

**Welcome to our service of
Sung Eucharist & Baptism at St Mary's, Shirehampton
Candlemas Sunday 2nd February 2025**

Welcome:

Today is the feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple.
It is also called the feast of Candlemas.

We gather as family to ask God's blessing on us all,
that we might walk in the light of God's love all our lives.

Gathering:

God is spirit

Let us worship him in spirit and truth.

The Lord is with us

Let us praise his name together.

Lord speak to us

that we may hear your word.

Move among us

That we may behold your glory.

Receive our prayers

That we may learn to trust you.

Hymn:

1 A man there lived in Galilee
like none who lived before,
for he alone from first to last
our flesh unsullied wore;
a perfect life of perfect deeds
once to the world was shown,
that people all might mark his steps
and in them plant their own.

3 A man there reigns in glory now,
divine, yet human still;
that human which is all divine
death sought in vain to kill.
All pow'r is his; supreme he rules
the realms of time and space;
yet still our human cares and needs
find in his heart a place.

2 A man there died on Calvary
above all others brave;
the human race he saved and blessed,
himself he scorned to save.
No thought can gauge the weight of woe
on him, the sinless, laid;
we only know that with his blood
our ransom price was paid.

Somerset Corry Lowry (1855-1932)
CCL Licence No 5935

We light the candles

I light a candle to say thank you for the sun,
which brightens our days and shows us all the beauty of your world.

We thank God and say:
Thank you for the light.

I light a candle to say thank you for the moon and stars which light up
the night sky and show travellers the way.

We thank God and say:
Thank you for the light.

I light a candle to say thank you for Jesus, the Light of the World,
who came to show us the way to God our Father.

We thank God and say:

Thank you for the light

Confession:

Lord Jesus,
illuminate the darkness in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
open our eyes to your saving love:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
unstop our ears to hear your living word:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Gloria – Sung

**1 Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.**

**3 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you
thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**5 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us, have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive, receive our prayer.**

**6 Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.**

**2 Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.**

**4 Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.**

**7 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
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Collect:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

Amen

First Reading

Hebrews 2: 14 - 18

please sit for the reading

At the end of the reading the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn:

1 Be thou my vision
O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me
save that thou art;
thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word,
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father,
and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling,
and I in thy care.

3 Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour,
and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter,
and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.

4 Riches I need not,
nor all the world's praise,
thou mine inheritance
through all my days;
thou, and thou only,
the first in my heart,
high King of heaven,
my treasure thou art!

5 High King of heaven
when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me,
O bright heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

*Irish (c.8th century) trans. Mary Byrne (1880-1931)
and Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)
CCL Licence Number 5935*

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2: 22 - 40*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

At the end the reader says,
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Baptism:

Grace and William, will you bring Ron to be presented.

Ron, do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome Ron and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision:

In baptism God calls us to new life.

We die with Christ to all that destroys, and rise to live with him for ever.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject evil?

I reject evil.

And all its many forms?

And all its many forms.

And all its empty promises?

And all its empty promises.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

And put your trust in him?

And put my trust in him.

And promise to follow him for ever?

And promise to follow him for ever.

Signing with the Cross:

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead, saying

Ron

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are his for ever.

Stand bravely with him.

Oppose the power of evil,

and remain his faithful disciple to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,

restore in you the image of his glory,

and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer over the water:

We praise you, loving Father,

for the gift of your Son Jesus.

On him you poured your Spirit at his baptism in the River Jordan.

He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.

And so, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptized in it

may be cleansed in the water of life,

filled with your Spirit

and know themselves loved as your children,

safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith:

Do you believe in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptism:

The minister pours water on the candidate, saying

I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be
renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

The Welcome and Peace:

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Prayers:

The Peace:

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with **you.**
and also with you.

Hymn:

1 In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought
and storm.

What heights of love, what depths
of peace,
when fears are stilled, when
strivings cease!

My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to
save:

till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied,
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain,
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again.
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of
Christ.

*Stuart Townend
CCL Licence Number 5935*

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Preparation of the Table:

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ's sake.

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.

Almighty God,
good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:

(sung)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power, God of might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

(sung)

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us
and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

(sung)

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

The Lord's Prayer:

Please be seated

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

Alleluia!

This living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Alleluia! Let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei - Sung

Jesus, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

Grant us your peace.

Grant us your peace.

Grant us your peace.

Grant us your peace.

Communion is received:

Post Communion Prayer:

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.**

Blessings:

Notices:

Birthdays:

Blessing of the Candles:

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
- and our homes –
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.

Ron today God has touched you with his
Love and given you a place among his people.

God promises to be with you in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.

In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.

With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

Giving of the Candle:

God has delivered us from the dominion of
Darkness and has given us a place with the saints
in light. You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Hymn:

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth
you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume
all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives
tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's
glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace
and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord,
and let there be light.*

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)
©1987 Make Way Music Ltd
CCL Licence Number 5935*

Sending:

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 as witnesses to baptism.

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

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.**

Blessing:

May the God of love touch your hearts
and fill your lips with praise for him
that the gospel story will be told anew to all you meet.
And the blessing of God almighty
Father Son and Holy Spirit
be with you and remain with you always
Amen.