



ST PETER'S
ST ALBANS

Welcome to our Services
Sunday 29 January
Candlemas

All children are welcome at St Peter's. We have a children's corner area for families with children with lots of different toys and things to do during the service. Don't worry if they make a noise or move around the church during the service. If you would rather sit in the pews, don't be afraid to be near the front so your children can see what is going on. There are baby changing facilities and toilets in the corridor leading to the church hall (Octagon). This Sunday we have Junior Church for those aged 5-11 years. We will go out to the Octagon during the first hymn and come back in during communion.

Welcome and introduction

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

The Lord is the strength of my life;

All **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Opening Prayer

**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.**

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.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life thou givest--to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish--but naught changeth thee.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

W. Chalmers Smith 1824-1908

A Time for Forgiveness

All **God who transforms our darkness
we have seen the glimmer of your light
but we have turned away and followed other paths.
We confess that we have not loved you
with all our heart, with all our soul,
with all our mind, and with all our strength.
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
Forgive us and strengthen our faltering steps
and lead us to wholeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer for the day

The Choir Sing Psalm 84 (vv 1-7)

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 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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

**1 Earth was waiting,
spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations —
it is time he should appear!'**

**2 Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened
her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;
for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.**

**3 Earth has groaned
and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.**

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824 – 1908)

The Gospel Reading *Luke 2: 22-40*

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

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 turtle-doves 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 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.

The Return to Nazareth

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.

This is the gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk

The Creed

**All 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**

Our Prayers for Others

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Hymn

**1 Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.
(Refrain)**

**2 Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope,
many despair.
Your word alone
has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
(Refrain)**

**4 Longing for shelter,
many are homeless.
Longing for warmth,
many are cold.
Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
(Refrain)**

**Refrain
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered
today.**

**3 Longing for food,
many are hungry.
Longing for water,
many still thirst.
Make us your bread,
broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
(Refrain)**

**5 Many the gifts,
many the people,
many the hearts
that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants
to one another,
making your kingdom come.
(Refrain)**

Bernadette Farrell (1957 -)

During the time when communion is being received you are welcome to go to the side chapel in order to receive anointing and a prayer for wholeness. This is available to all who are worshipping with us today whether receiving communion or not. This ministry is for any who would like to receive a prayer or to receive a prayer on behalf of someone else you know who is in need.

The Thanksgiving Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond;

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The president recalls the Last Supper, concluding with;

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

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.**

Prayer after Communion

All **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**

Hymn

**1 Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.**

**3 Finish, then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Blessing and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

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