

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 1 February 2026, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in bold are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles – by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous
and all the peoples have seen your glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
king of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit
that we may witness to your gospel
and sing your praise in all the earth.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalm 24:7-10

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

⁸‘Who is the King of glory?’ ♦
‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.’

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

¹⁰‘Who is this King of glory?’ ♦

‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading: Hebrews: 2:14-18

¹⁴Since 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore 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. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Canticle

**I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

¹Thus says God, who created the heavens, ♦
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

²Who gives breath to the people upon it ♦
and spirit to those who walk in it,

³ ‘I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness, ♦
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

⁴ ‘I have given you as a covenant to the people, ♦
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

⁵ ‘To bring out the captives from the dungeon, ♦
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

⁶ ‘I am the Lord, that is my name; ♦
my glory I give to no other.’

Isaiah 42:5-8a

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

Second Reading: Luke 2:22-40

²²When 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. ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Responsory

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tell out his salvation from day to day.

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

Declare his glory among the nations

and his wonders among all peoples.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

from Psalm 96

Gospel Canticle: Benedictus

**This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

‘Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦ and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

Intercessions

To the words:

Lord, in your mercy.

Please respond:

hear our prayer.

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour.
Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy,
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords:
grant an abundance of peace to your world.
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth:
protect in your mercy our neighbours and families,
together with the whole community of which we are part.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor:
show your love for the poor and powerless,
and strengthen [...and all] those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh:
accept the gifts we bring,
and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you:
give to [...and all] the faithful departed
the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels,
Simeon and Anna, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,
we commend ourselves and all Christian people
to your unfailing love.

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

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. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.

Conclusion

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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