

CHRIST CHURCH

NEWTON, NEW JERSEY



Choral Evensong

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

February 2, 2023

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The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin

Candlemas

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FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG

Organ Prelude: *Lord God, You Now Have Set Your Servant Free* (Song 1)

Healey Willan

The congregation stands as the Presider greets the people with these words

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses.

Led by the Spirit,
Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized
the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy.
United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God,
where we shall recognize Christ ourselves.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who have created all things; on this day you fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: we humbly ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

All light the candles from the pew torches

The Candlemas Procession

Priest Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen

During the procession, all carry lighted candles

Hymn 25: *O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ*

The Eighth Tune

The Preces *[sung by the officiant and choir]*

Traditional - Merbecke

V. O Lord, open thou our lips

R. *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise*

V. O God, make speed to save us

R. *O Lord make haste to help us*

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost

R. *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

V. Praise ye the Lord.

R. *The Lord's name be praised*

The people sit

Psalm 24: *Domini est terra [sung by the choir]*

Chant: Barnby

THE earth is the LORD'S, and all that therein is; *
the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, *
and stablished it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? *
or who shall rise up in his holy place?

Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; *
and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, *
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him; *
even of them that seek thy face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? *
It is the LORD strong and mighty, even the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? *
Even the LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

The First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?

for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

The people stand for the hymn and the Magnificat

Hymn 278: *Sing we of the blessed Mother*

Rustington

Magnificat (*Evening Service in Bb - sung by the choir*)

C. V. Stanford

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; *
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

The people sit

The Second Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;). And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law. Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

“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;
A light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of thy people Israel.”

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.
And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day, and she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.
And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

The people stand for the Nunc dimittis and the Creed

Nunc dimittis (*Evening Service in Bb - sung by the choir*)

C. V. Stanford

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.

The Apostles' Creed (*chanted: standing*)

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

Choir: *And with thy spirit.*

Officiant: Let us pray

All who are able kneel for the prayers

**All (chanted): 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. Amen.**

V. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

R. *And grant us thy salvation.*

V. O Lord, save the state.

R. *And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

R. *And make thy chosen people joyful.*

V. O Lord, save thy people.

R. *And bless thine inheritance.*

V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

R. *For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.*

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us,

R. *And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sung Collects

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *AMEN.*

Sermon Hymn 662: *Abide with me, fast falls the eventide*

Eventide

The Sermon
The Offering

Anthem: *In Peace and Joy I Now Depart*

*In peace and joy I now depart at God's disposing.
Full of comfort is my heart, so the Lord has promised me:
Death is but a slumber.
In peace and joy I now depart at God's disposing.*

The Interim Rector

David Fetler

Closing Prayers and Grace

Hymn 24: *The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended*

St. Clement

Organ Voluntary: *Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadows*

Johann Walther

