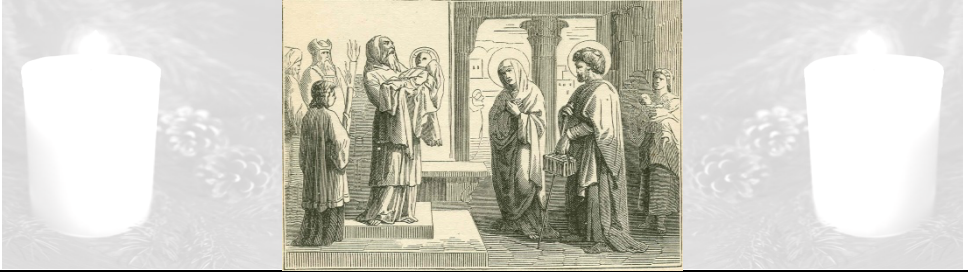


# HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD



**Sunday, 28th January 2024**

*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 or sung by all. Hymns are not announced.*

*For visitors, Gift Aid envelopes are available..*

*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 to join in:*

**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;**

**But, borne upon the throne of Mary's gentle breast,  
watched by her duteous love, in her fond arms at rest;  
thus to his Father's house he comes, the heav'nly Guest.**

**There Joseph at her side in reverent wonder stands,  
and, filled with holy joy, old Simeon in his hands  
takes up the promised Child, the glory of all lands.**

**Then Anna, steeped in prayer and holy constancy,  
tells all who wait for God to bring their liberty,  
with true prophetic power, "This child will set you free."**

**Hail to the great First-born whose ransom-price they 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!**

*John Ellerton 1808-63*

+ 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.*

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.**

**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.**

THE COLLECT: the prayer for this festival
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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.*

<b>FIRST READING</b> Malachi 3:1-5
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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.

At the end: This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**PSALM 24**

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 to sing the Gospel Acclamation and Responsory for Candlemas:*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia....: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.....**

Search the scriptures as Christ  
told us in the Gospels//

Born as a child and

laid in a manger//

Presented in the temple and

carried by Simeon //

In truth he has appeared in the world//

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## We find him born in our midst



**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 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 of 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 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.**

*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. Then please join in:*

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.  
And through all his wondrous childhood day by day like us he grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:  
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall we see him: but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,  
Where like stars his children crowned, everlasting praises sound.**

*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, 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, please join in New light has dawned, and / or Like a Candle Flame (see back cover). When all have received Holy Communion there will be a time of stillness and quiet, then please stand with the President:*

Let us pray: *After a moment of silent prayer:*

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 join in:*



**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.**

**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.**



*Jan Struther 1901-53*

*Please sit for brief announcements. The candles are lit.  
Please stand with the President.*

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 processions move to the font while the Nunc Dimittis is sung by the choir.*

*Please move to gather round the font or turn towards it.*

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 now stand near the place of 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.*

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This week:

MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup>

**1930 Eucharist**

THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February

**1200 Eucharist**

SATURDAY 3rd

**1000 Foodbank**

NEXT SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> February

**1000 Sung Eucharist**



Rector: The Revd Richard Young

✉ [richardyoung09@gmail.com](mailto:richardyoung09@gmail.com)

Associate Priest: The Revd Jane Walker

Church Office: 0161 224 0535 Website: [www.holyinnocentsff.org](http://www.holyinnocentsff.org)

How brightly shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar the light in Judah shining.  
Thou David's son of Jacob's race, the Bridegroom, and the King of grace,  
for thee our hearts are pining!  
Lowly, holy, great and glorious, thou victorious Prince of graces,  
filling all the heavenly places!

Though circled by the hosts on high,  
he deigns to cast a pitying eye upon his helpless creature;  
the whole creation's Head and Lord, by highest seraphim adored,  
assumes our very nature.

Jesus, grant us, through thy merit, to inherit thy salvation:  
hear, O hear our supplication.

Rejoice, ye heav'ns; thou earth, reply;  
with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky for this his incarnation.  
Incarnate God, put forth thy pow'r, ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,  
till all know thy salvation.

Amen, amen! Alleluya, alleluya!

Praise be given evermore by earth and heaven.

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Like a candle flame, flickering small in our darkness  
Uncreated light shines through infant eyes.

*God is with us, alleluia, God is with us, alleluia  
Come to save us, alleluia, Come to save us alleluia!*

Stars and angels sing, yet the earth sleeps in shadows  
Can this tiny spark set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine from our lives, Spirit blazing  
As we touch the flame of his holy fire.