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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
inclusive
inspiring
friendly
deep

Rector: The Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher · Tel: 01786 359821 · rector@holytrinitystirling.org

Sunday 2nd February 2025 — 5 p.m. Evensong
CANDLEMAS

Officiant: The Revd Dr Rebekah Sims
Preacher: The Revd Rachael Wright

Organ Prelude Grace-Evangeline Mason: Light, Revealing

Opening Sentence
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him. *Psalm 96.9*

Hymn
stand

1 Light of gladness, Lord of glory,
Jesus Christ our king most holy,
shine among us in your mercy:
earth and heaven join their hymn.

2 Let us sing at sun's descending
as we see the lights of evening,
Father, Son, and Spirit praising
with the holy seraphim.

3 Son of God, through all the ages
worthy of our holiest praises,
yours the life that never ceases,
light which never shall grow dim.

Words:: Christopher Idle
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Confession & Absolution
sit or kneel

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,

We have offended against thy holy laws,
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done,
And there is no health in us:
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults,
Restore thou them that are penitent,
According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord:
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Preces *led by the choir*

O Lord, open thou our lips;
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
O God, make speed to save us*;*
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen
Praise ye the Lord;
The Lord's name be praised.

Psalm 63

1 O God, you are my God alone,
whom eagerly I seek,
though longing fills my soul with thirst
and leaves my body weak.
Just like a dry and barren land
awaits a freshening shower,
I long within your house to see
your glory and your power.

2 Your faithful love surpasses life,
evoking all my praise.
Through every day, to bless your name,
my hands in joy I'll raise.
My deepest needs you satisfy
as with a sumptuous feast.
So, on my lips and in my heart,
your praise has never ceased.

3 Throughout the night I lie in bed
and call you, Lord, to mind;
in darkest hours I meditate
how God, my strength, is kind.
Beneath the shadow of your wing,
I live and feel secure;
and daily as I follow close,
your right hand keeps me sure.

John Bell (after Psalm 63)
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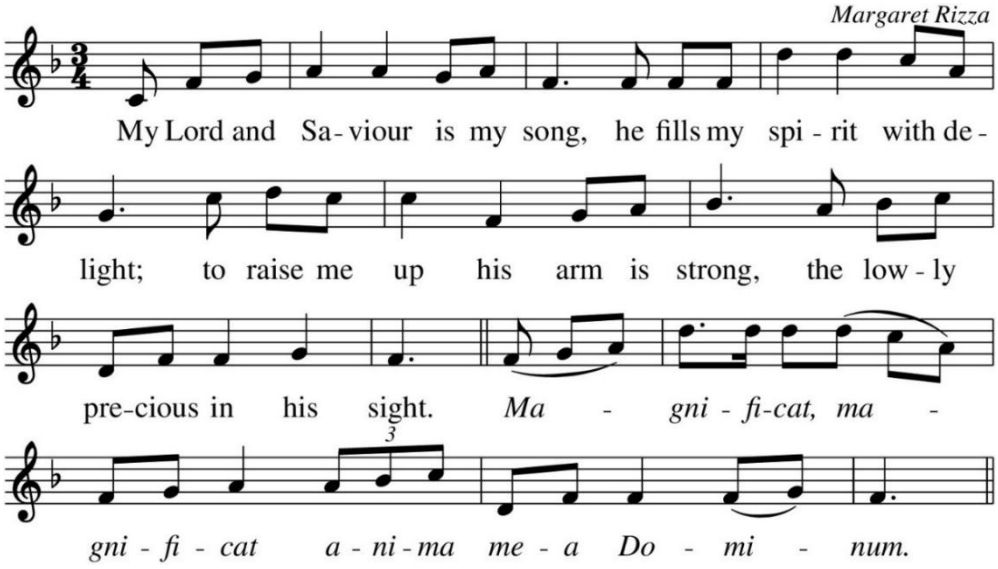
sit

First Reading, From '*The Book of Margery Kempe'* chapter 82:

On the day of purification, which is Candlemas, all the people were in church with their candles and in contemplation I saw our Lady with Joseph offering her son to Simeon, the priest in the temple. I heard songs so beautiful that I was transported with love for our Lord and could not hold my candle to offer to the priest. Every time I see women purified after childbirth it is as though I see our Lady. When I watch a wedding, in my heart I see our Lady joined with St Joseph and the joining of a soul with Jesus Christ our Lord. When I see children carried in their mothers' arms it seems to me I see Christ in his childhood.

The Magnificat

stand



Words: Mary Holtby
Music: Margaret Rizza
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2 My name shall live from age to age
and every tongue his servant bless.
For mercy is their heritage,
whose hearts the Holy One confess.

3 The proud beguiled by dreams of power,
divided and degraded lie.
He casts them down from throne and tower,
and stoops to lift the humble high.

4 He feeds the hungry at his board
and sends the rich unfilled away.
And, mindful of his promised word,
has answered Israel's prayers today.

5 With all the elders of our race
and those unborn who seek this birth,
I sing the glory of his race
and bring eternity to earth.

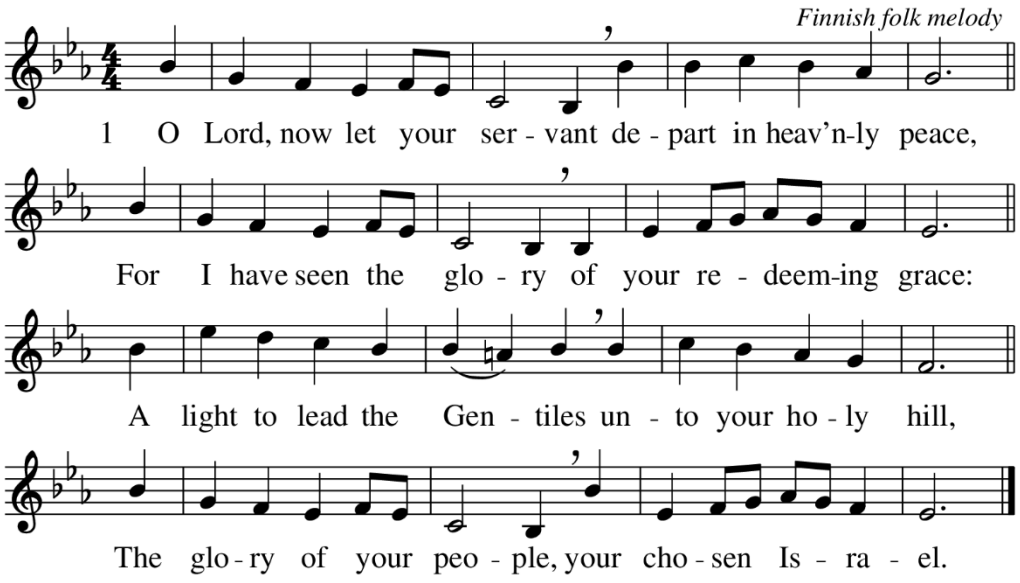
Second Reading Luke 2.22-40

sit

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 [23](as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male
shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), [24]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.’ [25]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. [26]It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death
before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. [27]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, [28]Simeon took
him in his arms and praised God, saying, [29]‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according
to your word; [30]for my eyes have seen your salvation, [31]which you have prepared in the presence of all
peoples, [32]a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ [33]And the child’s father
and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. [34]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 [35]so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul
too.’ [36]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 for seven years after her marriage, [37]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. [38]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. [39]When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they
returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. [40]The child grew and became strong, filled with
wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

The Nunc Dimittis

stand



Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981

2 Then grant that I may follow
your gleam, O glorious Light,
till earthly shadows scatter,
and faith is changed to sight;
till raptured saints shall gather
upon that shining shore,
where Christ, the blessed day-star,
shall light them evermore.

The Apostles' Creed *turn eastwards*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church;
The Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Responses *led by the choir* *sit or kneel*

The Lord be with you;
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
And grant us thy salvation.
O Lord, save the King;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
O God, make clean our hearts within us;
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Let us pray.

The Collects

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All:

Sermon The Revd Rachael Wright *sit*

Hymn *stand*

1 Before the world began
one Word was there;
grounded in God he was,
rooted in care;
by him all things were made,
in him was love displayed,
through him God spoke and said
'I am for you'.

2 Life found in him its source,
death found its end;
light found in him its course,
darkness its friend;
for neither death nor doubt
nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout
'I am for you'.

3 The Word was in the world
which from him came;
unrecognised he was,
unknown by name;
one with all humankind,
with the unloved aligned,
convincing sight and mind
'I am for you'.

4 All who received the Word,
by God were blessed,
sisters and brothers they
of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of grace
proclaim in time and space,
and with a human face,
'I am for you'.

John L. Bell

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The Prayers *sit or kneel*

Anthem John Rutter: The Lord bless you and keep you *sit*

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing…

Hymn *stand*

1 New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,
a holy light no earthly light outshines;
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,
the light that evil dreads and love defines.

2 The light of glory shines to angels' song,
the shepherds run to where the baby lies;
a servant of the Lord, who waited long,
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.

3 And priestly men sit listening to a boy,
they see the dawning light within his face.
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips employ!
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.

4 O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.

Paul Wigmore
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Organ Postlude