



**CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE  
Preston-next-Faversham**

Sunday 1 February 2026 – Candlemas  
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.  
PARISH EUCHARIST – 10am.



Celebrant - The Revd Simon Rowlands, Vicar

*For Communion we have Gluten free wafers available. Should you require one please ask one of the Sidespeople (those who greeted you on arrival) before the start of the service.  
At Communion, on the guidance of the Diocese, we have to ask that you do not intinct your wafer in the wine.*

*As the service starts the people's candles are lit.*

*The Celebrant welcomes the people, introduces the service and then says:*

Open me the gates of righteousness: and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**He is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal temple where you live and reign, Father Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN - 113 -WHEN CANDLES ARE LIGHTED ON CANDLEMAS DAY, omit \* verse.

*We remain standing.*

**PRAYER OF PENITENCE**

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 therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

**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, forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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. **Amen**

**R/: Gloria, Gloria in Excelsis Deo x 2**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.<br/>Lord God, heavenly King,<br/>almighty God and Father,<br/>we worship you, we give you thanks,<br/>we praise you for your glory. <b>R/:</b></p> | <p>2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,<br/>Lord God, Lamb of God,<br/>you take away the sin of the world:<br/>have mercy on us;<br/>you are seated at the right hand of the father<br/>receive our prayer. <b>R/:</b></p> |
| <p>3. For you alone are the Holy One,<br/>you alone are the Lord,</p>   | <p>You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,<br/>With the Holy Spirit,<br/>In the glory of God the Father. <b>R/:</b></p>  |

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## 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 for ever. **Amen.**

*The candles are extinguished and we sit for the readings.*

## FIRST READING

MALACHI 3.1-5

Thus says the Lord God: 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM.

from Psalm 24

**R/: Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. O gates, lift high your heads;<br/>grow higher, ancient doors.<br/>Let him enter, the king of glory. <b>R/:</b></p> | <p>3. O gates, lift high your heads;<br/>grow higher, ancient doors.<br/>Let him enter, the king of glory. <b>R/:</b></p> |
| <p>2. Who is the king of glory?<br/>The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,<br/>the Lord, valiant in war. <b>R/:</b></p>       | <p>4. Who is he, the king of glory?<br/>He, the Lord of armies.<br/>He is the king of glory. <b>R/:</b></p>               |

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.**

GRADUAL HYMN – **629** –

FATHER, HEAR THE PRAYER WE OFFER

*We remain standing for the Gospel*

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2.22-40

Alleluia, alleluia.

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Alleluia.**

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

✠ **Glory 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.**

## SERMON

*We stand for*

## THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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.**

*Those present may bow at these words.*

**By the power of the Holy Spirit  
He became incarnate of 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.**

*We sit or kneel for*

## THE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

*The celebrant introduces the Intercessions in suitable words.*

Let us pray.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, in your mercy.

*After each petition:*

**Lord, graciously hear us. Or**

**Hear our Prayer.**

FOR OUR COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURS in Nelson Terrace and Nelson Gardens.

FOR THE SICK: We pray for the sick who have asked for our prayers.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. We pray for those who have recently died or whose anniversaries fall in the coming week

*After the prayers for those who have died*

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace.

**And rise in glory.**

*The prayers conclude with* ... Merciful Father **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*We stand for:*

## 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 in 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN – **763** –

PRAISE TO THE HOLIEST IN THE HEIGHT

*We remain standing for*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here. **His spirit is with us.** OR The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

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.**

It is indeed right and good, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the temple in substance of our flesh to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many, he was lifted high upon the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name that we, too, have seen your salvation, and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

## SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

**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.**

*We kneel or sit.*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. ✠

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them 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.

**Christ has died: Christ is Risen: Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary, mother of our Lord, St Catherine [*N and*] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Jesus has taught us to call God our Father, so we have the courage to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and 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.**

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung as the bread is broken.*

**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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

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

*All are welcome to come forward for a blessing at the altar rail (indicating this with bowed head) and Communicant members of other Churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion, as seems right to them.*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION – **317** –

VIRGIN-BORN, WE BOW BEFORE THEE

ANTHEM:

“WHEN TO THE TEMPLE MARY WENT” Eccard, arr. Laurence H. Davies

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. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION AND NOTICES.

CLOSING HYMN – **721** –

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord is here. **His spirit is with us.**

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Eucharist is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of ✠ Christ. Amen.**

OUR WELCOME TO YOU

*If you are a visitor to St. Catherine's today do join us after the Parish Eucharist for refreshments in the Lady Chapel*

NOTICES

**SERVICES:** *Our normal monthly pattern of worship is:*

1st Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist (sung) with Sunday School

2nd Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist (sung) with Sunday School

6.30pm Compline/Evening Prayer (said)

3rd Sunday 10am Service of the Word/Morning Prayer  
with Sunday School

4th Sunday 10am Parish Eucharist (sung) with Sunday School

5th Sunday Please see weekly notices/Calendar

Mid-week service

Tuesday 10am Eucharist (Said) 1st and 3rd Tuesday: Morning Prayer, on other Tuesdays.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

CONCERT BY THE ECLECTICS – on Sunday 17 May at 4pm.

TULIP TREE FETE: - This will be on 7 June – please diarise this date and, in the meantime, hang on to any unwanted Christmas presents that could be sold at the fete.

## CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday**, FEB 2 – Ordinary Time begins

Gilbertine Order, 1189.

**Tuesday**, FEB 3 – **Said Eucharist 10am.**

**Thursday**, FEB 5 – Ordinary Weekday (OW)

Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865.

**Friday** Feb 6 – Martyrs of Japan, 1597.

**Wednesday**, Feb 4 – Gilbert, founder of the

**Saturday**, FEB 7 – OW.

Sunday 8 February 2024 – Second Sunday before Lent – Parish Eucharist 10am.

Readings Exodus 24.12-end 2 Peter 1.16-end Matthew 17.1-9

## CONTACT DETAILS

VICAR:

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COMMUNITY AND MISSION PRIEST

The Revd. Dan Corcoran 01795 532463

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ASSOCIATE CHURCHWARDENS: - Karen Pearson and Gordon Brown.

To contact a warden please initially ring or email Gordon Brown on 01795 537361 or at brown.gordon37@yahoo.com

**SAFEGUARDING.** Please see the notices at the top of the main Notice Board covering this important subject. To report a concern or seek any advice, please contact Fiona Hamer (01795 536703) or Hilary Tulett (01795 538013).

**Church Website:** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11991](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11991)

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**Faversham Benefice Website** [http:// www.favershambenefice.org/stcatherine](http://www.favershambenefice.org/stcatherine)



St Catherine's Church relies on the generous donation of time, talents and money by individuals to maintain its fabric and ministry.

If you would like to donate, you can do so using your Smartphone by scanning the QR code.

All NOTICES for inclusion in this service sheet should be given to Gordon Brown at brown.gordon37@yahoo.com (or 01795 537361) by Monday, on the week in which first publication is sought.

*[The texts in this order of service are authorised or allowed for use in the Church of England. In addition to those taken from Common Worship & Times & Seasons acknowledgement is due to the International Committee on English in the Liturgy for translations of texts and to the compilers of the Grail Psalter for the psalm text. Bible Reading readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, in the New Revised Standard Version. Use of all the above is in accordance with Canon B.5.1. All texts reproduced by permission]*