

The Temple Church

Sunday 1 February 2026

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

CHORAL MATTINS, 11.15 a.m.

You are most welcome to this morning's service. We follow the service of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). Much of the service is sung by the Choir alone. We hope that you will be able to enjoy the opportunity this offers to let the music and words take your mind and your heart – with all the concerns you have for those you love and for our world – into the presence of God.

It is traditional here for the congregation to stand for the Venite and the Canticles; if it would be more comfortable for you to remain seated, please do.

The order of service is printed in the white service booklet, pp. 17-29. The new public-address system has a loop-facility. If you wear a hearing-aid, please turn its setting to T.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Mit Fried und Freud BWV 616

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands.

INTROIT

They that put their trust in the Lord shall be even as the mount Zion, which may not be removed, but standeth fast for ever.

The hills standeth about Jerusalem, even so standeth the Lord round about his people from this time forth for evermore.

Music: Robin Orr (1909-2006)
Words: Psalm 125. 1-2

HYMN 243

Christ is our cornerstone

All sit or kneel for the confession.

CONFESSiON (p. 17 of white booklet)

All stand at "Glory be....." RESPONSES (Radcliffe)

All remain standing and sing: VENITE (PSALM 95. 1-7)



The first two verses and the Gloria are sung in unison.

- 1 O come let us | sing un-to the | Lord:
let us heartily rejoice in the | strength of | our sal- | vation.
- 2 Let us come before his | presence · with | thanksgiving:
and shew ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a | great | God:
and a | great King · a- | bove all | gods.
- 4 In his hand are all the | corners · of the | earth:
and the | strength of · the | hills is · his | also.
- 5 The sea is | his and · he | made it:
and his | hands pre- | pared the . dry | land.
- 6 O come let us worship and | fall | down:
and | kneel be-fore the | Lord our | Maker.

2nd Part

- 7 For he is the | Lord our | God:
and we are the people of his | pasture · and the | sheep of · his | hand.
Glory be to the Father and | to the | Son:
And | to the | Ho-ly | Ghost;
As it was in the beginning is now and | ev-er | shall be:
World without | end. A- | --- | men.

Music: Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)

All remain standing.

The choir sings: PSALM 71. 1-6, 15-16 (Parratt)

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust, let me never be put to confusion:
but rid me, and deliver me, in thy righteousness; incline thine ear unto me,
and save me.

Be thou my strong hold, whereunto I may alway resort:
thou hast promised to help me, for thou art my house of defence, and my
castle.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the ungodly:
out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

For thou, O Lord God, art the thing that I long for:
thou art my hope, even from my youth.
Through thee have I been holden up ever since I was born:

thou art he that took me out of my mother's womb; my praise shall be always of thee.

I am become as it were a monster unto many: but my sure trust is in thee. Thou, O God, hast taught me from my youth up until now: therefore will I tell of thy wondrous works.

Forsake me not, O God, in mine old age, when I am gray-headed: until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to all them that are yet for to come.

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.

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON
Malachi 3. 1-5

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.

And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

All stand.

TE DEUM (*Stanford in C*)

All 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.

All stand.

JUBILATE (Stanford)

In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face east to say together:

THE CREED (p. 24 of white booklet)

All sit or kneel at 'Let us pray... ' **THE RESPONSES**

All sit or kneel.

THE COLLECTS

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 ANTHEM

Laudate Dominum omnes gentes:

laudate eum, omes populi.

Quoniam confirmata est super nos misericordia eius:
et veritas Domini manet in aeternum.

Praise the Lord, all ye nations:

praise the Lord, all ye peoples.

*For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us:
and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.*

Music: Orlando Lassus (?1532-1594)

Words: Psalm 117

THE PRAYERS

All stand.

HYMN 7
Christ whose glory fills the skies

All sit.

THE SERMON
The Master

All stand.

HYMN 219 vv. 1, 5, 6
Hail to the Lord's anointed

THE BLESSING

All are invited to sit after the departure of the Clergy for

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Postlude in D minor

Charles Villiers-Stanford (1852-1924)

There will be a retiring collection. It will be of great advantage to the Church if you would kindly fill in a Gift Aid envelope and drop it into a collection-basket as you leave, stating the amount of your cash or contactless gift. If you would prefer to donate online kindly scan the QR code below.



SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about safeguarding, the Safeguarding Officer can be contacted confidentially at safeguarding@templechurch.com or 020 7427 5650.

We ask your prayers for those dear to us in this House, and at this time especially for the following:

ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE

David and Victoria Jenkins
Fergus Randolph and Belinda Ross
Paul and Sarah Richmond
Howard and Emily Sharp
Justin and Rebecca Wormald

YEAR'S MIND

Antony Arlide	Christopher Howitt
Nicholas Biddulph	Peter Little
Peter Boydell	Ernest Lough
Henry Brooke	Alan Payne
Patricia Brown	Debbie Phillips
Joseph Butler-Sloss	Peter Pilkington, priest
Christopher Campbell Clyne	Timothy Preston
Michael Connell	Florence Richardson
Rod Cunliffe	Mervyn Roberts
Robert Davey	Simon Robinson
Stuart Denney	David Sears
Patricia Edwards	Geoffrey Sleeman
Richard Edwards	Philippa Soole
Martin Ellis	Ivor Stanbrook
Mark George	Roydon Urquhart Thomas
Robert Goff	James Turner
Clare Guthrie	David Vaughan
James Guthrie	Nicholas Wood

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

It would be lovely to see you again at some of these special events.

Tuesday 3 February, 6.00pm

THE MIDDLE TEMPLE TREASURER'S LECTURE
'Might, Right and Morality'

The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, *Master of the Temple*

*Tickets required. For more information and to book,
www.middletemple.org.uk/events*

Monday 9 February, 7.30pm

TEMPLE MUSIC FOUNDATION

CONCERT: FOUR LAST SONGS

Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha soprano, Julius Drake piano

For more information and to book, www.templemusic.org

Wednesday 11 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST VALENTINE'S DAY

**AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR ALL THE WEDDINGS CELEBRATED AND
BLESSED AT THE TEMPLE CHURCH**

*Music to include: If ye love me (Tallis), I was glad (Parry), Zadok the Priest
(Handel)*

Tuesday 17 February, 7.00pm

MERLIN'S ISLE: A JOURNEY IN WORDS AND MUSIC

Malcolm Guite and the St Martin's Voices

*Tickets: £15 (£10 concessions). For more information and to book,
www.canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/events*

Wednesday 18 February, 6.00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG: ASH WEDNESDAY

*Music to include: Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Miserere mei (Allegri),
Emendemus in Melius (Byrd)*

Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm
TEMPLE MUSIC FOUNDATION
CONCERT: THINGS INVISIBLE TO SEE

Hamish McLaren *countertenor*, Ana Beard Fernández *soprano*,
Matthew Jorysz *piano*

For more information and to book, www.templemusic.org

Wednesday 25 February, 6.00pm
CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ST DAVID'S DAY
Sung by The London Welsh Male Voice Choir
Tickets are not required.

Wednesday 4 March, 6.00pm
CHORAL EVENSONG
Temple Church Choir
with special guests, the Choir of Norwich Cathedral

Thursday 5 March, 9.00pm
COMPLINE

Wednesday 11 March
NO EVENSONG SERVICE THIS EVENING

Thursday 12 March, 7.30pm
TEMPLE MUSIC FOUNDATION
Bach: St John Passion
Thomas Allery *conductor*,
Temple Singers, Temple Players
For more information and to book: www.templemusic.org
