



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

The Cathedral Eucharist
on the Feast of
The Presentation of Christ
in the Temple

Sunday 2 February, 2025

4pm

Welcome
to this evening's
service

The President and Preacher is
The Very Revd Peter Howell-Jones
Dean

The Deacon is
Canon James Lawrence
Missioner

The Subdeacon is
Diane Warner

The service is sung by
The Blackburn Cathedral Choir

Directed by
John Robinson
Organist and Director of Music

The setting for the service is
Missa Secunda - Hassler

This service is being live streamed via YouTube

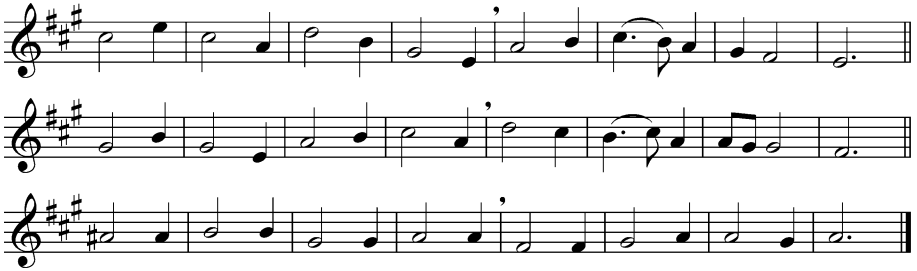
*Before the service, the congregation is
welcomed by Canon James Lawrence*

The Gathering

Please stand as the ministers enter

Processional

WESTMINSTER ABBEY 205



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.

Jesus by your presentation,
when they blest you, weak and poor,
make us see our great salvation,
seal us with your promise sure,
and present us in your glory
to your Father, cleansed and pure.

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.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Lo, th'incarnate God most high.

Prince and author of salvation,
be your boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to you be given,
by the world you did redeem,
with the Father and the Spirit,
Lord of majesty supreme!

vv 1-3 Henry J. Pye (1805-1902); v 4 Wm Cooke (1821-1894)

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The president introduces the celebration

The Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon 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.

**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 Gloria



The choir sings

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 caelestis,
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.

and peace on earth
to those of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you.
We give thanks to you
for your great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you that take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
You that take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
You who are seated at the right hand of
the Father, have mercy upon us.
For you alone are holy,
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

Let us pray.

Silence is kept – please remain standing

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.**

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Read by Jeremy Duerden

(Malachi 3.1-5)

A reading from 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Awake the trumpet's lofty sound;
the joyful sacred festival comes round,
[awake, awake]
when Mary brings the Lord of Lord,
the Temple all to astound.

A chorus from the Oratorio Samson with text adapted by John Robinson.

George Friderick Handel (1685-1759)

New Testament Reading

(Hebrews 2.14-end)

Read by Louise Hicks

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

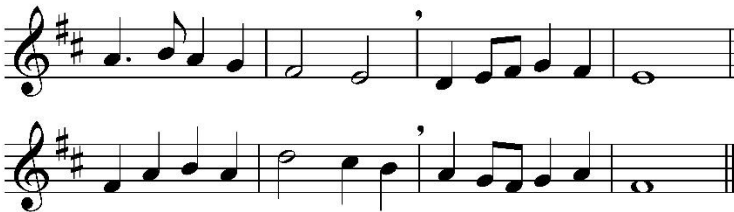
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gradual hymn

Pastor Pastorum



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 (1926-2024)

The Gospel

(Luke 2.22-40)

The deacon says

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.

Sermon

There is a period of silence after the sermon for reflection.

Please stand with the president

The Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel

The prayers are led by Mihaela Mladin

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Amen.

Please stand with the president for the peace

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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 despair
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78,79

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.

Preparation of the Table

Please give what you prayerfully can. You may prefer to use the collection point or card reader on the way out. If you are a UK tax payer please use and sign the blue gift aid form provided on your chair. Alternatively, The Parish Giving Scheme is the easy way to give regularly to support the ongoing ministry of Blackburn Cathedral and you can find out more and sign up by using the QR code provided here. Blackburn Cathedral's Parish Giving Scheme Code is: 030603001



The deacon prepares the table

Offertory Hymn

WAS LEBET 52



O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

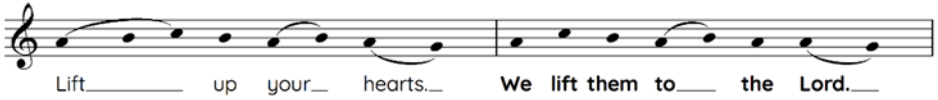
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Text J.S.B. Monsell (1811-75).

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer



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 Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them saying,
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. Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of his kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
the make memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

The deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, we join our prayers with those of the Church Universal, saying, each in our own language, the prayer our Saviour taught us,

Notre père, qui es aux cieux ... Missierna, li inti fis-smewwiet...
Vater unser im Himmel ... Padre nosso, que estais nos céus...
Padre nostro che sei nei cieli ... Ojczy nasz, któryś jest w niebie...
Otče náš, jenž jsi na nebesích ... ،الذِي فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ...
Têve Mûsu, kuris esi danguje! ... Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd...
Tatal nostru care esti in ceruri ...

**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.**

The 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.**

If you are able, please remain standing while the choir sings

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

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, have mercy on us.

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

The Giving of Communion

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.**

When the stewards invite you to go forward, please approach the two communion stations in single file along the side aisles of the Nave.

Please return to your place by the central aisle of the Nave.

Communion is available in both kinds, and the minister distributing bread will say

The body of Christ. Amen.

After receiving the bread, if you wish to receive wine please move to the next minister before returning to your place.

The minister distributing wine will say

The blood of Christ. Amen.

If you do not wish to receive communion wine, please walk past that second minister and return to your place.

While you are waiting to go for communion you may wish to sit down.

The choir sings

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.

John Eccard (1598)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please stand to sing and light our individual candles

Final Hymn

LOURDES



When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us and Spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas day.

Elizabeth Cosnett (born 1936)

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Silence is kept

The president says

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 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 temple where you live and reign,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Nunc dimittis

The choir sings

Lord, now lettest 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.

Music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Final Responsoy

The Christmas lights are extinguished

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration
of the Saviour's birth
**Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live by his light that has no end.**

The candles carried by those in the sanctuary are lit

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.**

The paschal candle is lit

Here we have rejoiced with those to be baptised
and recalled our own baptism.

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

The paschal candle is carried to the steps of the sanctuary

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

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

The congregation raise their candles

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.**

The Organ Voluntary

The ministers depart, following the paschal candle. Candles are lit down the central aisle as the procession moves to the west door.

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