



Welcome

The Feast of Candlemass

2 February



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

I Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host above;
pray, and praise thee, without
ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Priest goes to the Lectern and says:

Priest 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 Priest introduces the service and then leads the congregation in prayer:

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and
worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Priest invites the congregation to seek God's mercy and grace. We say together:

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.**

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which all reply: **Amen**. The **Gloria** is sung from the separate music sheet.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung.*

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.
Amen.

*We sit for the **first** and **second readings**.*

First Reading

Malachi 3.1-5, read by Max

Thus says the Lord God: ¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵Then 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.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-18, read by

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful

and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and turn towards the Gospel book*

**1. Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have
been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

**2 At his word they were created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of
ocean
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining
of the light of moon and sun,
evermore and evermore.**

**3 O that birth for ever blessed!
When the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

**4 O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
angel-hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King:
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.**

Gospel Reading

All remain standing as the Gospel is read

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you
Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
 Jesus Christ according to
 Luke (2, 22-40)
All Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons".

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so

that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

At the end:

Priest This is the Gospel of the
 Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon***

*We stand to say 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 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 **Prayers of Intercession** follow*

At the end:

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

*The Priest introduces the **Peace**:*

Priest:	The peace of the Lord be with you always
All	And also with you
Priest	Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for
the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken
during the **hymn***

1 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.

2 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 heavenly guest.

3 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.

4 Hail to the great first-born,
whose ransom-price they pay!
The Son before all worlds;
the child of man today,
that he might ransom us
who still in bondage lay.

5 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.

Priest	Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
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All	Blessed be God for ever
Priest	Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer. Fruit of the vine and

work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink
All **Blessed be God for ever**
 Priest Pray my friends that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father
All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hand, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.**

The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which we reply **Amen**

Priest The Lord be with you
All **And also with you.**
 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...**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
Sanctus and **Benedictus** from the music sheet
The Eucharistic Prayer continues until...

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
All: **Christ has died**
Christ is risen
Christ will come again

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until
 Priest ...for ever and ever
All: **Amen**
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

Priest 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 Agnus Dei is sung from the music sheet

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God 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.**

Please keep absolute silence during Communion

The congregation approaches the altar to receive
Communion. *All those who are in good standing with their own Church are invited to receive Communion. Those who prefer to ask for a Blessing are invited to bow their heads at the Altar rail or bring this booklet as a sign to the Priest.*

After Communion:

Priest: 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 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 city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We process to the Font, with our candles lit, as the Nunc Dimitis is sung

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

All **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.

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

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All 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.

All Help us, who bear these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

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

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

All Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels: may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna; help us, like them, to trust your word.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world; may we be filled with the light of your love.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We stand near the place of new birth.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

We turn from the crib to the cross.

All Let us shine with the light of your love.

We go to carry his light.

All Let us shine with the light of your love. Thanks be to God.

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

*The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen**
We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West
End for the **dismissal***

**1 Praise to the holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

**2 O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.**

**3 O wisest love! That flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;**

**4 and that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
and essence all-divine.**

**5 And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and
inspire
to suffer and to die.**

**6 Praise to the holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.**

Priest. Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Tuesday 4 February

10.30am Sing Space Choir **

Wednesday 5 February

Please note that there is technical work going on in church today and sections may be closed off

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – all welcome

7.00pm PCC meeting

Thursday 6 February

Please note that there is technical work going on in church today and sections may be closed off

Friday 7 February

6.00pm & 8.00pm Musicals by Candlelight**

Saturday 8 February

6.00pm & 8.00pm Musicals by Candlelight**

Sunday 9 February

11.00 Sung Eucharist

4pm Choral Evensong, *with the Choir of St. Paul’s
for the Fourth Sunday before Lent*

***Tickets for all paid events at St. Paul’s can be obtained via our website
www.actorschurch.org*