

Saint Nicolas Parish Church



Candlemas

Ceremony Upon Candlemas Eve, Robert Herrick
(1591-1674)

*Down with the rosemary, and so
Down with the bays and misletoe;
Down with the holly, ivy, all
Wherewith ye dress'd the Christmas hall;
That so the superstitious find
No one least branch there left behind;
For look, how many leaves there be
Neglected there, maids, trust to me,
So many goblins you shall see.*

What is Candlemas?

The Feast Candlemas, known as *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*, marks the end of the church's season of celebration that began at Christmas and has continued through the recent successive Sundays of Epiphany-tide. The festival is known as Candlemas because traditionally it was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. In years past, on Candlemas night, many people placed lighted candles in their windows at home.

Today's celebration is a reminder that Jesus was recognised as light of the world by the Magi after his birth. In the gospel reading set for today, we hear, in the encounter between Simeon and Anna, that Jesus is 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' (Gentiles being the non-Jewish people of the world) also recognized as 'the glory of God's people Israel', when he is presented in the Temple according to the ancient custom of the day. But the Christian faith teaches us that the redemption which Christ will bring comes through suffering and the cross of Good Friday; thus it is that on this day in the church calendar our attention now moves away from the celebration of Christmas and Epiphany and looks towards the mysteries of Easter, through Simeon's final words to Mary: 'a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Music before Mass:
Voluntary: *Prelude on Fairest Lord Jesus* – Charles Callahan

The Gathering

Please stand with your candle for the Processional Hymn 408.

Priest We meet ✠ in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Priest The Lord be with you:

All **and also with you**

The Welcome

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 Blessed Mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Mass, 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.

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our flesh.

All **Alleluia.**

Today Christ is proclaimed as the light of the nations
and the glory of Israel.

All **Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
Your light shines on us.

All **and all peoples shall see your glory**

The Candlemas Blessing of Candles

Everyone remains standing with candles ready.

A server collects a light from the Paschal candle at the Crib and makes their way to the Rector standing at the votive altar in the Chancel.

May the light and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.

All **For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.**

Let us pray.

O Gracious Father, almighty and eternal God,
you created all things out of nothing,
and by your command caused the labour of bees
to be revealed in the perfection of wax.
You commanded your servant Moses
to keep lamps continually burning before you.

✠ Bless and sanctify these candles that their light
may be for us a visible reminder of the true light.

As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the
darkness of night, so also may our hearts be enlightened
by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit that we might
avoid the darkness of sin, see your salvation, and attain
to the Light that never fades away.

We ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

*When the candles have been blessed they are sprinkled with Holy Water and
censed.*

Priest Let us proceed in peace
All In the name of the Lord, Amen.

Remain standing for the Candlemas Processional Hymn during which your candle will be lit by the serving party.

O Sion, open wide thy gates, let symbols disappear'
A priest and victim, both in one, the Truth himself,
is here.
No more the simple flock shall bleed' behold,
the Father's Son
Himself to his own altar comes for sinners to atone.

Conscious of hidden deity, the lowly Virgin brings
Her new-born Babe, with two young doves,
her humble offerings.
The aged Sime'n sees at last his Lord, so long desired,
And Anna welcomes Israel's hope, with holy rapture fired.

At the Statue of Our Lady:

But silent knelt the Mother blest of the yet silent Word,
And pond'ring all things in her heart,
with speechless praise adored.
All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee, while endless ages run.

Jean Baptiste de Santeuil, 1680, translated 1849

Priest We wait on thy loving kindness, O Lord,
in the midst of thy temple.

Let us pray:

O God, you have made this day holy
by the presentation of your Son in the Temple,
and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Mercifully grant that we,
who delight in her humble readiness to be
the birth-giver of your Only-begotten,
may rejoice forever in our adoption as his sisters and
brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Processional Hymn 52 verse 5

The altar party process to the Sanctuary

The Collect

Priest Let us pray:
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.

All Amen.

The Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus:

‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness.’

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

Silence is kept.

For the times that we have not brought your light
into the world.

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

For the times we have not loved our neighbour
or cared for our planet as we should.

Christ have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

For the times we have failed to bring peace
to the world and its peoples;

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world,
guide and enlighten you,

bring you ✠ pardon and peace,

and keep you in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE LOURDES GLORIA

The verses of the canticle should either be *sung* by a cantor or choir, or be *said together* by the whole congregation.

Jean-Paul Lecot

Response

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o. Fine

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o.

1 Glory to God in the high - est,
 2 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Fa - ther,
 3 For you a - - lone are the Holy One,

and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you a - - lone are the Lord,

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Fa - ther,
 you take away the sins of the world : have mercy on us;
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father: re -
 with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the

D.C.

praise you for your glo - - ry.
 - ceive our prayer.
 Father. A - - - - men.

The Liturgy of the Word

¶ Please SIT

A reading from the OLD TESTAMENT *Malachi 3:1-5*

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Malachi:

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.

All

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the NEW TESTAMENT *Hebrews 2:14-end*

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

All Thanks be to God.

¶ Please **STAND** for the **Gradual Motet**, *Nunc Dimittis*
Alexander Tikhonovich Gretchaninov

Gospeller Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

All **Alleluia.**

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

All **Alleluia.**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All **Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves 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, “Lord, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face 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 worshiped 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.

Gospeller This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

¶ Please SIT

The Homily

¶ Please STAND

The Creed

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.

Intercessions

Reader Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our light and life. Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel: look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world: look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor: look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace: look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected: look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion. Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, 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.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We remember before God those whom we love and see no longer.

We commend to the Father's keeping, especially ...

All Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord
and may light perpetual shine upon them.

All May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.

Priest And so aided by the prayers of Our Lady, on whose
constant intercession we rely, we commend the world
for which Christ gave His life saying,

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

¶ Please STAND

The Peace

Priest In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death, and to guide us in the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be with you always

All And also with you

¶ The Offertory Hymn 295

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

All 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 holy Church.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord is here
All **His Spirit is with us.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest 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 your 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:

CHOIR *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.*

¶ Please SIT or KNEEL

Priest ✠ 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:
All (said) **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 Our Lady, Nicolas,
George, Catherine, Benedict 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. ✠ ✠ ✠

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest At the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching we dare to say,

All Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe
from all distress, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

The Fracture

Priest 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.

Communion

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are you 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.**

Choir *O Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
have mercy on us;
O Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
grant us peace.*

Anthem: Senex puerum portabat – William Byrd

*Senex puerum portabat, puer autem senem regebat, quem
Virgo peperit et post partum
Virgo permansit, ipsum quem genuit adoravit.*

The old man carried the boy, the boy, however, ruled the old man,
whom the Virgin bore and after bearing
remained a virgin still, him whom she bore she adored.

Prayer after Communion

Priest 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.

All **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.**

The Blessing & Dismissal

Priest Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from
before your path.
Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Procession to Our Lady

During which the choir will sing the Nunc Dimittis,

Herbert Murrill

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Angelus

1. The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary: and she conceived by the Ho - ly
2. Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me a - cord - ing to thy
3. And the word was made flesh: and dwelt a - mong—

7

Spirit. Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with Thee Blessed art thou among women and
word
us.

12

blessed is the fruit of thy womb Je - sus; Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now

19

and at the hour of our death, A - men Pray for us O Holy Mother of God

25 Response accompanied

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. (Collect) A - men.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, pour Thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Passion and Cross we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

The Mass is ended. Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*Voluntary: Heavenly Father, glorious without blemish
Kjell Mørk Karlsen*

You are welcome to come to all or some of our

Fridays in Lent:

coffee Shop from 10

10 Stations of the Cross

11 Mass

12 Lent Lunch

1 Lent group reflection