

Eglwys St Ffagan, Aberdâr
St Fagan's Church, Aberdare

ALL SORTS SERVICE

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

The Presentation of Christ - Candlemas

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Give me joy in my heart,
keep me praising.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart,
keep me praising.
Keep me praising 'til the end of day

Chorus:

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna

Sing hosanna to the King of kings

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna

Sing hosanna to the King

3. Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving.
Keep me serving 'til the end of day

Chorus:

2. Give me peace in my heart,
keep me resting.
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart,
keep me resting.
Keep me resting 'til the end of day.

Chorus:

3. Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart,
keep me serving.
Keep me serving 'til the end of day

Chorus:

THE GATHERING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Grace and peace be with you.

All: **And keep you in the love of Christ.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

All remain standing. The priest introduces the theme of the service.

Dear friends, almost 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 recognized 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.

Everyone is invited to call to mind the wrong things we have done and said:

All: **Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what we ought to have done. We are sorry and truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Priest: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you and set you free from sin, strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

GLORIA

*Refrain: Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

1. Lord God, heavenly King,
peace you bring to us;
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we sing our song of praise. *Refrain*

2. Jesus, Saviour of all,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away our sins, O Lord,
have mercy on us all. *Refrain*

3. At the Father's right hand,
Lord, receive our prayer,
for you alone are the Holy One,
and you alone are the Lord. *Refrain*

4. Glory, Father and Son,
glory, Holy Spirit,
to you we raise our hands up high,
we glorify your name. *Refrain*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest: 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.**

All sit for the reading

A READING: Hebrews 2. 14-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews

Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death. For it is clear that it is not the angels that he helps. Instead, he helps the descendants of Abraham. This means that he had to become like his people in every way, in order to be their faithful and merciful High Priest in his service to God, so that the people's sins would

be forgiven. And now he can help those who are tempted, because he himself was tempted and suffered.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord:

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand and sing the Gospel Anthem:

GOSPEL ANTHEM

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the New Born King.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth, he is the King of creation.
Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2. 2240

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **and also with you.**

Priest: Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord. At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.

With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel.”

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, “This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart.” There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free. When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All sit for the talk

All stand to say The Creed together.

THE CREED

I believe and trust in God the Father, who created all that is. I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed humankind. I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God. I believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE INTERCESSIONS

All sit or kneel for the prayers. The following response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

All stand. The priest introduces The Peace and then says:

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 greet each other with a sign of peace.

HYMN

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

Chorus:

*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*

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:

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:

THE THANKSGIVING

The priest takes the bread and wine

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.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is always right, wherever we are, to thank you and to praise you, God our Father and King for ever, through Jesus Christ, your Son. Through him you made us and the whole universe. When your Holy Spirit came to Mary, Jesus was born as one of us. He loved us so much that he died for us; on the first Easter Day you raised him to life; and death and evil were conquered for ever. At Pentecost, you gave the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised, to help us to live as your children. So here on earth, with the angels and archangels and with everyone in heaven we praise your name and sing:

All: **Holy, holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, Lord God Almighty; and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love, Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

Gracious Father, gracious Father, blessed is the one who comes to us in your name; and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love, gracious Father, gracious Father.

We sit or kneel

Father in heaven, listen to the prayer we make in Jesus' name; through the Holy Spirit's power, gentle as a dove, may this bread and this wine be for us Jesus' body and blood. Father, we remember when Jesus had supper with his friends the night before he died, he took the bread; he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take this and eat it – this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me. After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said: All of you drink from this cup, because this is my blood – the new promise of God's love. Do this every time you drink it to remember me.

Together we remember that Jesus is always with us and say:

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come in glory.**

Father, as we remember your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose again, we offer you these and all the gifts you freely give to us. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us and all who share this bread and drink from this cup. Help us to trust you, bring us closer together and welcome us, with all your people, into Jesus' glorious kingdom.

The priest sings: By him, with him, through him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours almighty Lord, Amen, Amen, Alleluia!

All sing: **Amen, Amen, Alleluia! Amen, Amen, Alleluia!**
And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love, Amen, Amen, Alleluia!

Priest: As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

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 COMMUNION

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **Though we are many, we are one body, for we all share in one bread.**

All sing: **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy;
bearer of our sins, Lord Jesus, show us mercy;
Jesus, Lamb of God you take away the sins of the whole world:
give us peace, Lord, give us peace, Lord.**

Priest: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy 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.**

We go to the altar to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

Chorus:

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return.
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on, it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Chorus

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has come, the Son came to die.
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

Chorus

1. Sweet sacrament divine
Hid in thine earthly home
Lo, round thy lowly shrine
With suppliant hearts we come
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise
Sweet sacrament divine
Sweet sacrament divine

2. Sweet sacrament of peace
Dear home of every heart
Where restless yearnings cease
And sorrows all depart
There in thine ear all trustfully
We tell our tale of misery
Sweet sacrament of peace
Sweet sacrament of peace

3. Sweet sacrament of rest
Ark from the ocean's roar
Within thy shelter blest
Soon may we reach the shore
Save us, for still the tempest raves
Save, lest we sink beneath the waves
Sweet sacrament of rest
Sweet sacrament of rest

We keep a time of silence after the hymns

After the notices, all stand for the lighting of the candles.

THE CANDLEMAS CEREMONY AND SENDING OUT

Once the candles have been lit, the priest says

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.**

All say the Nunc Dimittis together:

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.

FINAL RESPONSORY

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 hold 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.

FINAL HYMN

during this hymn the collection will be taken

This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine,

let it shine.

1. The light that shines
is the light of love,
lights the darkness from above,
it shines on me
and it shines on you,
and shows what the
power of love can do.
I'm gonna shine my light
both far and near,
I'm gonna shine my light
both bright and clear.
Where there's a dark
corner in this land,
I'm gonna let my
little light shine.

2. On Monday he gave
me the gift of love,
Tuesday peace came from above.
On Wednesday he told me
to have more faith.
On Thursday he gave me
a little more grace.
Friday he told me
just to watch and pray.
Saturday he told me
just what to say.
On Sunday he gave me
the pow'r divine to let
my little light shine.