

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**The Voluntary**



**The Parish of Boxmoor**

St John's Boxmoor,  
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

***Our worship has ended; let our service begin.  
Thanks be to God!***



**PARISH EUCHARIST  
CELEBRATING  
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST  
IN THE TEMPLE  
(CANDLEMAS)**

## Welcome to St John's for this on-line Service.

Whether this is your first time you have joined us virtually for this on-line Service at St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome as we give thanks to God for the new life with have in him through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power and comfort of his Holy Spirit. In faith and confidence we come before the God of love in assurance of his forgiveness and ask for his blessing on our lives.

During these days of uncertainty, anxiety, and, for many, darkness we pray that the light of the risen Christ may bring peace, comfort, reassurance, and guidance. Although we are not able to gather together as a worshipping community at present we can still pray for each other, our community, the needs of the world and those in particular need.

You might like to light a candle before the Service and place it on a table to remind you of the light of the risen Christ shining among us.

We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type.

The recording of today's Service can be found at <https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources>

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. A collection is normally received during the service. Due to the restrictions this is not possible. You might like to set aside your gift and bring it when the restrictions have lifted, or send-in/electronically transfer your offering. UK tax payers are encouraged to complete a GiftAid form which can be found on website.

## The Prayer after Communion

**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.**

## The Dismissal

### The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### Final Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed!

Hail to the Lord's anointed!  
Great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
that name to us is Love.

### The Breaking of the Bread

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

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

### A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of thy Church  
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.  
I present to you my soul and body  
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.  
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.  
Let nothing ever separate you from me.  
May I live and die in your love. Amen.**

### Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace.**

### The Anthem:

O nata lux de lumine  
Jesu Redemptor saeculi,  
dignare clemens supplicum  
laudes precesque sumere.  
  
Qui carne quondam contegi  
dignatus es pro perditis,  
nos membra confer effici  
tui beati corporis.

*O Light born of light,  
Jesus Redeemer of the world:  
deign in mercy to hear the prayers and  
praises of those who kneel before you.  
  
You who once deigned to take flesh  
for the sake of those who were lost:  
make us members of your blessed body.*

*Thomas Tallis (c 1505–85)*

### The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you:  
**and also with you.**

### The Bidding

Brothers and sisters in Christ:  
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.

### The Blessing of Candles

Lord God, the source of everlasting light,  
bless these candles to your servants' use,  
and 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.  
**Amen.**

*Please light your candles.*

## The Hymn: Longing for Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. <i>Refrain</i>	Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. <i>Refrain</i>
Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. <i>Refrain</i>	Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. <i>Refrain</i>

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## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, clothed in majesty,  
whose 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 the same 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.**

### Bible Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.  
Thus says the Lord God:  
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?

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.  
For on this day he appeared in the temple in substance of our flesh  
to come near to us in judgement.  
He searches the hearts of all your people  
and brings to light the image of your splendour.  
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations  
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.  
Destined for the falling and rising of many,  
he was lifted high upon the cross  
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart  
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.  
And now we rejoice and glorify your name  
that we, too, have seen your salvation  
and join with angels and archangels in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

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 judgement; 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.

*Malachi 3: 1–5*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Hebrews 2: 14–end*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

Alleluia, Alleluia. The child is the light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Alleluia.**

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

**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 turtle-doves 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 for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped 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.

*St Luke 2: 22–40*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

## The Creed

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy      *or*      Lord, hear us  
**Hear our prayer      Lord, graciously hear us**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father:

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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 or death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## The Offertory Hymn

*During which a Collection is taken and the Gifts of Bread and Wine are placed on the Altar.*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,	Dark and cheerless is the morn
Christ, the true, the only light,	unaccompanied by thee;
Sun of Righteousness, arise,	joyless is the day's return,
triumph o'er the shades of night;	till thy mercy's beams I see;
Dayspring from on high, be near;	till they inward light impart,
Daystar, in my heart appear.	glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

*Ratisbon 234ii NEH*

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Preparation of the Table

Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense, or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised in praise  
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**