

## ***We gather in worship***

*Organ: Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin-JS Bach (based on Martin Luther's hymn, a paraphrase of the Nunc Dimittis)*

*The priest welcomes and we pray in prepare for worship. After, please remain quiet until the bell and we stand to sing:*

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.

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day  
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.**

***A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.***

**The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,  
the child and his parents are left on their own. *A glory dawns...***

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,  
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor. *A glory dawns...***

**But Anna and Simeon recognize there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year. *A glory dawns...***

**They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,  
but trust is complete at the end of their life. *A glory dawns...***

**Like Anna, like Simeon, may they have trust,  
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last. *A glory dawns...***

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray  
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day. *A glory dawns...***

*Elizabeth J. Cosnett (1936 – 2024)*

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*Donations can be made using the contactless card reader during the offertory hymn. There is a box by the entrance. Details of online options are in the news sheet and on our website.*

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✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you;  
**and also with you.**

*The priest introduces the service.*

♪ **Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest!**

**Glory to God in the Highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, Heav'nly King,  
Almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God,..**

**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;  
You are seated at the right hand  
of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God,..**

**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.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God,  
Glory to God in the highest!**

*The priest invites us to pray,*

Almighty and ever-living 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 our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***We listen for God's Word***

**Reading: *Hebrews 2.14-18***

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The cantor leads Psalm 24.7-10 and we join in the refrain.



Who is this King of Glo - -



ry? It is the Lord.

♪ **Who is this King of Glory?  
It is the Lord!**

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;  
reach up, you ancient portals,  
that the king of glory may come in!

♪ **Who is this King of Glory?  
It is the Lord!**

Who is this king of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.

♪ **Who is this King of Glory?  
It is the Lord!**

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;  
reach up, you ancient portals,  
that the king of glory may come in!

♪ **Who is this King of Glory?  
It is the Lord!**

Who is this king of glory?  
The Lord of hosts;  
he is the king of glory.

♪ **Who is this King of Glory?  
It is the Lord!**

## **Gospel: Luke 2.22-40**

*We stand, facing the gospel.*

♪ Alleluia, **Alleluia.**

Speak, Lord, we listen. Speak your words of wisdom, that we may receive the words that give life, life for the world. **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph 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 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.**

*We sit for the **Sermon**.*

### ***The Creed***

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession** *We sit*  
*The response in the prayers is*  
Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*The deacon invites us to confession.*  
Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, 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 lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

*The priest declares forgiveness.*

## ***We celebrate and receive Jesus in Bread and Wine***

### ***The Peace***

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

*The deacon says,*  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We offer one another a sign of peace with a handshake, warm smile, nod, or bow, and the words, 'Peace be with you.'*

### ***The Offering***

*We stand to sing as a collection is taken.*

***King of the ages, Almighty God,  
Perfect love, ever just and true.  
Who will not fear you  
and bring you praise?  
All the nations will come to you.***

Your ways of love have won my heart,  
And brought me joy unending.  
Your saving power at work in me,  
Bringing peace  
and the hope of glory.  
***King of the ages...***

Your arms of love are reaching out  
To every soul that seeks you;  
Your light will shine in all the earth,  
Bringing grace

and a great salvation.

*King of the ages, Almighty God,  
Perfect love, ever just and true.*

*Who will not fear you  
and bring you praise?*

*All the nations will come to you.*

The day will come when you appear,  
And every eye shall see you.

Then we shall rise with hearts ablaze,  
With a song we will sing forever.

*King of the ages...*

*Stuart Townend (b. 1963) & Keith Getty (b. 1974)*

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a  
light for the righteous; accept the gifts  
we bring before you and grant that  
Christ may shine in us to the praise  
and glory of your name. **Amen.**

### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

*Please remain standing if it is  
comfortable for you.*

The Lord is here,  
**God's Spirit is with us.**

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 praises God and we sing,*

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The priest continues, recalling the Last  
Supper, then the deacon says,*

Great is the mystery of faith,

♪ **Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

*The priest continues ending with*

...forever and ever. **Amen, amen,  
amen.**

Believing the promises of God,  
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.**

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.

♪ Lamb of God, you take away the  
sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the  
sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the  
sin of the world, grant us peace.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### ***We share in Communion***

*The people receive communion  
or a blessing. Gluten free is available.*

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

All the Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed,  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.

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

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*

*We keep silence together.  
Notices may be given.*

### ***We go into the world to share God's love***

*We sing while the candles are lit,*

O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work, and speak, and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat;  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*The priest blesses the candles.*

*The choir sings the Nunc Dimmitis – by Jackman as ministers process to the font.*

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

**Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his 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 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 near the place of baptism. **Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord'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.**

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.

### ***The Blessing***

*We bow our heads  
and pray for God's blessing:*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart. Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

*The deacon says,*  
Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain standing until the ministers have left.*

*Organ Voluntary: Marche Triomphale  
on Nun Danket alle Gott – S. Karg-Elert*