www.holytrinitystirling.org

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 4th February 2024 — 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
CANDLEMAS

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: Bob Piper
Sidespeople: volunteers

Offerings at Holy Trinity – No Collection is taken during services. If you wish to make an Offering, please use one of the baskets at the back of the Church before or after the service. Gift Aid donation envelopes and a Card Reader for debit or credit cards are also both available. Contributions go towards the Ministry and running costs or to any special collections announced. All are gratefully received. Registered Scottish Charity SC016471.

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn (*please stand*)

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.

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.

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.

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
© Jubilate Hymns
CCLI Licence # 237731

Opening

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for Purity

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.

Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are God's children, there is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith. *Silence*

God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil.
For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria Kilcreggan Mass (*see separate music sheet*) (*please stand*)

Glory to God, to God in the highest, and 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, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, to God in the highest, and 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, you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, of God the Father. Amen, Amen.

Collect

Almighty and Everlasting God: as your only-begotten Son was presented and received in the temple, so may we welcome and proclaim him as the light of the nations and the glory of your people; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-4 (*please sit*)

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. [2] 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; [3] 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. [4] Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Gradual Hymn

1 In a world where people walk in darkness,
let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the Daystar scattering our night.

For the light is stronger than the darkness
and the day will overcome the night,
though the shadows linger all around us,
let us turn our faces to the light.

2 In a world where suffering of the helpless
casts a shadow all along the way,
let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
and proclaim the dawning of the day.

3 Let us light a candle in the darkness,
in the face of death a sign of life;
as a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
as a sign of peace in place of strife.

© Robert Willis, CCLI Licence # 237731

Second Reading: Hebrews 2.14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Christ 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, [15] and free those who
all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. [16] For it is clear that he did not come to help angels,
but the descendants of Abraham. [17] 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. [18] Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who
are being tested.

Gospel Acclamation (*please stand*)

© Kevin Mayhew Ltd
CCLI Licence # 237731

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40 (*please stand*)

When it is announced: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

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.

Give thanks to the Lord for this glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Sermon: The Rector

Nicene Creed (*please stand*)

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 substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made human.
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.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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 led by Andrew Pont (*please sit or kneel*)

The Peace (*please stand*)

We meet in Christ's name. **Let us share his peace.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Hymn (*please stand*)

1 Light of the world, true light divine,
in glory break and splendour shine
upon our nature's night!
The darkness dies before the morn
and God himself a child is born,
the long-awaited Light.

2 Life of the world, a life laid down,
who chose the cross before the crown
and opened heaven's door:
he broke the chains of death and hell,
our Saviour Christ, Emmanuel,
who lives for evermore.

3 Lord of all worlds, a manger bed
was room enough to lay your head
when, from your throne above,
you came to set a lost world right,
immortal Life, unfading Light,
and all-prevailing Love.

© Timothy Dudley-Smith

Offertory Prayer (*please stand*)

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own we give you.

The Eucharistic 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 our thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world. By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him, we might be led from darkness and into his marvellous light. Filled with the Spirit, who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan, we who are baptised in his name strive for his heavenly kingdom in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth is transformed. As children of your redeeming purpose, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

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)*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us. Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased. Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son, he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free. At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread, and the dead were raised. Before he was given up to suffering and death, desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.” After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son’s command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit’s life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised
into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. Amen.

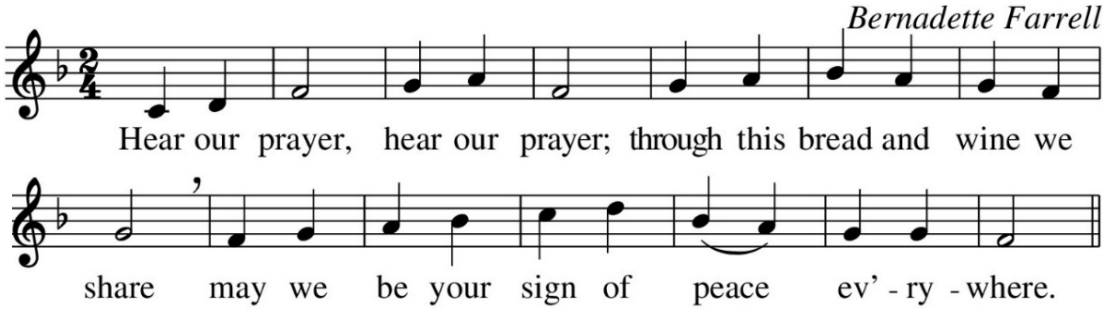
The Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world. Lord, unite us in this sign.

The Lord’s Prayer

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Agnus Dei



© Bernadette Farrell
OneLicense # A-632863

Communion *is administered in both kinds at the bottom of the chancel steps. Hand sanitiser is provided. It is perfectly acceptable to only receive the bread, should you so wish. Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine) as this is not considered to be a hygienic practice.* ***After you've received communion, please pick up and light a candle and take it back to your pew.***

During Communion Choir - *Herbert Sumsion: Nunc dimittis in A*

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us proceed in peace. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn (*you are welcome to join in the procession)*

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

When all are assembled at the font, we sing the final verse:

The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.
A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.

Responsory at the Font

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today. **Praise to Christ our light.**
We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word. **Praise to Christ our light.**
We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love. **Praise to Christ our light.**

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…

The Dismissal

We stand near the place of new birth. **Let us shine with the light of your love.**
We turn from the crib to the cross. **Let us shine with the light of your love.**
We go to carry Christ's light. **Let us shine with the light of your love. Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude John Rutter: Toccata in Seven

NOTICES

Tonight
6.30 p.m. **Evensong for Candlemas**

Monday 5th February
10 – 11.30 a.m. **HT Tots Café**

Tuesday 6th February
7.30 – 9.30 p.m. **Young Adults Group** (at St Saviour's Church Hall Bridge of Allan)
For more information, please email youngadultsgroup021@gmail.com

Wednesday 7th February
10.30 a.m. **Funeral John Sharp**
7 p.m. **Vestry Meeting**

Thursday 2nd February
11 a.m. **Holy Communion**

Sunday 5th February	**Readings**
Sunday before Lent	2 Kings 2.1-12; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6;
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**	Mark 9.2-9

The funeral of Barrie Watson will be held at Holy Trinity on Friday 16th February at 12 noon.