



S^t Thomas' Cathedral

Mumbai • Estd 1718

The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

observed

TEXT FOR THE DAY

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.



Sunday 31 January 2021

8.45 am

Welcome



Today we celebrate the Feast of The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, which is also known as The Purification of St. Mary the Virgin, and also as Candlemas (which is observed in the Church calendar on February 2.)

In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. We recall Simeon's prophesy that the Christ Child would be a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of [God's] people Israel.

In the service this morning, 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 Preparation & Gathering|

Allegro con spirito in B flat

Voluntary

Frank Bridge (1879 - 1941)

Please stand as the procession enters.

"Christ whose glory fills the skies"

Hymn

Sung by the Cantors.

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near,
Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by Thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till Thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707 – 88)

Music: Mlody from Werner's Choralbuch (Leipzig, 1815) • Tune: RATISBON

Opening Acclamation

The Presbyter

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.

All

Blessed be God for ever.

The Presbyter

Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.

All

Blessed be God for ever.

The Presbyter

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.

All

Blessed be God for ever.

The Presbyter

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All

Blessed be God for ever.

All sit.

Welcome

Prayers of Penitence

The Presbyter says

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. *cf John 8.12*

All say

**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.**

The Presbyter says

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.

All say the Lord's Prayer

**OUR FATHER, who 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 Ministry of the Word|

The Collect for Candlemas

The Presbyter

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

Silence is kept.

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.

All Amen.

The Lesson

Malachi 3. 1 – 5

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 134

Sung by the Cantors to a chant by Walmisley

1. BEHOLD now, praise the Lord: all ye servants of the Lord;
2. Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord: even in the courts of the house of our God.
3. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary: and praise the Lord.
4. The Lord that made heaven and earth: give thee blessing out of Zion.

All stand for the Gloria Patri.

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.

Please be seated.

The Epistle

St Paul’s Letter to the Colossians 1. 19 – 23

The Supremacy of the Son of God

FOR God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the Gospel. This is the Gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

“God of mercy, God of grace”

The Gradual

While seated, follow the words as the Cantors sing.

1. God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of Thy face:
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
fill Thy Church with light divine;
and Thy saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.
2. Let the people praise Thee, Lord;
be by all that live adored:
Let the nations shout and sing,
glory to their Saviour King;
at Thy feet their tributes pay,
and Thy holy will obey.
3. Let the people praise Thee, Lord;
earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to man His blessing give,
man to God devoted live;
all below, and all above,
one in joy, and light, and love.

Words: H. F. Lyte (1798 -1847)

Music: H. Smart (1813 – 79) • Tune: HEATHLANDS

All stand

The Gospel Acclamation

Intoned by the Cantors.

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

Alleluia.

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

Alleluia.

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

Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world!

The Gospel of Christ

St Luke 2. 22 - 40

The Gospeller
All

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

*When the Gospel is announced all say **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

Jesus Presented in the Temple

WHEN the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

Continued overleaf.

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts 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 very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

The Gospeller This is the Gospel of Christ.
All say **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Remain standing and recite together.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

All sit.

The Sermon
The Revd Avinash Rangayya

All stand.

| The Sharing of the Peace |

The Presbyter 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. *Luke 1.78,79*
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

*While remaining in your place, share the sign of peace with a namaste with your neighbour.
Please kneel as able or sit.*

Invocation
Sung by the Cantors.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

*Words: Liturgy of St James, tr, G. Moultrie
Music: French traditional carol*

| The Prayers of the People |

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life.
Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:
look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:
look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:
look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant King.
Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All* **Amen.**

All stand.

The Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

Intoned by the Cantors

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised.
For these eyes of mine have seen the Saviour, whom you prepared for all the world to see.
A Light to enlighten the nations. And the glory of your people Israel.
Gloria Patri.

Final Responory

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

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

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

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

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

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

Benediction *The Presbyter*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Worship material for this service bulletin has been sourced from:

- *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* <https://www.churchofengland.org>
- *The Book of Common Prayer*
- *The English Hymnal (1933)*
- *The Artwork on the front cover is by Sr. Claire SMMI, Bangalore*

“In His temple now behold him”

Hymn at the Closing

Follow the words as the Cantors sing.

1. In His temple now behold Him,
See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him
God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.
2. In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him lie,
While His aged saints adore Him
Ere in faith and hope they die.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lo, the incarnate God most high.
3. Jesus, by Thy presentation,
Thou, who didst for us endure,
Make us see our great salvation,
Seal us with Thy promise sure.
And present us in Thy glory
To Thy Father, cleansed and pure.

Words: Henry J. Pye (1825 – 1903) • Music: William Cooke (1821 – 1894) Tune: DISMISSAL

The Dismissal

The Presbyter
All

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gilbert Martin (b. 1941)

Toccata Giocosa

~~~ Prayer Requests and Announcements ~~~

Your prayers are requested for:

- † the bereaved family of Rashmikant Salvi who passed away on January 17.
- † all those who are unable to attend church services. Especially pray for all senior citizens
- † St Stephen's Church, Bandra and the Revd Thomas Jacob.
- † the Church of North India's Diocese of North East India and the Rt Revd Michael Herenz.
- † the Church of South India's Diocese of Dornakal (Telengana) and the Rt Revd Dr. V. Prasada Rao.
- † in the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church of Brazil and the Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes
- The Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) of St Thomas' Cathedral will have their annual general meeting (virtually) this evening at 5pm. Contact Jaisy Desai.
- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. There will be services at 7am and 6pm.
- Please dissuade from gathering in groups and socialising after service. You are advised to leave immediately after the service is over. Let us abide with the restrictions till the time they are lifted. We thank you for your cooperation.
- You may place your offering in the box at the entrance. There will be no offertory collection

~~~ Birthdays this Week ~~~

May God bless you abundantly.

Helen Pon Pandian (1 Feb), Sunil Thomas (2), Smita Thomas (3), Rajiv Jadhav (3), Koilpillai Pandian (4), Justin David (5), Valentina Mathew (6), Dinesh Sathia Raj (6)

~~~ Wedding Anniversaries this Week ~~~

Be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the years of your life.
Stanley & Cicily George (2), Dhyana & Joytsna Mayadas (4),

As per Government and Diocesan guidelines, you are requested to strictly comply with the following:

- Please cooperate with the Security as they carry out the mandatory checks before you enter.
- Make use of sanitizers kept at the entrance.
- Wearing of face covering is mandatory at all times throughout the service.
- Congregational singing is not yet permitted.
- Maintain the distance as indicated by the positioning of the chairs.
- Please take this service bulletin home with you. It is mandatory to do so.
- Leave as soon as the service is over. Avoid gathering outside in groups.
- Presently administration of Holy Communion is not allowed. Until further instructions from the Bishop, the service will be that of the Liturgy of the Word. Read the Diocesan advisory carefully.

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: (Vestry) **2283 9783**, (R) **2207 1275, 98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.