



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Candlemas

Monday 2nd February 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Eucharist

The Choral Setting is
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), Mass in g

Please ask the priest if you require a gluten-free communion wafer

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation.

By attending you agree to be seen in this way.

If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Cover Image: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple,
North Quire Aisle, Canterbury Cathedral

Health and Safety

Much of the present Cathedral was built hundreds of years ago. Whilst most of the parts of this ancient cathedral that are normally open to the public are easily accessible for all, the historic stone floor may be unpredictably uneven in places, entry to some parts is via stone steps or access ramps of varying gradients, and lighting levels may vary.

Please exercise due care and attention before, during and after the service and move around with regard for your safety. The Cathedral is unable to accept liability for any personal injury or damage to property unless this is due to our own negligence.



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By cash or cheques payable to 'Canterbury Cathedral' in Gift Aid envelopes - UK taxpayers please fill in the details on the envelope. Or you can give a one-off donation at one of our **contactless donation points** in the South Transept after the service.



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

The Gathering

A welcome is offered

Stand to sing



Hail to the Lord who comes,
comes to his temple gate,
not with his angel host,
not in his kingly state:
no shouts proclaim him nigh,
no crowds his coming wait.

³There Joseph at her side
in reverent wonder stands;
and, filled with holy joy,
old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised child,
the glory of all lands.

²But borne upon the throne
of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her duteous love,
in her fond arms at rest;
thus to his Father's house
he comes, the heavenly guest.

⁴Hail to the great First-born
whose ransom-price they pay,
the Son before all worlds,
the child of man to-day,
that he might ransom us
who still in bondage lay.

⁵O Light of all the earth,
thy children wait for thee:
come to thy temples here,
that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face
may all presented be.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893)

Tune: OLD 120th

AM 110

The President says

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.

The President introduces the service

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 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.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh,
let us pray.

We pray in silence, then the president says

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.**

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading

Hebrews 2.14-18

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 24.7-10

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.

Stand as the cantor sings the Alleluia and we respond



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

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

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

Alleluia!

The Gospel

Luke 2.22-40

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel 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. 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.

The organist plays a Gospel fanfare

Once the Homily has been introduced please sit

Homily

After the Sermon, a few moments of silence are kept as we reflect on what we have heard and then the choir sings

The Motet

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is; blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Words: Psalm 34.8

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Stand to say

The Affirmation of Faith *from the Athanasian Creed*

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

**We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

**fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.**

As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

**Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.**

One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;

**truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.**

For as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Remain standing

The President says

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 Deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation greet one another

Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn *during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented. If you would prefer to give electronically, please use the QR code*



When the Thurifer turns to bow to the congregation, all turn to the altar



Sing we of the blessèd Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

²Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

³Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

⁴Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessèd,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

Words: G. B. Timms (1910-1997)

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

AM 315

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

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 Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 this day 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 choir sings

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

The Deacon says

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Simeon, Anna and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The President says

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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.
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.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojczy Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Πάτερ ἡμῶν

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The President says

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Sit as the President and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All baptised Christians who receive communion in their own church are encouraged to receive today. If you are accompanied by children who do not yet receive, please bring them with you to receive a blessing. They should not be left on their own.

*If you are not a communicant, you are welcome to come forward at this point in the service to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides. Please ask the priest if you **need a gluten-free host.***

We request that **you do not intinct (dip) your host in the wine** but either take a sip from the cup or remain with your head bowed. This is for the reasons of good hygiene.

If you wish to receive communion in your lace, please ask a Steward.

We keep a **prayerful silence** during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.

During Communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Procession to the Font and Blessing of Candles

Silence is kept and then we stand to sing

During the singing of the hymn the congregation's candles are lit and they then follow the clergy and choir to the font in the Nave.



O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye
to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

²God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not
the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him ...

³See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh
with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him ...

⁴Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee,
with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him ...

⁵Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense,
gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ-child
Bring our hearts' oblations:
O come, let us adore him ...

⁶Spirit, descending
At the banks of Jordan,
Comfort and strengthen us
to follow the one
Whom God anoints
As chosen and beloved:
O come, let us adore him ...

⁷First of the signs
At Cana's celebration,
Blessings well up
and overflow with the wine;
Justice and righteousness
Pour down from heaven:
O come, let us adore him ...

⁸Waiting with Anna
For the promised Saviour,
Patient in prayer
and constant in faith,
Now we behold
Redemption in the Christ-child:
O come, let us adore him ...

⁹We stand with Simeon,
Gathered in this temple,
Lifting the holy child
in prayer and praise;
Joy held with sorrow
For his coming suff'rings:
O come, let us adore him ...

¹⁰Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
'Glory to God
In the highest':
O come, let us adore him ...

¹¹O come, all ye faithful,
Bringing your lit candles,
O come ye, O come to greet
the Light of the World:
Shine in the darkness,
Hope for all the nations!
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Words: Latin 18th century *Tr* F Oakeley (1802-80)
and others (v6-9,11 MJR)

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

The President blesses the candles, saying

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
and +bless these candles,
that we, who by their kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Remain standing as the people are sprinkled with holy water as a sign of their baptism and the choir sings

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.

Words: Luke 2.29-32

Music: Amy Summers (b. 1996)

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration
of the Saviour's birth.

**Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

**Help us, who extinguish these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

**Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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.

Please extinguish your candles carefully

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Organ Voluntary