

HOLY INNOCENTS  
FALLOWFIELD



**Sunday, 31st January 2021**

*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple -  
Candlemas*

خوش آمدی

Welcome to Holy Innocents. This leaflet contains all you need to join in the service. Words in **bold print** are spoken by all. Hymn are heard not sung. For visitors, Gift Aid envelopes are available.

The president and preacher today is the Revd Richard Young. It is our tradition be as still and quiet as possible before the service as we prepare together to celebrate the Eucharist. When the bell rings, please stand:

*+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

The president introduces the liturgy:

*Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Eucharist we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. They who follow me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

*Let us then bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.*

A time of silent prayer follows. Then:

*God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations:*

*Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.***

*You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of all people: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.***

*May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.*

**Amen.**

**Glorify 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.****

**THE COLLECT:** The prayer for this festival

*Let us pray.*

After a time of silent prayer the president says the collect. At the end: **Amen.**

Please SIT for the readings and psalm.

**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.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 24** is sung to a chorale setting

The earth, with all that dwell therein,  
with all its wealth untold,  
belongs to God who founded it  
upon the seas of old..

O, who shall stand before the Lord  
on Zion's holy hill?

The clean of hand, the pure of heart,  
the just who do God's will.

Lo, such are they that seek the Lord,  
and blest by God they live;  
to them the Lord's pure righteous ways  
the God of grace will give.

O everlasting doors, give way;  
lift up your head, O gates!  
For now, behold, to enter in,  
the King of glory waits

Who is this glorious King that comes  
to sit upon the throne?

All hail the Lord of Hosts who is  
our glorious King alone.

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 2.14-end

At the end:

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE STAND for the Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia....*

او همچون نوری بر قومها خواهد تابید و ذهنشان را منور خواهد  
ساخت و مایه سربلندی قوم تو، بنی اسرائیل، خواهد شد

*Ou hamchoon noori bar ghomha khahad  
tabid va zehnesan ra monavvar khahad  
sakht; va mayeye sarbolandi ghome to  
baniesraeel khahad shod.*

[Our eyes have seen your salvation, a light to  
lighten the nations and the glory of your people  
Israel.] Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2: 22-40

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please SIT for the sermon. After the sermon,  
there will be a time of silence.

Then please stand for the Profession of Faith.

*We believe in God the Father,*

**from whom every family in heaven and on  
earth is named.**

*We believe in God the Son,*

**who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

*We believe in God the Holy Spirit,*

**who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

*We believe in one God;*

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful follows. After each  
section:

*Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

At the end:

*Lord God, you kept faith with Anna and  
Simeon and showed them the infant King.*

*Give us grace to put all our trust in your  
promises, and the patience to wait for their  
fulfilment; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Amen.**

The president introduces THE PEACE:

*In the tender compassion of our God the  
dawn from on high has broken upon us,  
to shine on 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.**

All exchange a sign of peace as we hear:

*Hail to the Lord who comes,  
comes to his temple gate:  
Not with his angel host, not in his kingly state;  
no shouts proclaim him nigh,  
no crowds his coming wait;*

***Hail to the great First-born  
whose ransom-price we pay -  
The Son before all worlds, the human child  
today, that he might ransom us  
who still in bondage lay.***

***O Light of all the earth,  
thy children wait for thee:  
come to thy temples here, that we, from sin  
set free, before thy Father's face  
may all presented be!***

The bread and wine are brought to the altar.  
The president says a prayer over the gifts to  
which we all respond:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER follows.

*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.**

THE PRESIDENT continues the prayer, thanking  
God for his saving works, and then invites the  
people to join their praises with the whole  
company of heaven:

*..... and join with angels and archangels in  
their unending hymn of praise:*

**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 PRESIDENT asks the Father to send the Holy  
Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, and then  
repeats the Lord's own words over the bread and  
cup. ....

*Great is the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died: Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES, joining our offering  
with Christ's sacrifice of himself.

At the end of the prayer the president says:  
.....*we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:*

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer and all  
say together:

**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 SIT or KNEEL as the president breaks the  
consecrated bread in pieces for all to share:

*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.**

**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 president addresses those who wish to come  
to Holy Communion:

*God's holy gifts for God's holy people.*

**Jesus Christ is holy; Jesus Christ is Lord; to  
the glory of God the Father.**

Those who wish draw near to the altar. Those  
who are baptized, whether or not yet confirmed,  
and communicant members of other Christian  
churches, are invited to receive Holy Communion.  
Others are asked to fold their arms for a blessing.  
During communion we hear *Let all mortal flesh  
keep silence.* When all have received Holy  
Communion the remaining consecrated bread is  
placed in the tabernacle, and candles are lit as we  
hear:

**When Mary brought her treasure unto the holy place, no human eye could measure the joy upon her face: he was but six weeks old: her dearest joy and pleasure, her silver and her gold.**

*Then Simeon, on him gazing with wonder and with love, His aged voice upraising gave thanks to God above; 'Now welcome sweet release! For I, my Saviour praising, may die at last in peace.'*

*And she, all sorrow scorning, rejoiced in Jesus' fame - the child her arms adorning shone softly like a flame - that burns the long night through, and keeps from dusk till morning its vigil clear and true.*

**As by the sun in splendour the flags of night are furled, so darkness shall surrender to Christ who lights the world: to Christ the star of day, who once was small and tender, a candle's gentle ray.**

After a time of silent prayer, we stand with the president:

*Let us pray.*

After a moment of silence:

**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 with you, world without end . Amen.**

Please sit for the announcements, then stand with the president for the final prayers.  
*Lord God, the 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.*

The president leads the final part of the Candlemas celebration:

*Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.*

**Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.**

*Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.*

**Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.**

*Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.*

**Help us, who have found the Lord in his Temple, to trust in your eternal promises.**

*Here we have greeted the light of the world.*

**Help us never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*Here we have called to mind our baptism:*

**Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

*Here we turn from Christmas to look towards Easter*

**Help us to live a blessed, thoughtful and prayerful Lent.**

*Here we bless one another in your name.*

**Help us to shine with your light in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

The president and other ministers depart.

Please put out your candle carefully.

Please take home the small candle you have been given, and today, tomorrow and Tuesday please light it and place it on a windowsill to help us continue to keep Candlemas together.

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