

Bread for the World

An Informal Eucharist



Introit Hail, gladdening light *Stainer*

Welcome and Opening Prayers *Revd Richard Carter*

Creator God,
Come to us, in the difference of every life gathered
Come to us in song
Come to us in word
Come to us in stillness and silence
Come to us in our care for one another
Come to us in bread and wine
Come to us in flesh and blood
Reach out across time
Be present in all time.

All **Amen.**

All **Come Jesus, be our guest,
Stay with us for day is ending.
With friend, with stranger,
With young and old,
With the lost and found
Be among us tonight
Our guest our host
The one who says all – all are welcome here.**

Opening Hymn

**1 Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth You now bring us -
shine on me, shine on me.
*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light!***

Continued

**2 Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
from the shadows into Your radiance;
by the blood I may enter Your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness -
shine on me, shine on me.**

Chorus

**3 As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
so our faces display Your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story -
shine on me, shine on me.**

Chorus

Graham Kendrick (born 1950)

Prayers of Forgiveness

God longs to be with us. But we often live in alienation from God, ourselves, one another and God's creation. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Because the world is beautiful but beauty is easily destroyed, we need you.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Because we often abandon you and turn away and walk past and are afraid and countless times betray you but you love us to the end and win a victory over all hatred, we need you.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Because we have your message to proclaim, because we have your kingdom to build, because there are so many in need of your love, because we have your life to live.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy

And Jesus said 'Your sins are forgiven'

In the name of the Father who created you and waits to welcome you home, in the name of the Son who searches for you, in the name of the Spirit who brings the healing of forgiveness and calls you to do the same, you have been set free.

All Amen.

Words on the Edge Luke 2: 22 - 40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, 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 on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 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 may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marveled 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 prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, 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 worshiped 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 on him.

Reflection Revd Catherine Duce

Anthem The lord is my light Brad Nix

Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Concern

Prayer of Hope

Each prayer ends with 'We pray to you'.

Prayer Chant



Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us. Let not my doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me.

Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us, Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love.

Sharing of the Peace

God of eternal peace, who offers the gift of peace and whose children are the peacemakers; pour your peace into our hearts, that conflict and anger may cease. Peace is the gift of the Risen Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of that peace.

As the congregation sings, all are invited to gather around the altar

Gathering 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 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 (1826-1893)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Together we pray

All **Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill each one of us with your love from on high. Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast at your table with all your saints.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray each in our own preferred language the prayer our Saviour taught us:

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Look, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven, is broken for the life of the world. The gifts of God for the people of God.

All **Jesus Bread of Life, Bread which is broken, Bread for the world.**

Communion Anthem The true and living bread David Blackwell

On the feast of Candlemas candles are blessed to serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. As the communion is being cleared away everyone will be given a candle. You are invited to pass the Light of Christ around the circle as the candles are lit.

Prayer after Communion

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 **Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Word for us to speak, You are the Truth for us to tell; You are the Light for us to light in the darkness, You are the Bread of Life for us to share.**

Candlemas Closing Liturgy

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. **Amen**

Final Responses

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, who extinguish these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

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

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

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**
- 3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.**
- 4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Notices

Blessing

Go simply, lightly, gently

Go with obedience

Go with love

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

All **Amen**

Blessing Anthem Nunc Dimittis Gibbons

President: Revd Richard Carter
Preacher: Revd Catherine Duce
Choir: Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields
Pianist: Polina Sosnina

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January 2025

