

**St Peter's Church
Formby**

CANDLEMAS

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT





THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

*The church is in darkness.
The choir enters from the East End.*

Choir: *All in the morning*

It was on Christmas Day,
And all in the morning,
Our Saviour was born,
And our heavenly King:
*And was not this a joyful thing?
And sweet Jesus they called him by name.*

It was on New Year's Day,
And all in the morning,
They circumcised our Saviour
And our heavenly King:
And was not this ...

It was on the Twelfth Day,
And all in the morning,
The Wise Men were led
To our heavenly King:
And was not this ...

It was on Twentieth Day,
And all in the morning,
The Wise Men returned
From our heavenly King:
And was not this ...

It was on Candlemas Day,
And all in the morning,
They visited the Temple
With our heavenly King:
And was not this ...

*Words - Anonymous English
Music, arr. Vaughan Williams*

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 to-day sing of his glory.

We celebrate 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.

Hymn: 72 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Please remain standing

Priest: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Priest: The Lord is the strength of my life.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

A lighted candle is brought in

Priest: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

All: A light no darkness can quench.

*While the candles are being lit and the light is shared,
the Choir sings: O Nata Lux*

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare Clemens supplicum
Laudes preces que sumere.

*O Light of light, by love inclined,
Jesu, redeemer of mankind,
With loving-kindness deign to hear
From suppliant voices
praise and prayer*

Qui carnequondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici,
Tui beati corporis.

*Thou who to raise our souls from hell
Didst deign in fleshly form to dwell,
Vouchsafe us, when our race is run,
In thy fair Body to be one.*

*Words: Cantiones Sacrae, 1575
Music: Thomas Tallis*

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: He is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Responsorial Psalm

Priest: I call to you, O Lord; come to me quickly:
Hear my voice when I cry to you.

**All: Let my prayer rise before you as incense:
The lifting up of my hands is the evening sacrifice.**

Priest: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord:
keep watch over the door of my lips.
Let not my heart be turned towards evil:
to busy myself with those who do wickedly.

All: Let my prayer rise before you as incense.

Priest: To you, Lord God, I turn my eyes:

All: I take refuge in you; do not leave me defenceless.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All: Let my prayer rise before you as incense.

Please be seated



Choir: *O thou the central orb*

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming day
To souls ere while unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley
Music: Charles Wood*

Please stand

Priest: Eternal Light,

All: shine into our hearts;

Priest: Eternal Goodness,

All: deliver us from evil;

Priest: Eternal Power,

All: be our support;

Priest: Eternal Wisdom,

All: scatter the darkness of our ignorance;

Priest: Eternal Pity,

All: have mercy on us;

Priest: That with all our heart and mind and strength

**All: We may seek your face and be brought
by your infinite mercy to your holy presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

Choir: *The Lamb*

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight
Softest clothing woolly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb
We are called by his name
Little Lamb God bless thee
Little Lamb God bless thee.

*Words: William Blake
Music: John Tavener*

The candles are extinguished

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Reading: Exodus 12: 51; 13: 1 & 2, 11 - 16
 Consecrate to me all the firstborn.

Hymn: **112** **New light has dawned**

Reading: Isaiah 6. 1-8
 I saw the Lord, and his train filled the temple.

Choir: *Holy, holy, holy*

Holy, holy, holy, God Almighty Lord!
Holy, holy, holy, Ev'rywhere adored!

He without beginning, He the eternal one
Reigns and rules for ever, All things 'neath the sun.

Power and love and wonder, Circling round His throne,
Praise Him, Holy, Holy, Lord of life alone.

Music: Franz Schubert

Reading: Hebrews 10: 1-10

*We have been sanctified through the offering
of the body of Jesus Christ.*

Hymn: **110 Hail to the Lord who comes**

Remain standing

Priest: We proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
All: **and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.**

Priest: For the God who said '*Let light shine out of darkness*'
All: **has caused His light to shine within us**

Priest: to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God
All: **in the face of Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel

Choir: Alleluia.

*Sweet to the heart is the Name of Jesus Christ:
music to the ear; honey to the taste;
which turns the heart to joy and praise;
and puts to flight the despite of the world.
Alleluia.*

- From The English Gradual

Priest: Hear the words of the Gospel according to Luke.

All: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

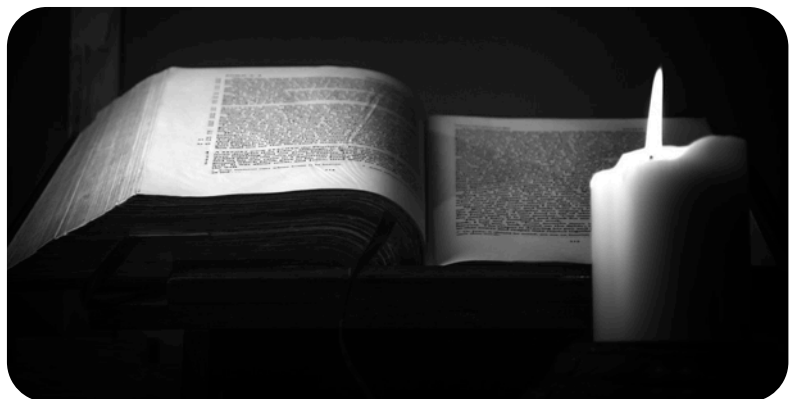
The Gospel Reading Luke 2: 22-40

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Priest: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Reflection



Choir: *A Song of Light*

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our race.

Now as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise,
Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, Lamp of our days.

*Words: Phos Hilaron
Music: Simon Lole*

Priest: By the mystery of the Word made flesh

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Priest: By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Priest: By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Priest: For the Kingdoms of this world,
that they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Priest: For your holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
that it may be one,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Priest: For the witness of your faithful people,
that they may be lights in the world,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Priest: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer,
that they may be relieved and protected,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Priest: For the aged, for refugees and all in danger,
that they may be strengthened and defended,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Priest: For those who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death, that they
may come to your eternal light,

All: We pray to you, O Lord.

Priest: Father, source of light and life,
grant the prayers of your faithful people,
and fill the world with your glory,
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Choir: *When to the Temple Mary went*

When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been reveal'd.
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"*

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 awake.

*words from the German tr. by Rev J Troutbeck
Music: Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)*

The Song of Simeon

Please stand

You are invited to join in the response.



Choir: A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

**All: A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel**

Cantor: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

**All: A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Cantor: My own eyes have seen the salvation:
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

**All: A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Cantor: A light to reveal you to the nations:
And the glory of your people Israel.

**All: A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

**All: A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the
Temple and acclaimed the glory of Israel
and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world we may reflect his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: 113

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
(verses 1 - 6, and 13)

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

