

**Parishes of Elstead,  
Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow**



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***Service of the Word for the season of Epiphany***

PARISHES  
OF  
ELSTEAD,  
THURSLEY,



SHACKLEFORD,  
PEPER HAROW



## **Candlemas**

### **The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**

A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.  
Luke Chapter 2 verse 32

O God, who in the work of creation  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may shine into the hearts of all your people,  
dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
and revealing to them the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## The Gathering

*Words of Welcome are said and Notices are given*

### HYMN

Like a candle flame,  
Flickering small in our darkness.  
Uncreated light  
Shines through infant eyes.

*God is with us, alleluia. (Men)*  
*God is with us, alleluia. (Women)*  
*Come to save us, alleluia. (Men)*  
*Come to save us, (Women)*  
*Alleluia! (All).*

Stars and angels sing,  
Yet the earth sleeps in shadows;  
Can this tiny spark  
Set a world on fire?

*God is with us, alleluia. (Men)*  
*God is with us, alleluia. (Women)*  
*Come to save us, alleluia. (Men)*  
*Come to save us, (Women)*  
*Alleluia! (All).*

Yet His light shall shine  
From our lives, Spirit blazing,  
As we touch the flame  
Of His holy fire.

*God is with us, alleluia. (Men)*  
*God is with us, alleluia. (Women)*  
*Come to save us, alleluia. (Men)*  
*Come to save us, (Women)*  
*Alleluia! (All).*

Dear friends, 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. Today 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.

**Almighty Father, whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple and acclaimed 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. Amen.**

*The following responses are used as the candles are lit*

The Lord is the strength of my life  
**The Lord is my light and my salvation**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world  
**A light which no darkness can quench**

### ***Confession***

Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever 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.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

### ***The Blessing and the Sending Out***

Christ the Son of God  
perfect you in the image of his glory  
and gladden you with the good news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen**

Let us go in peace.  
**We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.  
Amen**

### **HYMN**

Nunc dimittis - Plainsong, arr. John Harper  
Sung by St Marin's Voices

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 forever.  
**Amen.**

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.

*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.*

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.

*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.*

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Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### ***Praise***

O Lord open our lips  
**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Let us worship the Lord  
**All praise to his name**

### ***Gloria in Excelsis***

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.  
Glory 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.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.  
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.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.  
For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.**

### ***The Collect***

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

*Silence is kept.*

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**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### **First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-5**

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years. “So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the Lord Almighty.

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18**

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**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 Peace**

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  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another 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.

*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.*

Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from within  
And make me holy.  
Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from my sin,  
Deep within.

*Refiner's fire  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy,  
Set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for You, my Master,  
Ready to do Your will.*

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### ***Prayers of Intercession***

We use this response:

Lord of light and love  
**Hear our prayer**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

*Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray*

**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,**

*At the end of each reading the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN**

*The light of Christ  
Has come into the world;  
The light of Christ  
Has come into the world.*

All men must be born again  
To see the kingdom of God;  
The water and the Spirit  
Bring new life in God's love.

*The light of Christ.....*

God gave up His only Son  
Out of love for the world,  
So that all men who believe in Him  
Will live forever.

*The light of Christ.....*

The light of God has come to us  
So that we might have salvation;  
From the darkness of our sins we walk  
Into glory with Christ Jesus.

*The light of Christ.....*

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### ***Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord. Alleluia.**

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.

This is the gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

### ***The Apostles Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **HYMN**

Purify my heart,  
Let me be as gold  
And precious silver.  
Purify my heart,  
Let me be as gold,  
Pure gold.

*Refiner's fire,  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy,  
Set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for You, my Master,  
Ready to do Your will.*