



Sunday 1 February 2026, 10am

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

The Eucharist



Guercino - The Presentation of
Jesus in the Temple NG6646
National Gallery, London.

Presider

Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher

Revd Andrew Woodward

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by

Jennifer Sterling

Organist

Benjamin Frost

Setting

Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

Welcome

Our welcomers are available to assist with any of the following information. Toilets are available: please ask a welcomer.

Welcome whether you are joining us today in our building or online. Our cameras focus on those who are leading our service, but if you are in the building and would like to ensure that you are not caught on camera, please sit outside the pillars on the south of the church (to the right as you enter).

Welcome if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of dementia, physical, sensory or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is online. Large print copies are also available. The hearing loop works best on the south side of the church. Step-free access to church is via the ramp on the north side, and to the Crypt and Hall via lifts in the NW porch and Pavilion.

Welcome to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of church if needed to settle — or to our children's church room. We support breastfeeding in services; we also have a room allocated if preferred. We have a children's church group during the service. A youth group for teenagers meets monthly on Sunday afternoons.

Welcome to anyone in need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email safeguarding@smitf.org.

Welcome to all heritages and experiences of race, culture and language. At the Lord's Prayer, all are invited to bring the gift of our preferred language to our worship. Our 1.30pm is in Cantonese: our welcomers are happy to help where they can if you are new to English. You are also very welcome if you are LGBTQIA+.

Welcome if you are of no professed faith or are from a faith tradition other than Christianity. Welcome if you are wary of faith. **Welcome** if you're exploring.

Welcome if you are here to support someone else. If you would like to explore what you believe in a friendly and non-judgemental group, our Being With courses run throughout the year online and in the building. Email beingwith@smitf.org for more details.

You are welcome to share our meal with God. When we come to Holy Communion, we receive bread in the form of a wafer, then wine from a common cup. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free wafers are available in the south aisle. If you need to receive in your seat, please let a welcomer know and ministers will come to you. If you do not want to or cannot receive bread or wine for whatever reason you are welcome to let the priest know you would like to receive a simple prayer for blessing, or to stay in your seat. We welcome your ideas and help for us to become a more welcoming community.

We are glad you are here.

The Gathering

Welcome

Please stand. Silence is kept.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

We acknowledge God's presence drawing each of us into one body as we gather on site and online.

Visit us Lord, by your Holy Spirit.

**All Though in many places, we are united as one body.
Though from many backgrounds, we share one hope.**

Opening Hymn

- 1 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**
- 2 O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**
- 3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;**
- 4 And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.**
- 5 And in the garden secretly,
and on the Cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.**

continued ...

**6 Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God transforms what is ordinary into the life of the kingdom. Let us confess our reluctance to enter that generous life.

Silence is kept.

You invite us to be bearers of good news; but we are reluctant to be your servants.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You always have more to give; but we hold back.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You reveal your glory in signs and wonders; but we refuse to believe.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Please stand.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. Glo-ry to God in the

High - est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, Heav'n- ly King, Al-

migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we_ praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est.

Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take_ a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us; You are

sea-ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God,

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly one,

You a - lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the most high, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly spi - rit, in the Glo - ry of God the Fa - ther,

Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the High - est.

Collect

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 forever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Malachi 3: 1-5 *read by Beverley Logan*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Hebrews 2: 14-end *read by Andrew Caspari*

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel in the centre aisle.

Gospel Hymn

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee:
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 22-40

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

All **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.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn continued

**3 Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Nahum Tate (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Andrew Woodward

Anthem Stanford Nunc Dimittis in G

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen :thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the

Gentiles :and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Ivan Yuen*

The response to the prayers is:

God of wonder and love,

All **hear our prayer.**

And, at the end:

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

*During the following hymn a collection will be taken for the ministry and work of St Martin-in-the-Fields. You are welcome to donate by **scanning the QR code, cash in the collection bags** (filling in a Gift Aid envelope if applicable), or **card machine** (please see Jeff Claxton to register your payment card for Gift Aid).*



Offertory Hymn

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King.
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
- 2 Jesus the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
Chorus
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Chorus

continued.

- 4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Chorus

A musical interlude may be played on the organ before the final verse is sung

- 5 Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice
the trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are received from the congregation and placed upon it. The financial gifts of the people are gathered and presented with the following prayer:

- All* **Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

Eucharistic Prayer

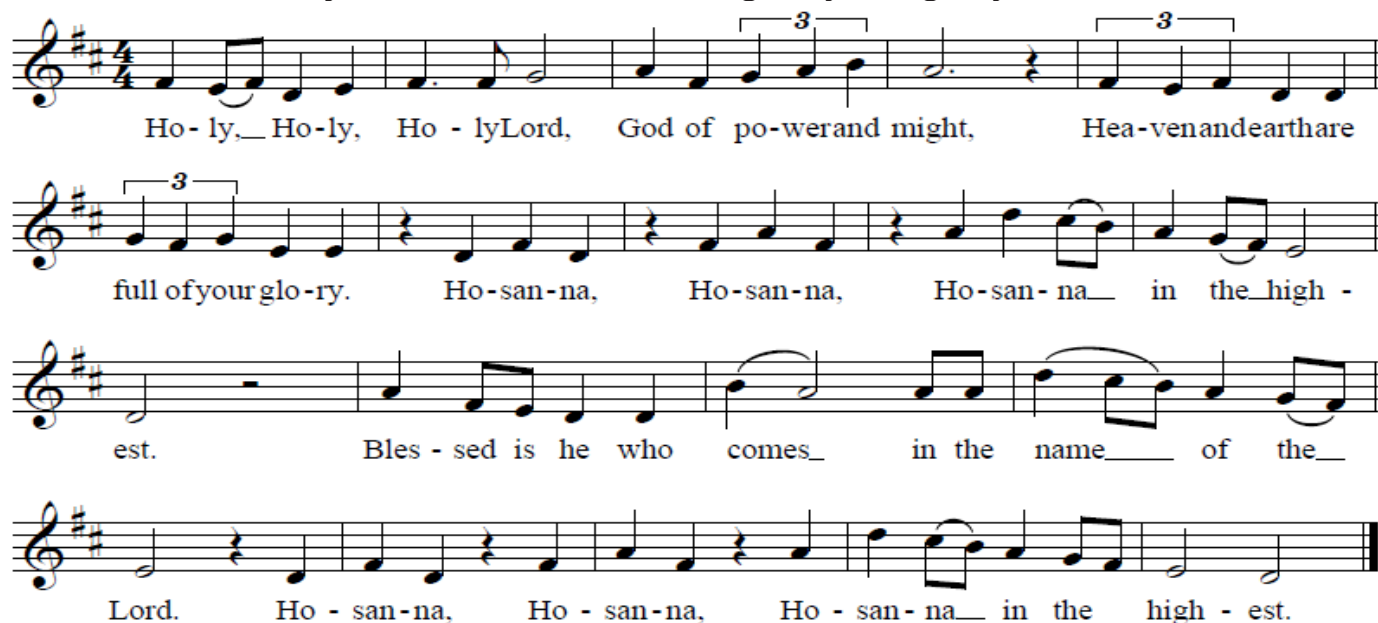
- The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

- Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We lift our hearts to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, because you made your whole creation a temple of your glory and invited us into it to enjoy you forever. When you called Israel out of Egypt you made yourself known through your covenant in a tabernacle of your presence. In Solomon you allowed your people to meet you in a temple built by human hands. Finally in Simeon you showed us what it means to wait faithfully to see your salvation in your incarnate Son, in whom your own heart was pierced that we might be made one with

you. In your Son's death the temple of his body was destroyed but in three days you raised him to be the place of our dwelling with you forever. And so with angels and archangels and the whole host of heaven, we join in the eternal song of your glory.



God of peace and light, you have prepared a table before us in the presence of all peoples, and you have made it a gift of revelation and glory. Your servant Anna waited for you with fasting and prayer night and day. Visit your people that the secrets of our hearts may be laid bare and the secret of your heart be revealed; and make your people holy as you are holy. Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and this wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Consoling God, as Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice in your temple, bring comfort to all who feel today like they are being sacrificed by the cruel, the merciless, or the fanatical. As Simeon foresaw your Son would be a sign that would be opposed, bless any who face hostility, anger, and violence. As the holy family realised a

sword would pierce their own soul, speak tenderly to those whose soul knows despair, loss, or betrayal. Make your church strong, fill your children with wisdom, and set your favour upon all who turn to you; until that day when heaven and earth become a temple of your praise and your resurrection engulfs all you have made, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own preferred language.

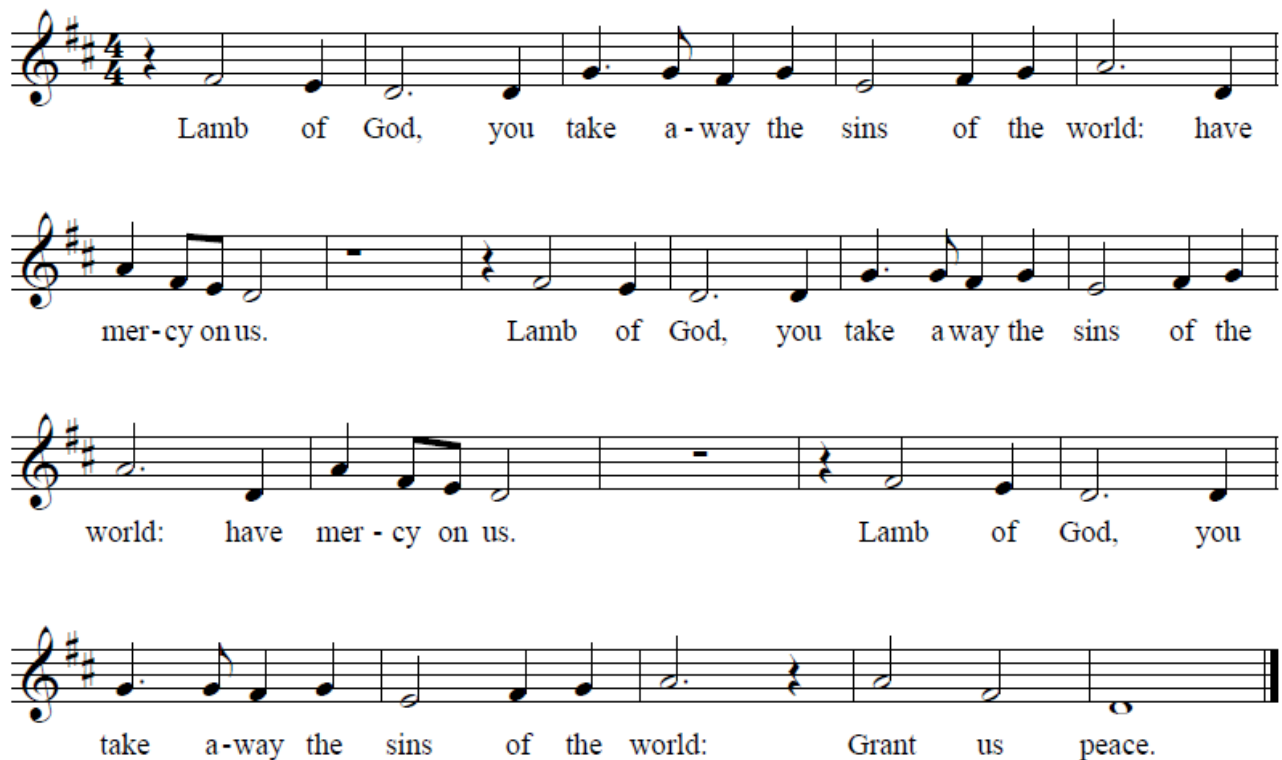
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Agnus Dei



Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communicant members of all Christian Churches are invited to receive Holy Communion. Bread and wine are available in the central aisle and both side aisles. Gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine are available in the south aisle upon request from the assistant. If you wish to receive communion in your seat, do let a steward know.

Communion Anthem *When to the temple Mary went Eccard*
trans. J Troutbeck

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, May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

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.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.
- 2 God's great goodness ay endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light, and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore,
From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.

continued

- 3 Daily doth the almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
His desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At his hand;
Joy doth wait on his command.
- 4 Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.

Meine Hoffnung stehet feste Joachim Neander (1650-1680) paraphrased Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ.

Blessing

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled. John 14:27

Organ Voluntary *Präludium und Fuga in C - Buxtehude*

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