Selwyn College Chapel, Cambridge

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Setting: Missa brevis – Neil Cox (b. 1955)

Sunday 30 January 2022 at 6.00pm
Please note that this service is being livestreamed on YouTube, where it will remain available to view after the service:

https://youtu.be/zOCCpJ_DJ8Q

Cover image:

The **Presentation at the Temple** is a painting of the presentation of Jesus at the temple, by the Italian master Giovanni Bellini, dating to c. 1460. It is housed in the Fondazione Querini Stampalia, in Venice, Italy.

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THE GATHERING

Please stand as the Choir and Clergy enter the Chapel:

INTROIT  Small is the pearl *(first performance)*
music: Benji de Almeida-Newton (b. 2001)
words: from an epigram by Gregory of Nanzianzus (329-390 AD)

Small is the pearl, but the queen of jewels.
Small is Bethlehem, but the mother of Christ.

OPENING SENTENCE

Open me the gates of righteousness,
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

*Psalm 118:19*

GREETING

Minister  In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All  Amen.

Minister  The Lord be with you.
All  And also with you.

Forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.
Minister  Jesus says, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ Let us then bring our secret sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

All  Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, 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 lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Minister  Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All  Amen.

*Please remain standing.*
GLORIA (sung by the Choir)

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex cælestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili Unigenite,
Jesu Christe, Domine Deus,
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis;
qu confiscated peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram
Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son,
Jesu Christ: O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that taketh away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that taketh away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy,
thou only art the Lord,
thou only art the most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

COLLECT

Minister Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ:
Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ
was presented in the Temple
and acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Please sit.
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (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.

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

Please remain seated.

PSALM (132: 1-11 Memento, Domine)

Cantor  1  (---) Lord re-mem-ber Da-vid:
(---) and all his trouble;

Full  2  How he sware un-to the Lord (---):
and vowed a vow unto the Almigh-ty God of Ja-cob;
Cantor 3 I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house (--): nor climb up in-to my bed;

Full 4 I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep nor mine eye-lids to slum-ber: neither the temples of my head to take any rest;

Cantor 5 Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord (--): an habitation for the might-ty God of Ja-cob.

Full 6 Lo we heard of the same at Eph-ra^ta: (---) and found it in the^wood.

Cantor 7 We will go in-to his ta-ber^na-cle: and fall low on our knees be-fore his foot-stool.

Full 8 Arise O Lord in-to thy rest-ing^place: thou and the ark of thy strength.

Cantor 9 Let thy priests be clothed with righ-teous-ness: and let thy saints sing with joy-ful-ness.

Full 10 For thy servant Da-vid’s sake (--): turn not away the presence of thine A-noin-ted.

Cantor 11 The Lord hath made a faithful oath un-to Da-vid: and he shall not shrink from it;

Full Glory be to the Father and to the Son (--): (---) and to the Ho-ly^Ghost.

Cantor As it was in the beginning is now and e-ver shall be: world with-out end A-men.

Please stand.
THE GOSPEL (Luke 2:22-40)

Reader  Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.
All     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.

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

Please sit.

SERMON  Christie Gilfeather
Frost Scholar and Ordinand, Ridley Hall

Please sit or kneel.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader  Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our Light and Life
Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
Look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:
Look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:
Look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:
Look in mercy on the departed, who see your salvation.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:
Look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna
and showed them the infant King.
Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

Minister In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.
OFFERTORY HYMN    Hail to the Lord who comes (NEH 157)

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 to-day,
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!

words: John Ellerton (1826-1893)
music: OLD 120th; melody as in Éste’s Psalte, 1592
harmony primarily from Ravenscroft’s Psalms, 1621
OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Minister Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your Name.

All Amen.

THE PREFACE

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because, by appearing in the temple, he comes near to us in judgement; the Word made flesh searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the brightness of your splendour.
Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (sung by the Choir)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua:  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus,  
qui venit in nomine Domini:  
Hosanna in excelsis.

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 or kneel.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All  
Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.
And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, 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, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Minister Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour has taught us.

All 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.

**THE FRACTION**

Minister We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.
AGNUS DEI (sung by the Choir)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Choir receives Communion first, followed by the congregation.

The sacrament will be given ‘in one kind’ (that is, bread only) due to the current Covid arrangements, and will be brought to the congregation by the Dean of Chapel. Please remain standing, briefly removing your facemask after communion has been passed to you.

Anyone who does not wish to receive bread but would like to receive a blessing, is also asked to stand, holding their service sheet to indicate their intention. Those who do not wish to receive communion or a blessing should remain seated.

To the words of distribution, the Communicant replies Amen.

All Christians who have been baptised, who normally receive Holy Communion in their own Church and wish to do so here, are welcome to take communion in Selwyn Chapel.
MOTET

I sing of a maiden
words: Anonymous 15thC
music: Timothy Brown (b. 1946)

I sing of a maiden
That is matchless,
King of all kings
For her son she chose.

He came all so still
Where his mother was
As dew in April
That falls on the grass.

He came all so still
To his mother’s bower
As dew in April
That falls on the flower.

He came all so still
Where his mother lay
As dew in April
That falls on the spray.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
God’s mother be.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Minister 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 Amen.
All
Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Please remain standing.

THE CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

SENTENCE

Minister
This child is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel; destined to be a sign that is rejected. And a sword shall pierce your own soul also.  

Luke 2:35

Candles are lit during the next hymn, and the ministers and acolytes process to the temporary font, near the entrance to the Chapel, (traditionally the location of the font), as this is the place of baptism, which itself signifies entry into the church. Selwyn College Chapel does not have a fixed font, since for the first century of the college’s existence, only baptised members of the Church of England could attend – there was therefore no need for a font.
HYMN Of the Father’s heart begotten (NEH 33)

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

words: Prudentius (348-413), tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)
music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM; melody from Piae Caniones, 1582;
verse 4 arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Minister  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 temple where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All  Amen.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung by the Choir)
words: Luke 2:29-32
music: Amy Beach (1867-1944)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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.

FINAL RESPONSORY

Minister  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.

Minister  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.
Minister  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.

Minister  Here we have greeted the Light of the world.
All  Help us, who now extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

All now extinguish their candles.

Minister  Here we now stand near the place of baptism.
All  Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord’s death and resurrection.

Minister  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.

Minister  Here we bless one another in your name.
All  Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

The ministers process out the Chapel, followed by the Choir

VOLUNTARY  Fuga sopra il Magnificat – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Those who leave the Chapel before the end of the Voluntary are asked to do so quietly. The cafeteria is remaining open slightly later for those who wish to eat in Hall tonight.

Resumption of regular Sunday communion services from next Sunday:

Please note that from next Sunday 6 February a simple Holy Communion service will be celebrated here in the chapel at 10.30am each Sunday morning, followed by brunch. Please consider joining us.