



ST MARY'S
ATTLEBOROUGH

Festal Evensong

For the Presentation of Christ in the Temple
“Candlemas”

Sunday 28th January 2024

The Congregation gather around the crib and the Choir sings the introit: Hodie Beata Virgo Maria (Sheppard)

*Hodie beata virgo Maria
puerum Iesum presentavit in templo,
Et Simeon, repletus spiritu sancto,
accepit eum in ulnas suas,
et benedixit Deus, dixit :
Nunc dimittis servum tuum in pace.*

Today the Blessed Virgin Mary
presented the child Jesus in the temple;
and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit,
took Him in his arms,
and blessed God, and said :
Now let your servant depart in peace.

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord
be with you:

And also with you.

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. On this day, 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.

The Candles are lit as we sing the hymn.

Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,
holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
the lights of evening round us shine,
we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

*John Keble (1792–1866)
based on Phos hilaron hagiois doxis, (Greek, 4th century or earlier)
Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 17*

The congregation hold up their lighted candles for a blessing:

Lord 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 the temple of 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The office hymn is sung in procession as the congregation take their seats in the nave. During the procession the figure of the Christ-child is carried and placed on the altar as a symbol of His being taken to the temple. For the remainder of the service the figure rests in the shadow of the cross, a reminder that today we turn our attention from Christmas and begin to think about Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Jesus, good above all other,
gentle child of gentle mother,
in a stable born our brother,
give us grace to persevere.

Jesus, cradled in a manger,
for us facing every danger,
living as a homeless stranger,
make we thee our King most dear.

Jesus, for thy people dying,
risen Master, death defying,
Lord in heaven, thy grace supplying,
keep us to thy presence near.

Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,
all our thoughts and hopes thou sharest,
thou to us the truth declarest;
help us all thy truth to hear.

Lord, in all our doings guide us;
pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;
we'll go on with thee beside us,
and with joy we'll persevere.

Percy Dearmer (1867–1936)
partly based on John Mason Neale (1818–1866)
Reproduced from Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition, number 692

[Music: Ayleward]

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

*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.*

*Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.*

Please blow out your candles and sit for **Psalm 132**

1. Lord, remember David : and all his trouble;
2. How he swore unto the Lord :
and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;
3. I will not come within the tabernacle
of mine house :
nor climb up into my bed;
4. I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine
eye-lids to slumber :
neither the temples of my head to take any rest;
5. Until I find out a place for the temple
of the Lord :
an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.
6. Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata :
and found it in the wood.
7. We will go into his tabernacle :
and fall low on our knees before his footstool.
8. Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place :
thou, and the ark of thy strength.
9. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness :
and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.
10. For thy servant David's sake :
turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.
11. The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David :
and he shall not shrink from it;
12. Of the fruit of thy body : shall I set upon thy seat.
13. If thy children will keep my covenant,
and my testimonies that I shall learn them :
their children also shall sit upon
thy seat for evermore.
14. For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation
for himself : he hath longed for her.
15. This shall be my rest for ever :
here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein.
16. I will bless her victuals with increase :
and will satisfy her poor with bread.
17. I will deck her priests with health :
and her saints shall rejoice and sing.
18. There shall I make the horn of David to flourish :
I have ordained a lantern for mine Anointed.
19. As for his enemies, I shall clothe them with shame :
but upon himself shall his crown flourish.

Please stand for the Gloria

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.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING *Malachi 3.1-5*

Here begins the first verse of the third chapter of the book of the prophet Malachi.

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.

Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand for:

THE MAGNIFICAT

Evening Service in G (Stanford)

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

We remain standing for the

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Luke 2.22-28*

Here begins the twenty-second verse of the second chapter of the Gospel according to Luke.

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...

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;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Remain standing, and turn to face the altar, for:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the
quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Sit or Kneel

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

[Music: Stone]

*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.
Amen.*

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
*Because there is none other
that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Almighty and ever-living God,
we humbly beseech thy majesty,
that, as thy only begotten Son
was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh,
so we may be presented unto thee
with pure and clean hearts,
by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace
which the world cannot give; that both,
our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Choir sings the Anthem;
When to the temple Mary went (Johannes Eccard)

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 Prayers.

We stand to sing the hymn:

Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

based on Luke 2.29-32 (Nunc Dimittis, The Song of Simeon)

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The 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 remain with you always. **Amen**

The Lord be with you:
And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary:

Acclamations from 'Suite Médiévale' (*Langlais*)

CCL 424197

Choral Evensong is usually sung at
St Mary's on the last Sunday
of every month at 6.30pm

The next Choral Evensong is on
Sunday 25th February