

Choral Eucharist

10.30am Sunday 31st January 2021 – CANDLEMAS SUNDAY

Gathering

This service is being live streamed only, and there is no attendance in church in person in the congregation. The choir for this service is the minimum required for the music being offered in worship.

Logging on to the Live Stream

1. The live stream will start at about 10.25am in preparation for the service.
2. Go to our website www.stmaryletower.org.uk and find the “**LIVE Streamed Services**” title and click to go to our **Facebook Live** page.
3. Click on the service video. When the video opens you will need to click on the loudspeaker icon to unmute it and hear the sound.

Music before the Service

Allegro ben Moderato - Frank Bridge

Organist: William Baldry

Welcome and Introduction

The minister gives some NOTICES, and INTRODUCES the service.

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

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Dear friends, some 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 (Missa brevis in F - Gabrieli)

Sung by the choir

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te;
benedicimus te; adoramus te;
glorificamus te;*

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.

*Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.*

We give thanks to thee for thy great
glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God
the Father almighty.

*Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe;
Domine Deus Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, Qui
tollis peccata mundi miserere nobis.*

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus
Christ: O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of
the Father, that takest away the sins of
the world, have mercy upon us.

*Qui tollis peccata mundi suscipe
deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad
dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.*

Thou that takest away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer. Thou that
sittest at the right hand of God the
Father, have mercy upon us.

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus tu solus
Dominus tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

For thou only art holy; thou only art the
Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy
Ghost, art the Most High, in the glory
of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer for the Day (The Collect)

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of
Christ.

We keep a time of silent prayer together.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was at this time
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.**

Listening for the Word from God

Hebrews 2.14-end

read by Sue Adair

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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.

For the gift of his living word,
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 24

Sung by the choir

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is : the
compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.
For he hath founded it upon the seas : and prepared it
upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord : or who shall
rise up in his holy place?

Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart : and
that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn
to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord : and
righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him : even of
them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye
everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come
in.

Who is the King of glory : it is the Lord strong and
mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye
everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come
in.

Who is the King of glory : even the Lord of hosts, he is
the King of glory.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the
Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 2.22-33

read by Richard Hanley, Elder

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
**he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:

**that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,**

and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Intercession

Written by Hilary Norman, Elder

Read by Sonia Docherty, Elder

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

God our Creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness, we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief. Shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Father, Christ is acclaimed as the Glory of Israel. Look in mercy on your Church throughout the world; remembering today the Episcopal Anglican Church in Brazil.

We pray for the Church in our diocese: remembering the Parishes in the Hartismere Deanery. We pray for those training for Ministry at Theological Colleges. We pray for the work of Hospital Chaplains as they support patients and relatives.

Lord, your Church flourishes around the world. We are a small part of it; may we show your glory as we minister to those in need, the afflicted and the oppressed. Give us a vision of what your Church should be in this place.

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

Father, your Christ in his Temple brings judgement on the world. Look in mercy on the Nations, who long for his justice. We pray for those who live amidst conflict and fear. For World Leaders, Government Ministers and their advisers.

Grant us to look with your eyes of compassion. Father we see the long travail of mankind; the wars, the hungry millions, the countless refugees. For those suffering extreme weather conditions, flooding or drought – the hopelessness of so many lives. Hasten the coming of your kingdom, when nations shall be at peace, free from fear and want.

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

We pray for those who are unemployed, and those who face redundancy. May they keep the sense of worth that comes from knowing that they matter and are not forgotten. We pray for their dependant families. Give them courage for the present and hope for the future. Inspire those who endeavour to support and guide them to a secure future.

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

We pray for those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit: the lonely and those who feel isolated.

Among those known to us we remember Sally Graham and family, Jan Tostevin, Liz Todd, Shirley Wheeler and

Helen Burtonshaw. We continue to pray for Derek Le May, Sally Patient, Grace Chandler, Ian Miller, Phyll Fisk, Margrid Brooks and Mary Gurney.

Lord we pray for all weighed down with the mystery of suffering, reveal yourself to them as the God of love who bears our sufferings.

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

Merciful Father;

**Accept these prayers,
For the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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 into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

**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.

Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.
And also with you.

The Gifts of the People

St Mary-le-Tower faces considerable financial challenges at this time and everyone is invited to make a generous contribution by one method or another.

Donations may be made using as follows:

- *Regular giving by Standing Order*
- *The Donation Button on our website*
- *Via BACS to 30-94-55, 00059383
PCC St Mary le Tower Ipswich*

Offertory Anthem (Eccard)

Sung by the choir.

When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms
And blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

The minister takes the collection plate. Recalling our giving for God's work of in the life and mission of our Church, the minister says:

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here:

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 at this time 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:

The Sanctus is sung by the choir (Gabrieli)

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeliet terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord, most high.

The Benedictus is sung by the choir (please sit):

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.

Lord, we believe.

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.

Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice
of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit
let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy
hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth, heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Blessed Mary and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom where the new creation
is brought to perfection 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 yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Breaking Bread

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

**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.
And 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.**

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei (Gabrieli)

Sung by the choir:

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis, dona nobis pacem.*

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

Holy Communion

*Before receiving Communion, the minister proclaims
and all respond:*

The Body of Christ; the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ; the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

*The People may make a sign of the cross to affirm their
participation in the Body of Christ, and in the blessing
of this Eucharistic celebration.*

*The Minister receives the Bread and the Wine on
behalf of the Body of Christ at St Mary-le-Tower.*

Prayer after 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.**

Sending Out

Mission Hymn

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.

Dismissal Gospel: Luke 2.34-40

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 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.

Final Responsory

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

Praise to Christ our light.

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

Praise to Christ our light.

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

Praise to Christ our light.

Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and be with you always.
Amen.

Dismissal

We stand near the place of new birth.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

We turn from the crib to the cross.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.

Let us shine with the light of your love.

Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Adagio in E – Frank Bridge

The livestream continues until the end of voluntary.

After the Service

If you wish to speak to the vicar or another member of staff, it is best to do this currently by phone or email:

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