



St James's
PICCADILLY

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

**Sunday 1st February 2026
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: Repton; Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92)]

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re-clothe us in our rightful mind:
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise,
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,**

the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee,
rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love,
interpreted by love.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace,
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still, small voice of calm,
O still, small voice of calm.

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.

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.

*During the Psalm, the Gospel is carried in procession down the central aisle of the church where it is read among the people.
Please turn and face the Gospel as it passes.*

PSALM 24 vv.7-10

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

Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

The cantor sings and all repeat

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
all repeat as a round.

The reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Glory to you O Lord. **Glory to you O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they 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.

The cantor sings and all repeat

Praise to you O Christ. **Praise to you O Christ.**

The cantor sings and all repeat

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**
all repeat as a round.

SERMON

The Revd Daniel Norris

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

Led by a member of the congregation.

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.

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 with your neighbours 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 16.

OFFERTORY HYMN

[Tune: Here I am; Words: Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947) based on Isaiah 6.]

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.

**I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

God of light:
look on us in mercy;
draw us from hatred to love;
from sorrow to feasting.
Make the frailty of our prayers
a dwelling place for your glory.

Amen.

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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one 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).*

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.**

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 final hymn, the clergy and servers will move to the font. Please turn and face the font, with your candles lit.

HYMN

[Tune: Coe Fen; Words: John Mason (c.1645-1694)]

**How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie.
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high.
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise, but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace.
a sound of God comes to my ears,**

but they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their sun.
Lord, send a beam on me.
for where heav'n is but once begun
there alleluias be.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is ev'rywhere.

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 Blessing and Dismissal, and as we say farewell to The Revd Daniel Norris, we sing ***Ellan Vannin*** (the Manx-language name of the Isle of Man), a poem and song, often referred to as "the alternative Manx national anthem", the words of which were written by Eliza Craven Green in 1854 and later set to music by J. Townsend.

The choir sings the first two verses, and the congregation sings verses 3-5.

Choir:

When the summer day is over
Its busy cares have flown,
I will sit beneath the starlight
With a weary heart alone:

Then it rises like a vision
Sparkling bright it shines for me.
My own dear Ellan Vannin
With its green hills by the sea.

All:

Let me hear the ocean murmur
Let me watch your stormy sky,
Then above the emerald waters
Sings the seagull as she flies.

Then it rises like a vision
Sparkling bright it shines for me,
My own dear Ellan Vannin
With its green hills by the sea.

And in all my times of sorrow
And on some lonely shore,

**I'll go back to Ellan Vannin
To my childhood days once more.**

Please join us after the service for refreshments as we say a fond farewell to The Revd Daniel Norris and also to our Head Verger, Gary Cain.



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 use one of the tap donation points in the church.

For your prayers this week

Parish life and events

All members of our online community.

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

For this afternoon's speaker Rita Brock and her work in moral injury repair.

Those who are ill

Charles, Renu and Theo, Angie, Stuart.

Recently departed

Hillary, and for Cat and all who mourn her.

Honor, and for Michael and all who mourn her.

Lathika, and for Renu and all who mourn her.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.