



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Sunday 2nd February 2025
at 11am

With a congregation in the church
and live on YouTube



Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.

Everyone is warmly invited to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.

Forty days ago we celebrated the Incarnation, the birth of Christ. Today we remember how his parents took him to the Temple to present him before God. The child who was manifest to the magi is now recognised by Simeon and Anna. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

At the end of the service, we turn and face the font, with our candles lit. We then extinguish them as a sign of our turning from the crib to the cross.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

[Tune: Picardy; Words: Thomas G. Wilkinson (b. 1945)]

**Through long years of watchful waiting
Simeon's deep devotion shone:
gratefully the child he cradles,
humbly holds God's Holy One;
rests content in life's quiet evening,
now his Temple task is done.**

**So God's age-long word of promise
in that place is realised;**

his salvation now embodied
as a helpless infant cried;
hearing Simeon's pointed blessing
Mary's heart is crucified.

In the following years she watched him
as he pondered God's intent;
in that teeming crowd she lost him,
as his searching way he went;
in her grief, the son she mothered
for the whole world's need was spent.

As the end of Christ's obedience
on that towering cross appears:
Mary watches with the women
as the soldiers swing their spears;
Simeon's word she recollected,
and her love dissolved in tears.

In Christ's death outside the city
God's own heart is pierced with pain:
in this world's unending conflict,
seeds of hope on earth remain;
in the light of patient servants
Christ's self-giving lives again.

OPENING RESPONSES

The priest says

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

And also with you.

The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service.

**Eternal 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.**

The deacon says

The word of God is living and active.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
trusting in Christ's promise of forgiveness and healing.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The deacon says

God of miracle and wonder, for whom nothing is impossible,
you long to reveal yourself to us that we might reach out to
you and know ourselves to be your own, cherished and
chosen.

In silence we pause before you to confess our need for
forgiveness and grace.

Silence is kept.

Forgive us if we have been too preoccupied or distracted to
notice the extraordinary in the ordinary.

KYRIE (*Ukrainian*)

The cantor sings

Kyrie eleison.

(Lord, have mercy.)

All sing

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free.

May you take God's forgiveness to heart and be at peace.

Amen.

THE GLORIA (*Taizé*)

The cantor sings first, then we sing once together and then twice as a 4-part round.

Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, Gloria. Alleluia, alleluia.

(Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect

The priest says

Let us pray.

Eternal 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.

Amen.

Please sit.

FIRST READING

Hebrews 2.14-end

A reading from the Letter 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.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 24 vv.7-10

*Response: **Who is the King of Glory? It is the Lord.***

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.

Who is the King of Glory?
The Holy One, the mighty, the valiant,
The Holy One, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors,
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.

Who is this, the King of Glory?
This is God, the God of hosts,
the One who reigns in glory.

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL Luke 2.22-40

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, they brought him 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.

Please sit.

SERMON

The Revd Lucy Winkett

A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Iona Community)*

**We believe in God,
maker and sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,**

**life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world, for the church,
for all in need and for those who have asked for our prayers.

*Please kneel or sit for prayers led by a member of the
congregation.*

THE PEACE

The priest says

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away:
Behold, everything has become new.

The deacon says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The priest says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in
the building, and in the YouTube chat box if you are online.*

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.
If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the
pews with the pens available.*

*If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the
collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 20.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Irish Tune from County Derry; Words: William Young
Fullerton (1857-1932) alt.]

**I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,
should set his love upon us, now or then,
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that he was born of Mary,
when Bethlem's manger was his only home,
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.**

**I cannot tell how silently he suffered,
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,
the crown of pain to three-and-thirty years.
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,
for yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.**

**I cannot tell how he will win the nations,
how he will claim his earthly heritage,
how satisfy the needs and aspirations
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,**

and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,
and some glad day his sun shall shine in splendour,
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,
or who can say how great the jubilation
when every human heart with love is filled.
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:
'the Saviour comes to us, God's grace and peace to bring.'

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

GATHERING CHANT

All are invited to gather round the altar. Should you need to sit, please use any of the benches or seats around the altar at the front of the church.

While moving to the altar, please join in singing the Taizé chant ...

Jubilate Deo, jubilate Deo. Alleluia.

(Rejoice in God. Alleluia.)

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...

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.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS and **BENEDICTUS** (*Williams*)

Sing each phrase after the cantor

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna,

Hosanna,

Hosanna in the highest.

The cantor sings

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Sing after the cantor

Hosanna,

Hosanna,

Hosanna in the highest.

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:
"...as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

All sing after the cantor

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues ...

At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor

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

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.**

The Bread is broken and the priest says

We break the bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are on body,
because we all share in one bread.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

This is the table of Christ.

It has been made ready for those who love God,
and those who want to love more.

So come; you who have much faith and you who have little.

You who have been to this sacrament often
and you who have not been for some time.

You who have tried to follow Christ and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who asks us to meet him here.

THE COMMUNION

*During Communion, the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars will
sing **When To The Temple Mary Went**, music by Johann
Eccard (1553-1611); original German text translated into
English by John Troutbeck (1832-1899).*

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, departure take,

may gently fall asleep,
may gently fall asleep,
may gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)

*Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,
for all the benefits you have given me for all the pains and
insults you have borne for me.*

*Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in my heart.*

*O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.*

Amen.

Prayers for use during Communion

*Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel
'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of
this community today in this Eucharist;*

*Hear my prayers for others and for myself.
May I bind myself to you,
in communion with all that lives this day,
knowing that nothing can separate me from your love.
Amen.*

*O God, help me to trust you,
and to know that you are with me now.
Help me to know that all are yours,
and you are ours, in this Eucharist and for ever.
Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the congregation, wardens and clergy.

CANDLEMAS LITURGY

As candles are lit, the priest says

O 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 shadows of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

*During the chant, the clergy and servers will move to the font.
Please turn and face the font, with your candles lit.*

TAIZÉ CHANT

**The Lord is my light,
my light and salvation.
In God I trust,
in God I trust.**

At the font, the priest says

Holy God, here we bring to an end
our celebration of the Saviour's birth.
**Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live your life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.
**Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.
**Help us, who have found the Christ in the 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.**

All now extinguish their candles.

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

**Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share Christ'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.

THE BLESSING

The priest says

May God give you grace to follow the light of Christ,
wherever you are led and however long the road.

And the blessing of God almighty:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.

Amen.

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*After the service, Dominic Stokes will play **Prelude** from **Suite No.6 in D major** by J.S. Bach BWV 1012.*



In addition to the physical collection, if you do not have cash with you, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.

Alternatively, please visit sjp.org.uk/donate, or us one of the tap donation points in the church.

Congregational meeting - Wren Project update

Sunday 9th February at 12.45pm in the church and streamed on YouTube

All are welcome to join us to discuss the latest update from the PCC regarding progress on the Wren Project.

The meeting will include feedback back from the latest PCC awayday, a progress report on fundraising and news about the South Door and Organ restoration.



If you'd like to join online, please email David in the Parish Office at: administrator@sjp.org.uk to request a private link to the livestream.

St Pancras Euston Road - new website!

Our partner church, St Pancras Euston Road, has recently launched a new website.

Please take a look at the site at: www.stpancraschurch.org



Important Update! Church access 3rd - 10th February 2025

On Monday 3rd February, the restoration and transformation works currently underway enter an exciting new phase when work begins on restoring the organ. As a result, during this period, when scaffolding needs to be installed, access to the church will be limited and it is likely that we will close the building entirely for some periods in the interests of safety.

Most disruption is likely to occur from 3rd - 5th February, but we cannot guarantee that there will not be other times during this period demanding reactive changes to access. Everyone involved is working hard to reduce this disruption.



To see the most up-to-the-hour information during this period check our website regularly and follow us on our social media channels.

During the installation of the scaffolding this week, Monday 3rd - Friday 7th February, there will be NO 1PM PRAYER SERVICES in the church.

Would you like to be baptised or confirmed in 2025?

Our Associate Priest Mariama will be meeting with and preparing all those who would like to take this step.

This will involve meetings during Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March), leading up to Easter Eve (Saturday 19th April) when she will accompany you to St Paul's Cathedral for the baptism and confirmation service led by the Bishop of London. You can bring family and friends to this service at St Paul's if you'd like to.

If you're not sure and would like to talk it through, please get in touch with Mariama or any of the clergy. The key promise you make is a commitment to 'turn to Christ'. It's a wonderful way of taking a step forward in your journey, if you haven't been baptised or confirmed already.

If you'd like to join the group this year, please email David in the Parish Office at administrator@sjp.org.uk



For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

Nicolás whose baptism was on Tuesday (28th January), and for Penny and Andrea.

Our Prayer Group as they hold members of our community in prayer.

Those who have asked for our prayers

Meg Stewart, Yvonne

Those who are ill

Mark, Susannah

Recently departed

Sue, and for David Matthew, Annie, Laura and Michael who mourn her.

John, and for Jill, Bernard, Sarah and Liz who mourn him.

Blue, and for all who mourn.

Breda, and for all who mourn her.

Lucy and for Julian, Lisa, and all who mourn her.

John, and for Ran, Louise, and all who mourn him.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

As part of the Anglican Communion, and the Diocese of London Prayer Cycle, we pray today for:

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia: Philip Richardson (Bishop of Wellington, and joint Primate), Don Tamihere (Bishop of Tairāwhiti and Aotearora, and joint Primate), Sione Uluilakepa (Bishop of Polynesia, and joint Primate).

Confident Disciples: for those working in mental health services and counselling.

Westminster (Paddington) Deanery: Steve Mason (Area Dean).
Deanery Synod: Sandra Payne (Lay Chairman), James Peacock (Treasurer).