

Choral Evensong

Candlemas

1 February 2026

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: Senex puerum portabat: puer autem senem regebat: quem virgo peperit, et post partum virgo permansit: ipsum quem genuit, adoravit.

[The old man carried the child, but the child ruled the old man. Him that a Virgin bore, remaining evermore a virgin, she adored.]

Words: *Antiphon to the Magnificat at First Vespers for the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Music: *William Byrd (1540-1623)*

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 Richard Ayleward 1626-69)

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 132.1-10

1. Lord, remember David * and all his trouble;
2. How he swore unto the Lord * and vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob;
3. I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house * nor climb up into my bed;
4. I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep, nor mine eye-lids to slumber * neither the temples of my head to take any rest;
5. Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord * an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.
6. Lo, we heard of the same at Ephrata * and found it in the wood.
7. We will go into his tabernacle * and fall low on our knees before his foot-stool.
8. Arise, O Lord, into thy resting-place * thou, and the ark of thy strength.
9. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness * and let thy saints sing with joyfulness.
10. For thy servant David's sake * turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.

[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.

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: Second Evening Service in Eb major —Charles Wood (1866-1926)

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: Second Evening Service in Eb major—Charles Wood (1866-1926)

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 Catholick 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:

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)

Sermon— Revd Michelle Montrose

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 revealèd
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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