

## Choral Evensong

### Candlemas

2 February 2025

6.00pm



*Welcome to Liverpool Parish Church. All are welcome to take part as they feel called. Evensong, which combines the ancient monastic services of Vespers and Compline (evening and night prayer), and has been sung in Cathedrals and Parish Churches all over the country since the sixteenth century.*



*Organ: Sicilienne – Maria von Paradis (1759-1824)*

*Please stand, as you are able, as the clergy enter and the choir sings the Introit:*  
When to the temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child,  
Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed.  
He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said:  
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,  
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.  
Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be  
As once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in Thee;  
And when we must from earth departure take,  
May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

*Words: John Troutbeck (1832-99)*

*Music: Johannes Eccard (1553-1661)*

**Priest:** Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

**All:** **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.**

Priest: May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you ✠ pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The preces and responses are sung to a setting by Philip Radcliffe (1905-86)*

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

*Office hymn:*

**Faithful vigil ended,**

**Watching, waiting cease;**

**Master, grant thy servant**

**His discharge in peace.**

**All thy Spirit promised,**

**All the Father willed;**

**Now these eyes behold it**

**Perfectly fulfilled.**

**This thy great deliverance**

**Sets thy people free;**

**Christ, their light, uplifted**

**All the nations see.**

**Christ, thy people's glory!**

**Watching, doubting, cease:**

**Grant to us thy servants**

**Our discharge in peace.**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)*

*Music: 'Pastor Pastorum' Philipp Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860)*

*Please sit as the choir sings Psalm 122*

1. I was glad when they said unto me \* We will go into the house of the Lord.
2. Our feet shall stand in thy gates \* O Jerusalem.
3. Jerusalem is built as a city \* that is at unity in itself.
4. For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord \* to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
5. For there is the seat of judgement \* even the seat of the house of David.
6. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem \* they shall prosper that love thee.
7. Peace be within thy walls \* and plenteousness within thy palaces.
8. For my brethren and companions' sakes \* I will wish thee prosperity.
9. Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God \* I will seek to do thee good.

### **Old Testament Reading** (Haggai 2.1-9)

*The choir sings the Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel : as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

*[we stand for the Gloria Patri]*

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.

*Music: Evening Service in C major—Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

### **New Testament Reading** (John 2.18-22)

*The choir sings Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2.29-32)*

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.

*[we stand for the Gloria Patri]*

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.

*Music: Evening Service in C major—Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

*Please remain standing to say the Apostles' Creed:*

**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.**

Cantor      The Lord be with you

Choir        And with thy spirit

Cantor      Let us pray.

*[please kneel or sit]*

Choir        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.

Cantor     O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
Choir       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.

*The Collect of the Day:*

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. Amen

*The Second Collect, for Peace:*

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. Amen.

*The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils:*

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. Amen.

*The choir sings the Anthem:*

*Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace:*

*Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum*

*Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:*

*Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:*

*Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.*

[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.]

*Words: Luke 2.29-32*

*Music: William Byrd (1539-1623)*

*Sermon— Mthr Jennifer Brady*

*Please kneel for the prayers:*

*The Grace:* **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*Please stand to sing the hymn during which a collection is taken:*

**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.**

**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,**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed  
In the page of prophecy;  
Lo! He comes, the promised Saviour;  
Let the world his praises cry!**

**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,**

*Words: Latin, Prudentius (348-413) translated Roby Furley Davis (1866-1937)  
Music: 'Melody from Piae Cantiones (1582)*

*The Blessing:*

... and the ✠blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Organ: Postlude (1962) – William Mathias (1934-92)*

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