

# St Peter's Church Darwen

## Eucharist for the Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

### The Gathering

### The Greeting

*At the entrance of the Celebrant a hymn may be sung. Please stand.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness  
but shall have the light of life’.

Let us therefor bring our sins into his light  
and confess them in penitence and faith:

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstopp our ears to hear your living world.  
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your  
sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

### **The Gloria**

All **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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.  
Amen.**

#### **Sung Gloria:**

**Glory to God! Our hearts to you we raise!**

Joy and peace on earth; in highest heaven, praise.  
Songs of adoration, Lord to you we bring,  
Praising your great goodness, Father, heavenly King.  
*Glory to God! Our hearts to you we raise!*  
*Joy and peace on earth; in highest heaven, praise!*

Son of the Father, bearing the world's sin,  
Lamb of God, have mercy, grant us peace within.  
You, O Christ, are holy, you alone are Lord,  
With the Holy Spirit, evermore adored.

*Glory to God! Our hearts to you we raise!*  
*Joy and peace on earth; in highest heaven, praise!*

## The Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.

All      Amen.

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### Readings & Sermon

#### First reading: : Malachi 3.1-5

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.

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All      Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 2.14-18**

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.

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All      Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn may be sung as we prepare to hear the Gospel reading.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**All      Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All      Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Luke 2.22-40**

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 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.

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All      Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

***The Creed***

*Please stand*

**All      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 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.

### *The Affirmation of Faith*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All      **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### ***The Prayers of Intercession***

*This response may be used:*

Lord, hear us:

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end of the prayers:*

Merciful Father,

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

### ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

#### **The Peace**

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, God's own people,  
that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him  
who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
Gathered as his people we share his peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*Please exchange a sign of Peace with those around you.*

### **The Preparation of the Altar**

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;  
accept the offering of your Church,  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name.

All **Amen.**

### **The 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.**

*The Presider praises God for the wonder of our salvation, and all respond:*

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Presider recalls the last supper.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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 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**

All     **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.**

### ***The Invitation to 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.

All     **We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful  
Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have  
mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen.**

### ***Giving of Communion***

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All     **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word  
and I shall be healed.**

*The Presider and people receive Communion.*

*During Communion a hymn or hymns may be sung.*

*Please use the quiet time to pray and reflect.*

## **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.**

**All You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,  
and you have made yourself known  
in the breaking of the bread.**

**Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal  
presence,  
we may walk with you all the days of our life,  
and, at its end, behold you in the glory of the eternal  
Trinity,  
one God for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

## ***The Blessing and Dismissal***

*Notices may be given. A hymn will be sung.*

*The Presider gives the Blessing:*

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us  
and remain with us this day and always.

**All      Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All      In the name of Christ, amen.**

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