

THE PARISH 
of
WITNEY

St Mary
the
Virgin



The Presentation of Christ:
Candlemas
The Eucharist
Sunday February 1st 2026
10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church
in the Parish of Witney.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity.

Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us – or please come forward to receive a blessing.

If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards.

This service is live-streamed. If you do not want to appear on the stream please speak to the Welcomers or Duty Wardens.

The Procession

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the first hymn.

In His temple now behold Him,
See the long expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,
God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.

In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him lie,
While his aged saints adore Him
Ere in faith and hope they die.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lo, th'incarnate God most high.

Jesus, by thy presentation,
Thou, who didst for us endure,
Make us see our great salvation,
Seal us with thy promise sure.
And present us in thy glory
To thy Father, cleansed and pure.

Prince and author of salvation,
Be thy boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to thee be given
By the world thou didst redeem.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Lord of majesty supreme!

Words: Henry J. Pye (1825-1903), v4. William Cooke (1821-1894)
Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell (1692)

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The service is introduced using these words.

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

We sing together:

**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

Let us pray:

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.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the Reading, Hebrews 2.14-end.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm

The choir sings this response and the congregation repeats, also between verses:

Psalm 24 (Jeff Ostrowski)



The Gospel

We stand for the Gospel Alleluia:

Alleluia

Tone II



Music: © 2016 Royce Nickel. Licensed in the Creative Commons by-nc-nd 3.0

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit for

The Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare before God the faith of the Church:

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Father
through Christ who is our light and life.

The Intercessor may use the following responses:

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Or

Lord, hear us

All Lord, graciously hear us.

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.

All Amen.

All stand

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 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.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar.

You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626.

There is also a card reader by the North Door,

As we offer the gifts of God in creation back to God, we also offer our lives in the Lord's service.

Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the Church neglect its mission,
and the Gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:
'In my name baptise and teach,'
that the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us
closer in community;
with the Spirit's gift's empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy:
'This my body, this my blood.'
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure:
'Father, what they do, forgive.'
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:
'I am with you to the end.'
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Text J. Rowthorn (b 1934)

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH CV Taylor (1907-1991)

Prayer over the Gifts

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.

All 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:

**All 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.

Great is the mystery 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 Mary the Mother of God,
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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world;
happy are those who are called to his supper

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

*All who are used to receiving Communion are welcome to do so here
– please make your way to the altar as directed by the Sidesperson.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are warmly invited to
come forward for a blessing – please approach the president carrying
this booklet. Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

The Communion Hymn

Like a candle flame
Flickering small in our darkness
Uncreated light
Shines through infant eyes

Refrain:

God is with us, alleluia
God is with us, alleluia
Come to save us, alleluia
Come to save us
Alleluia!

Stars and angels sing
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows
Can this tiny spark
Set a world on fire?
(Refrain)

Yet his light shall shine
From our lives, Spirit blazing
As we touch the flame
Of his holy fire
(Refrain)

Words: Graham Kendrick
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Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray

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.

All Amen

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

We sit for the notices

The Notices

The Recessional Hymn

During which candles are lit and the altar party processes to the font.

Thanks be to God whose love has gathered us this day;
thanks be to God who helps and guides us on our way.
Thanks be to God who gives us voice that we may thank him:
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.

Thanks be to God for all the gifts of life and light;
thanks be to God whose care protects us day and night.
Thanks be to God who keeps in mind us who forget him:
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.

Thanks be to God who knows our secret joys and fears;
thanks be to God who when we call him always hears.
Thanks be to God our rock and strength ever sustaining:
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.

All turn to the font, where the altar party gathers.

Blessing of the Candles

All hold their candles aloft

Tender 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, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The candles and congregation are sprinkled with holy water.

The Responsory

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All Praise to Christ our light.

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
All and also with you

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.

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

We continue singing as the procession continues

Thanks be to God who in the darkness gives us light.
Thanks be to God for aged faith still burning bright.
Thanks be to God for prophets, priests, people and praising:
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God on high

Thanks be to God who never turns his face away;
thanks be to God who heals and pardons all who stray.
Thanks be to God who welcomes us into the kingdom:
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.

Thanks be to God who made our world and all we see;
thanks be to God who gave his son to set us free.
Thanks be to God whose Spirit brings warmth and rejoicing.
Deo gratias, Deo gratias, thanks be to God most high.

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Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.



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