



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA  
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYNS

# The Feast of The Presentation of Christ in the Temple February 4<sup>th</sup> 2024



**The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**  
*French School, early 17th century*

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

OPENING HYMN: *AHB 92/TiS 158. Tune Hymn to Joy.*

1. **God has spoken by his prophets,  
spoken his unchanging word,  
each, from age to age proclaiming  
God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
In the world's despair and turmoil  
one firm anchor holds us fast:  
God is king, his throne eternal,  
God the first, and God the last.**
2. **God has spoken by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son,  
brightness of the Father's glory,  
with the Father ever one;  
spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God from God, ere time began,  
Light from Light, to earth descending,  
God, revealed as Son of Man.**
3. **God is speaking by his Spirit,  
speaking to our hearts again,  
in the age-long word expounding  
God's own message, now as then,  
through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith yet standing fast;  
God still speaks, his word unchanging,  
God the first, and God the last.**

George Wallace Briggs 1875–1959 alt.

### *The Welcome and Greeting*

The Lord of glory be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

### *Sentence*

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. *Luke 2.30–32*

### *Introduction*

Dear friends: just over forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today 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 Service, 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.

### *Gloria in Excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

### *The Collect*

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

*Silence may be kept.*

Christ our cornerstone,  
you were recognised at your presentation in the temple  
as a sign of hope for the world,  
but also as a stumbling-block for many:

help us so to present ourselves for your service,  
that, in sharing your scandal,  
we may become a people acceptable to you.  
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### **A reading from the prophecy of Malachi [3. 1-4]**

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?

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **Psalm 24. 7-10**

Lift up your heads, O you gates,  
and be lifted up, you everlasting doors:  
**and the King of glory shall come in.**

*Who is the King of glory?:*

*the Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

**Lift up your heads, O you gates,  
and be lifted up, you everlasting doors:**  
and the King of glory shall come in.

*Who is the King of glory?:*

*the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.*

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews [2. 14-18]**

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

*Stand*

**Gradual Hymn: AHB 347/TiS 44. Tune, Bishopthorpe (34/114)**

- 1. How lovely is your dwelling-place,  
O Lord of hosts, to me;  
my thirsting soul longs eagerly  
within your courts to be.**
- 2. Beside your altars, Lord of all,  
the swallows find a nest;  
happy are those who dwell with you  
and praise you without rest,**
- 3. and happy those whose hearts are set  
upon the pilgrim ways:  
you are the water when they thirst,  
their guide towards your face.**
- 4. How blest are they that in your house  
for ever give you praise:  
one day with you is better spent  
than thousands in dark ways.**
- 5. The Lord will hold back no good thing  
from those who justly live;  
to all who trust, the Lord of hosts  
will all his blessings give.**

Based on the Scottish Psalter 1650  
Reproduced with permission

**The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke [2. 22-40]  
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

For the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

Let us declare our faith in 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.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

### *A time for reflection*

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to the Father through Christ our Light and Life.

Father,  
your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:  
Look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice, praying  
for Palestine and Israel; Ukraine and Russia; Sudan; Yemen; and  
wherever there is unrest.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father,  
your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:  
Look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light,

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father,  
your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:  
Look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him

·  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father,  
your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:  
Look in mercy on the departed, who see your salvation

·  
Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Father,  
your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:  
Look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God,  
you kept faith with Simeon and Anna  
and showed them the infant King.  
Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises,  
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught  
us 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Jesus says,  
'I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.'

*Silence for thought*

Let us then bring our secret sins into his light  
and confess them in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*The minister stands and declares God's forgiveness*

God desires that none should perish,  
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.  
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.  
God pardons those who humbly repent,  
and truly believe the gospel.  
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high has broken upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and 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.**

**Offertory Hymn: AHB 215 / TiS 290. Tune, Corde Natus.**

- 1. Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.**
- 2. O that birth for ever blessèd  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Spirit's power conceiving  
bore the saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.**
- 3. This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected:  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.**
- 4. In the heights of heaven adore him,  
angel hosts his praises sing,  
all dominions bow before him  
and extol our God and king;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice together sing  
evermore and evermore.**

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348–c.413  
*tr.* John Mason Neale 1818–66  
Henry Williams Baker 1827–77 and others

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The collection may be presented in silence, or the following or another, suitable prayer may be used.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### *Notices*

### *Concluding prayer*

Eternal God and Father,  
**by whose power we are created,  
and by whose love we are redeemed:  
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to your service,  
and live this day in love to one another and to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Concluding Hymn:** TiS 324. Tune, Land of Rest.

- 1. Lord, bid your servant go in peace,  
your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
this child so long foretold.**
- 2. This is the Saviour of the world,  
the Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
the joy of Israel.**
- 3. This child shall see in Israel  
so many rise or fall;  
God's sign raised high for all to see,  
which yet shall be denied.**
- 4. His mother's soul a sword shall pierce  
of sorrow keen and deep.  
From many hearts their secret thoughts  
through him shall be revealed.**

**5. Blessed be the Father, who has given  
his Son to be our Lord,  
blessed too that Son, and with them both  
the Spirit of their love.**

*James Quinn 1919– (Luke 2:29–32, 34–35)*

*The Grace*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all. Amen.**

*The Dismissal*

**Go in the light and peace of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.**

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