

# The Presentation of Christ in the Temple



**St Laurence Church, Downton**

31 January 2021

# Preparation

## Call to Worship

Open to me the gates of righteousness:  
**and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Psalm 118*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Team Rector introduces the service*

Hymn: *Will you come and follow me*  
(*St Martin's Voices*)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown, in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)*  
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Scotland. [www.wildgoose.scot](http://www.wildgoose.scot)

### Gathering:

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.**

### Confession:

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*

**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. **Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

Readings:

Malachi 3:1-5

Luke 2:22-40

*After each reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection from Bishop Andrew

Music: Nunc Dimittis

*(Oxford Magdalen College Choir)*

# Prayers

*We are led in a time of prayer*

*This response is used:*

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

*The Lord's Prayer is said:*

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who 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.**

## Conclusion

The Collect

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.**

## 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.**

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, 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, 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.**