

# THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

## commonly called CANDLEMAS

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

### Regular Services

St Mary's: Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, Wednesdays at 10.30am

St Paul's: Sundays at 11.15am, Thursdays at 9.30am

### Notices

**Today:** Candlemas! Don't forget to take a blessed candle home with you 'that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled.'

Don't forget to support our friends at the Old Town Market today.

**Highfield Community Fridge:** Belated details about how successful our support of the Fridge on Christmas Eve was. Here is a quote from Tina, the Fridge Secretary. *'I have finally got around to working the figures out for Christmas eve. The 54 bags given out fed 172 people.' Thank you again'.*

Rosina and Gordon served tea and mince pies to the queue on Christmas Eve morning and they were given a Langa Christmas card with details of our Christmas services. Happily, a group of 6, including 3 children, came to the St Paul's Early Bird Midnight Mass later that day. The £430, including gift aid, came from 11 donors.

Thanks to all who contributed. Do speak to Gordon and Rosina for more details.

**Canon John** has been advised to cut down on screen time so may take a while to reply to some emails!

**NEW Team & Parish Office Phone number!** See the new office number in the panel below.

### Diary

Tuesday 7.30/8pm tbc: Fabric Committee Zoom

Thursday 7.30pm: Bell Ringing practice, St Mary's.

Next Sunday: The Sunday Next Before Lent, services at the usual times.

**St Mary's Churchwardens:** [stmarychurchwarden@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk](mailto:stmarychurchwarden@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk)

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Gordon Gaddes Tel: 07561 450633      Rosina Gaddes Tel: 07720 897037

**Team Rector:** The Revd Canon John Williams:

Tel: 07522 504087 [vicar@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk)

**Team Clergy:**

St Albans, Warners End: The Revd Pete Stevenson Tel: 01442 251897 [rev\\_pete@onetel.com](mailto:rev_pete@onetel.com)

St Barnabas, Adeyfield: The Revd Matt Renyard Tel: 0749 355742: [revmattrenyard@gmail.com](mailto:revmattrenyard@gmail.com)

The COR, Grovehill & Woodhall Farm: The Revd Austin Janes Tel: 01442 270585: [revaustin@sky.com](mailto:revaustin@sky.com)

**Team Office:**

Ali Smith Tel: **07522 504087** (NOTE, new number!) [admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryandstpaulhemel.org.uk)

**Newsletter:** News to the Team Rector by last thing on Wednesday.

**Payments:** Cheques should be made payable to "St Mary and St Paul PCC".

*The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Paul, Hemel Hempstead, Reg. Charity 1130644*

### READINGS & PRAYERS

#### 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 for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*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**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel. **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*Luke 2. 22-40*

**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

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION ANTIphon

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

## POST COMMUNION

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.**