

THE PARISH OF ALEXANDRA PARK

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple  
(*Candlemas*)**

**SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST**



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

**10am**

**St Andrew's Church**

# THE ORDER OF THE EUCHARIST

## ¶ THE GATHERING

*Before the service begins, the congregation gather with candles at the door of the church for the beginning of the liturgy.*

### The Greeting

President: ✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

President: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

President: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

President: 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.

*The congregation hold their candles aloft and the president blesses them saying:*

President: 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 ask your ✠ blessing on these lights  
which will 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 city where you live and reign,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

*The whole congregation remain standing and facing the crib scene at the back of the church. We pay homage to the Christ Child and the Holy Family at the end of Christmastide.*

President: We stand near the place of new birth,  
**All: Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
President: We turn from the crib to the cross,  
**All: Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
President: We go to carry his light.  
**All: Let us shine with the light of your love.**  
President: The Lord be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

*During the opening hymn, the congregation process to their places behind the altar party.*

## **Processional Hymn**

### **PRAISE TO THE HOLIEST IN THE HEIGHT - NEH 439 (Gerontius)**

*The President uses the following invitation to confession.*

President: Hear the words of our Lord 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.

## **Prayers of Penitence**

**All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

President: 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.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Collect** - *Remain standing*

President: Let us pray  
*A brief moment of stillness is kept.*

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.

**All: Amen.**

## **¶ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading - Malachi 3.1-5 - Sit**

Reader: *A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.*  
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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 24 - *Remain seated*

v. 10b The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glo - ry.



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

**R. *The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.***

Cantor: 'Who is the King of glory?'  
'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

**R. *The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.***

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

**R. *The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.***

Cantor: 'Who is this King of glory?'  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.'

**R. *The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.***

### Gospel Acclamation - *Stand*

President: Alleluia! alleluia!

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**All: Alleluia!**

### Holy Gospel - Luke 2.22-40

President: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

President: 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.

President: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon - Sit**

*A short period for reflection follows.*

**The Creed - Stand**

**All: 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 from 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession** - *You may wish to sit, stand or kneel*

President: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

President: Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ¶ THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### The Peace

President: 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 the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

### Offertory Hymn - *Stand*

## LORD ENTHRONED IN HEAVENLY SPLENDOUR - NEH 296 (St Helen)

### Prayer at the Preparation of the Table - *Remain standing*

President: Let us pray.  
Heavenly Father,  
as your Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple,  
let our offering today be acceptable to you  
and grant that we may see in him, who is our salvation,  
the glory of your people and the light of all nations;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The president praises God for his mighty acts and the Sanctus and Benedictus are sung:

**Sanctus and Benedictus\***

Moderato

*mp*

10 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly\_ Lord, God of\_

*mf*

19 power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in\_ the

*mf*

19 high - est. Bles-sed is he, O bles-sed is\_ he who comes in the name of the Lord.\_

*ff*

28 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na\_ in\_ the high - est.

The president recalls the Last Supper.

President: Great is the mystery of faith:

**ACCLAMATION 1**

Maestoso

*f*

[Organ]

Christ has died: Christ is\_ ri -sen: Christ will come a - gain.

At the end of the prayer all respond: **Amen.**

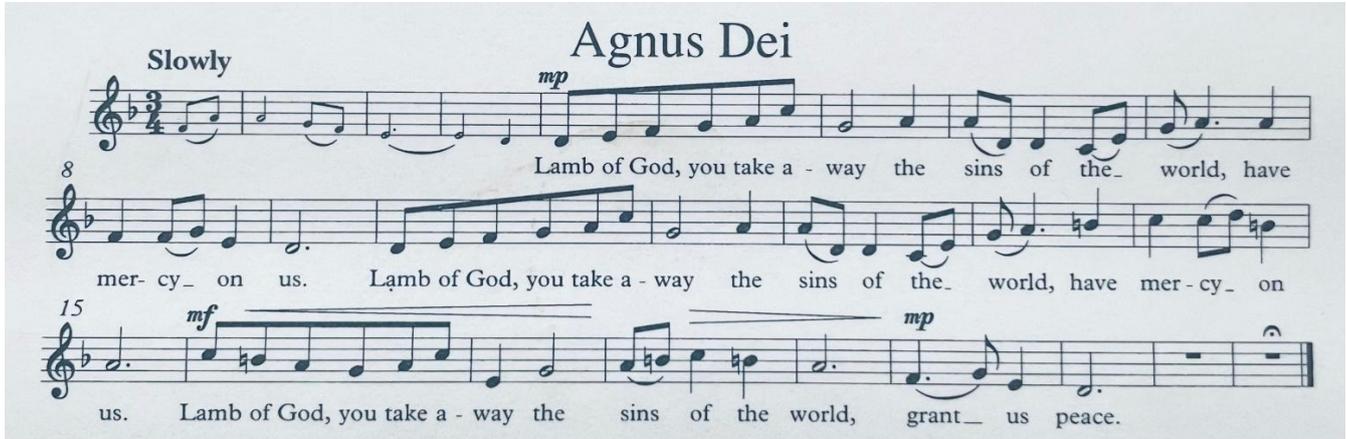
### The Lord's Prayer

**All:** 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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

President: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All:**       **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**



The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei. It is written in 3/4 time and begins with the tempo marking "Slowly". The title "Agnus Dei" is centered at the top. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts at measure 8 and includes the lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the\_ world, have". The second staff continues the lyrics "mer- cy\_ on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the\_ world, have mer - cy\_ on". The third staff starts at measure 15 and includes the lyrics "us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant\_ us peace." The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* and *mf*.

## Giving of Communion

President: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

## Communion Sentence

President: My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

*Our candles are extinguished and Holy Communion is distributed from the chancel step. All who are baptised and ordinarily receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to receive here. Alternatively you are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

## Hymn during Communion

## **FAITHFUL VIGIL ENDED – NEH 44 (Pastor Pastorum)**

*After communion a period for reflection is kept. After this, all stand with the President.*

### **Prayer after Communion - *Stand***

**All:** 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.**

### **Notices - *Sit***

### **The Blessing - *Stand***

President: The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

President: Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path.

**All:** **Amen.**

President: Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

**All:** **Amen.**

President: Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

**All:** **Amen.**

President: And may the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you always.

**All:** **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

President: Go in the peace of Christ.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Recessional Hymn – Remain standing**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY - CH 745 (Crosby)**

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*Front Cover: Simeon and Anna - Rembrandt*

**The Parish of Alexandra Park**

