



## **GARROWBYBENEFICE**

---

Candlemas: A Service of the Word  
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

## ***Music: Bell followed by the 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; a light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel”

These are the words that Simeon said when he held the baby Jesus in his arms as he was being presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph

## **Introduction**

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

**All Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All And also with you**

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 recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Service, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth, and looking forward to the coming days of his passion

### ***We light a candle***

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we may have the darkness of our souls dispelled and so be counted worthy to stand before you in the heavenly home where you live and reign, one God now and forever. Amen

## ***Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light***

### **Collect**

Almighty and ever living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh; grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

## 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 to light and confess them in penitence and faith

Silence

**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 of 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**

## Ministry of the Word

### A reading from 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

**All Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL READING

Today the Lord is presented in the temple in substance of our mortal nature

**All Alleluia**

Today the blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law

**All Alleluia**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

**All Praise to Christ the light of the world. Alleluia.**

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke 2 22-40**

**All Glory to you O Lord**

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.

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**

## **Sermon**

### ***Hymn: Purify my heart***

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**All** We believe in God the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named  
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Intercessions** *(ending with)*

Believing the promises of God let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All** 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 that 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 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

## Closing Prayers

Lord you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we who have received 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 forever.

**All Amen**

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth

**All 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

**All Help us who have received your light to be thankful for your gift**

Here we have rejoiced with Simeon and Anna

**All 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

**Helps us now who have extinguished these candles never to forsake the light of Christ**

## The Blessing

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 Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ

**All Thanks be to God**

***Music: Lux Aeterna***