



Parish Mass for the Feast of the Presentation Sunday 28th January 2024

**IF GOD DIDN'T
SEND JESUS
TO CONDEMN
THE WORLD
I DOUBT HE
SENT YOU**



**Welcome to
this community
of healing**

St Werburgh's stands in the catholic tradition of the Church of England and is part of a group of worshipping communities that in traditional and new ways try to practise the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we are exploring a way of living inspired by joyful worship, taking seriously the the challenge of following Jesus Christ. Welcome to this community of healing.

Our celebrant today is the vicar, Canon Julian..

- PLEASE LEAVE BY THE SOUTH DOORS IN THE BAPTISTRY where tea and coffee are available after the service.
- Everybody is welcome here regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, addictions or beliefs, single or partnered, we are all God's people
- Everybody is welcome to receive Holy Communion in this church of whatever age or wherever you are on the path of life – all of the bread is gluten free. And our wine is alcohol free. NOBODY MUST RECEIVE.
- There are large print service books available; church always has lots of words, we try to be dyslexia friendly – if you need your book on a different colour paper or in a different font just ask a welcomer
- This church is fitted with a hearing loop, if you experience difficulty hearing the service, then please let a welcomer know
- FEEL FREE TO BREASTFEED, if you would prefer more privacy and a comfy sofa just use Can J's office, one of the welcomers can show you.
- Don't worry about babies making a noise during the service, feel free to get up and walk about,... there's no need ever to "Shush" kids.
- Toilets with baby changing facilities are located through the doors at the back.
- Adults who find kids an issue are free to go into the Tower Vestry, it has glass doors and a speaker so you can still hear the service. We aim for the Tower Vestry to be an 'autistic friendly' space, but please find wherever it is comfortable for you.



You can use this QR Code to make your gift today and why not join the Parish Giving Scheme?

This makes a huge difference to us and ensures your gift each week as even if you cannot always be here.

The notices are given.

Blessed are you God, Creator of the universe.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

Your name is proclaimed in all the world.

God of Glory fill our hearts.

(357)

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!**

**The Lord ye know is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make.
We are the folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his course unto.
Praise, laud and bless his name always
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure.
His truth. at all times stood
and shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father , Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
from all and from the Angel host
be praise and glory evermore.**

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to God and shown to all people. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as the Messiah, as we too proclaim today. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of Christ's coming and searching judgement, looking back to the day of Christ's birth and forward to the coming days of Christ's Passion.

**Glory, glory to God, glory in the highest
peace to his people on earth, 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!
Glory, glory to God, glory in the highest
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on earth.
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.
For you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our prayer,
You alone are the holy One, you alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory, the glory,
the glory of God the Father.
Amen! Amen! Amen!
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Let us pray: God of Anna and Simeon, whose love exposes our hardness of heart, by your Spirit may we know your reconciling presence offered for all the world through Jesus Christ, the Light and the Glory of God. **Amen.**

All sit for the first reading

A reading from the Prophet Malachi (*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. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; 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.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.
Thanks be to God.

The choir sing the Anthem Ave Maria by Philip Stopford, all stand as the Gospel is processed into the Nave to be read among the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 2 : 22-40)

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 (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 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, "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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

All remain standing to sing:

(Tune: Abbots Leigh 315)

**As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and burning flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to Preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations finding neighbours everywhere.**

**We are learners, we are teachers, we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers, we are givers, we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle loving actions we would show that Christ is light,
in a humble listening spirit, we would live to God's delight.**

All sit for the sermon, after which we remain seated to sing:

**As a green bud in springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness, 'mid earth's peoples many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.**

We remain seated to affirm our faith.

Let us affirm together our common faith in Jesus Christ, who entered our frailty .

Do you believe and trust in God the Creator, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God's Child Jesus Christ, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God's Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in God.

We pray for the pain of the world, for the redemption of the church and bring the fragility of our lives into God's ever-loving embrace...

Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel,
Loving God, look with mercy upon your church,
help us to be your light in the world...

Lord have mercy. x4

Christ in the Temple brings your judgement of love upon the world.
Loving God, look with compassion on broken lives and fragile hearts...

Christ have mercy. x4

Christ was rich, for our sakes became poor.
Loving God, uphold all those who work for justice and equity...

Lord have mercy. x4

Christ in whom Simeon and Anna found their peace.
Loving God, look in mercy on the departed,
that all may be restored in your love.

Christ have mercy. x4

Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected.
Loving God, look in mercy upon us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord have mercy. x4

May the God of all love and power, forgive and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you through the Holy Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The children return and tell us what they have been learning about.

We share the Peace of Christ.

Christ has come 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
and also with you.

We sing the Offertory Hymn (42)

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.**

**Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.**

When all is ready, we come in solemn prayer:

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.

We thank you God of many names, whose Spirit runs free through all the earth, whose image lies deep in every mortal soul. For on this day Jesus appeared in the Temple, coming near to us, in the fragility of infancy. Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations and Anna proclaimed him to all who looked for your redemption.

In the selfless sacrifice of love he was lifted high upon on the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart. Through this act of love we are restored and glorify your name forever joining, with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and God of might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. X2

**Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name
he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. X2

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our Lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.' +. In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.' As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold. + Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love. Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this 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, God of all blessing, for ever and ever. **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

All sit to pray together:

As our Saviour taught so we pray:

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 forever and ever. Amen.

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.**

Receive what you are, the Body of Christ.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion in this Church.

**Jesus, Lamb of God; Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God; Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God; Jesus, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world, grant us your peace,
grant us your peace.**

**Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.**

**By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.**

**He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.**

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,
when the Maid the curse retrieved,
brought to birth mankind's salvation,
by the Holy Ghost conceived,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
in her loving arms received,
evermore and evermore.**

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

*When all who wish have received the Sacrament and the altar has been cleared,
we pray:*

Loving God, transform all blocks and obstacles around us and inside our minds, bodies and hearts, into pathways for your Grace, that we may be channels for your love and peace in this place. Embolden us with courage to dare to dream of a better life in which ALL may flourish. Break our hearts open so no one gets forgotten or left behind. In Jesus' name. Amen.

We stand for the Blessing:

God be with you.

And also with you.

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

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **Amen.**

Christ the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet in the way of peace. **Amen.**

and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
be with you all this day and always. **Amen.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"**

**The heav'ns are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
God's praises there may grow.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"**

**The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
"My God and King!"**

**Go in the light and the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.**

An organ voluntary follows.