

Morning Worship Online – 31st January 2021

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Words of Welcome – Gareth

I. The Introduction

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel his people.

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

Jesus said: 'The first commandment is: "Listen Israel! The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

Silence

Let us confess our sins to the Father and seek his pardon and peace.

**Almighty and merciful God,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with all our heart;
and we have not loved others as Christ loves us.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Help us to amend our lives;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, open our lips,
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glorious God,
you reveal yourself to the world
and call us to be a royal priesthood,
to show forth the praises of Christ
who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.
May we present ourselves as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to you,
King of all kings and Lord of all lords.
Blessed be God for ever.

2. *The Ministry of the Word*

Hymn – Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness (BandLab)

Reading – Luke 2:22-40

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Adam

The Baptismal Creed

**I believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.**

**I believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.**

**I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world.**

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

3. Prayers – Gareth

Let us pray for all the people of God's church that through her ministry God's salvation in Jesus Christ may be revealed to all peoples, setting free all those held in slavery by the fear of death.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the needs of this world:

for those affected by the pandemic – the leaders of the world attempting to guide us through it and the front line workers whose job it is to protect us;

for those whose lives are threatened by violence of war or terrorism;

for those oppressed by cruelty and injustice;

for those deprived of food and water by greed and indifference to their suffering.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own communities:

for families whose relationships are being tested and strained;

for families suffering financial hardship;

for families struggling with ill health and bereavement.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the people we know who need God's healing touch today that they may know his presence alongside them and his strength supporting them.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God we thank you that with compassion and mercy you hear our prayers and reach out to touch the lives of those for whom we pray. Let your light shine through our lives revealing more and more of your love to the world around us. We ask this in the name of the one who became like us and revealed to us your glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father, as Jesus 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.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. **Amen.**

4. *Conclusion*

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

Help us to live his life that has no end.

Today, we offer the Church's sacrifice of praise

Help us be thankful for your gift.

Today, we rejoice with faithful Simeon and Anna.

Help us to trust in your unfailing promises.

Today, we greet the Light of the world.

Help us never to forsake the light of Christ.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Farewell Words - Gareth

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Final Hymn – Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven (St Woolos Cathedral in Newport)