

**THE PARISH OF  
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST  
LITTLE MISSENDEN  
HYDE HEATH &  
LITTLE KINGSHILL**



The Diocese of Oxford  
Buckingham Episcopal Area



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**ORDER OF SERVICE & NOTICES  
FOR THE  
SUNG EUCHARIST  
FOR THE  
FEAST OF CANDLEMAS  
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST  
IN THE TEMPLE**

**SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY 2021  
6.00 PM**

**PREACHER & CELEBRANT:  
THE REVD JOHN SIMPSON  
VICAR**



*Please feel free to take this Order of Service with you*



*This service is produced with 100% recycled paper.*

*Stand*

### **Hymn**

[Common Praise 87]

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth;  
before him, on the mountains,  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless Name of love.

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

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

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Dear friends: some 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.

#### The Collect for Purity

All: **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.**

Celebrant: Jesus says: 'I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.' Let us then bring our secret sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

*Kneel or sit*

All: **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

#### The Kyries (said)

Celebrant: Lord have mercy upon us,  
All: **Christ have mercy upon us,**  
Celebrant: Lord have mercy upon us.

### The Absolution

Celebrant: 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 bring *you* to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Stand*

### The Collect *(please remain standing)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you:  
All: **And with your spirit.**  
Celebrant: Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please Sit*

### The First Lesson

*The reader says*

*The lesson is written in the third chapter of the Book of the Prophet Malachi, beginning at the first verse:*

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the **LORD**, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the **LORD** of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the **LORD** an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the **LORD**, as in the days of old, and as in former years

*At the end:*

*Here endeth the lesson.*

Stand

### Hymn

[Common Praise 403 (Tune 285)]

Come, living God, when least expected,  
when minds are dull and hearts are cold,  
through sharpening word and warm affection  
revealing truth as yet untold.

Break from the tomb in which we hide you  
to speak again in startling ways;  
break through the words in which we bind you  
to resurrect our lifeless praise.

Come now, as once you came to Moses  
within the bush alive with flame;  
or to Elijah on the mountain,  
by silence pressing home your claim.

So, let our minds be sharp to read you  
in sight or sound or printed page,  
and let us greet you in our neighbours,  
in ardent youth or mellow age.

*The remainder of the hymn follows the reading.*

Sit

### The Second Lesson

*The reader says*

*The Lesson is written in the second chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, beginning at the fourteenth verse:*

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

*At the end:*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord:

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Hymn Cont'd

Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us  
as vivid truth and living Lord,  
exploding doubt and disillusion  
to scatter hope and joy abroad.

Then we will share his radiant brightness,  
and, blazing through the dread of night,  
illuminate by love and reason,  
for those in darkness, faith's delight.

## The Gospel

*Please turn to face the Gospel*

*The reader says;*

The holy Gospel is written in the second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, beginning at the twenty-second verse.

*All respond:*

**Glory be to you, O Lord.**

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 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; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of

many hearts may be revealed. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

*At the end:*

Celebrant: This is the gospel of the Lord:

All: Praise be to you, O Christ

### The Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:*

¶The Church of Christ

¶Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority

¶The local community

¶Those who suffer

¶The communion of saints

*These responses may be used*

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy

*All* Hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude with ...*

### The Dedication

*The Celebrant prays for the building of the Church*

Lord Jesus Christ, who at this time was presented in the Temple, make this place a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service. **Amen**

*At the end:*

Celebrant: Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### The Offertory

*One of the following sentences of Scriptures is used.*

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

*Matthew 5.16*

## Offertory Hymn

[Common Praise 94]

Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the Head and corner-stone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the church in one,  
Holy Sion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call thee,  
come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;  
with thy wonted loving-kindness  
hear thy servants as they pray,  
and thy fullest benediction  
shed within its walls alway.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: and with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

*The priest continues*

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and *singing*:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord;

Hosanna in the highest.

*Please sit or kneel*

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by



his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and 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. Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

All: Our Father, which 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 Agnus Dei

Celebrant: O Lamb of God

All: that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: O Lamb of God

All: that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: O Lamb of God  
All: that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

Celebrant: Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving

### Post Communion Prayers

Celebrant: O Lord, who didst fulfil the hope of Simeon and Anna that they might live to greet the coming of the Messiah: grant that we, who have received these inexpressible gifts, may be prepared to meet Christ Jesus when he shall come to bring us to eternal life; for he liveth and reigneth, now and for ever. Amen

All: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

### The Blessing of the Candles

Nunc Dimittis

*Whilst candles are lit*

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 light on 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 the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe! You make our darkness to be light. For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light.

All: **Blessed be God for ever**

*The Celebrant blesses the candles, saying*

Celebrant: O Gracious Father, almighty and eternal God, you created all things out of nothing, and by your command caused the labour of bees to be revealed in the perfection of wax. Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of the true light who enlightens everyone coming into the world. As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the darkness of night, so also may our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit that we might avoid the darkness of sin, see your salvation, and attain to the Light that never fades away. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### Hymn

[Common Praise]

Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant your servant  
his discharge in peace.

Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, doubting cease:  
grant to us your servants  
our discharge in peace.

### Final Responsory

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

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

Celebrant: Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

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

Celebrant: Here we have greeted the Light of the World.

All: Help us who now extinguish these candles, never to forsake the Light of Christ.

Celebrant: Here we turn from Christ's birth to his Passion.

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

Celebrant: Here we bless one another in your name.

All: Help us who now go in peace, to shine as lights in your world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

### Hymn

Christ is the world's true light,  
Its Captain of salvation,  
The Day-star clear and bright  
Of every man and nation;  
New life, new hope awakes,  
Where'er men own his sway;  
Freedom her bondage breaks,  
And night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,  
Their ancient feuds forgetting,  
The whole round world complete,  
From sunrise to its setting:  
When Christ is throned as Lord,  
Men shall forsake their fear,  
To ploughshare bear the sword,  
To pruning-hook the spear.