celebrant changes his vestments from white to green, marking the end of the Christmas season. All candles are then lit once more.*

### 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 Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end.  
Amen.

*After which the Celebrant says*

### Prayer

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.**

## Hymn

*during which the servers and clergy move to the Font*



**New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,  
a holy light no earthly light outshines;  
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,  
the light that evil dreads and love defines.**

**The light of glory shines to angels' song,  
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;  
a servant of the Lord, who waited long,  
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.**

**And priestly men sit listening to a boy,  
they see the dawning light within his face.  
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips employ!  
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.**

**O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,  
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;  
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,  
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.**

Words: Paul Wigmore (b.1925)

Tune: Woodlands  
Walter Greatorex (1877–1949)

*All turn to face the font*

## The Dismissal

### The Final Responsory

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

Here we 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.**

*The Clergy depart.*

*Remain standing as the Choir moves out, then sit.  
You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ voluntary  
or you may leave quietly at this point.*

## Music after the Service

Lobe den Herren, o meine Seele Op. 65 No. 58  
*(Praise to the Lord, the Almighty) Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)*



## Notices

### Sunday Fellowship

You are all invited to a time of fellowship on the chapel steps.

<p>A Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College will be held on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, at 8.00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.</p>
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Material from Common Worship is included in this service and is copyright © The Archbishops' Council. The text for the day is by Rev'd. Anna Jones, Chaplain, Queen's College, Cambridge. The Mass Setting is by Harold Darke. Hymns are taken from the College Hymnal. The Bible passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicised edition).