



# St Nicolas Church, Cranleigh WORSHIPPING AT HOME

*Candlemas*

**The Presentation of Christ**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

**WELCOME** to our Worshipping at Home resources for this week.

**COVID-19 – LATEST . . . . As we head into February, we will continue to open the Church for live worship only at 11am on Sundays – all other services are cancelled.**

**In order to keep yourselves and others safe, please only come at 11am on Sunday if you are unable to access our Online Worship Resources**

**Do not Come to Church at all, if . . . .**

- You have had a positive Covid-19 test, or are awaiting the result of one***
- You are experiencing any symptoms related to Covid***
- You have been in contact with anyone who has Covid, and have therefore been told to self-isolate***
- You have been identified as particularly vulnerable and told that you should shield***

## **THIS WEEK . . . .** *(Events in red will be online events)*

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January – *Candlemas*. The Presentation of Christ:

10am **(Zoom)**: Church at Home.

11.15am **(Zoom)**: SEA Church (for young people)

*(the Zoom joining code for both of these is*

*ID: 148-785-166, Password: Church)*

11am: Holy Communion (CW). **In Church and Livestreamed**

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February – 2 before Lent:

10am **(Zoom)**: Church at Home.

11.15am **(Zoom)**: SEA Church (for young people)

*(the Zoom joining code for both of these is*

*ID: 148-785-166, Password: Church)*

11am: Holy Communion (CW). **In Church and Livestreamed**

## ***Candlemas***

### **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple:**

#### **COLLECTS:**

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.

#### **FIRST READING: *Malachi 3: 1-5.***

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. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; 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.

**GOSPEL READING: *Luke 2: 22-40.***

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

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah; may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when He comes to bring us to eternal life: for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

#### **SERMON (written by The Rev'd Martin Booth):**

One might just be forgiven if we don't pay quite so much attention to The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas, as perhaps we should. Yet, this event is not really an anecdote, an aside, a digression from those other two great moments we celebrate in the Life of Christ: Christmas and Easter. It is very much a significant part of the whole journey, the whole pilgrimage, we undertake as Christians.

The Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible, concludes around four hundred years before the event we are celebrating today. The final book of that testament, the Book of Malachi, can be seen to contain, as one commentator has described it, a note of boredom, I might even say frustration: When will God act like he said he would? Like a child being dragged round the shops our forebears seem to be saying: 'Come on. This is boring. Hurry up. You promised we could go to the playground.'

The Hebrew people had returned from an excruciatingly painful, humiliating and identity-sapping exile, two hundred years before. By the time we get to Malachi, the great hope that this return was the start of a new and real and eternally fulfilling relationship with God was dwindling fast. Instead of the great return and reign of the Messiah, they were about to be, culturally at least, gobbled up by the Greek Empire.

Apart from a false start with a number of spurious messiahs, especially during the time of the Maccabees, the Hebrew people were starting to believe that nothing, really, was going to happen. God was either not going to keep his promises. Or, if he had - no-one had noticed. So they turned to a religion of legalistic Observances and Rituals that began, eventually, for many (though not all) to obscure what it really was they truly believed in. Then - a little child is born. To poor and humble parents. Largely un-noticed by the vast majority of the populace.

It is clear that dutifully, the parents present that child in the Temple. This was according to their religion - but importantly, it was clearly resulting from what they had experienced over what we now know as the whole Christmas narrative.

At that precise moment, we need to note, the whole history of humankind is stilled. Silent... Waiting... It is, what the French call the *Point*

*Vierge*. The pure, unsullied moment. Literally, it refers to the very point at which night turns to dawn. When the tiniest glimmer of silvering appears in the east and another day begins.

And, if you listen very carefully to the Gospel record of the events at the Temple, at this *point vierge*, one can hear the whole of the Old Testament and the whole of the New Testament rushing in like two floods to converge.

There, at the Presentation of Christ, in Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna, we hear echoes of Abraham and Sarah, Eli and Hannah with Samuel, as well as Zechariah and Elizabeth.

In Simeon's great poetic blessing we hear all the Prophets, especially Isaiah and indeed Malachi, and their prophecies coming to fruition. All the pain and the dismay and the waiting meeting the hope they had clung on to over the centuries. All the great traditions of the Hebrew Law, the Torah are met in that temple in that moment. The great Law that the eight day old child had come not to destroy but to fulfil.

And in that eight day old child we also find the meeting of the new temple with the old. Just as Simeon would die, now that he had encountered the Messiah, so the old temple would fall, now that it had encountered the new temple. A new temple that would be built over the three days of Easter.

A new temple built of flesh and blood and the spirit of God. A new temple that was to be formed also of a new people. Us. Formed in the body and likeness of that infant, through communion with him.

Candlemas for we Christians is therefore much more than just another day to mark down in the calendar in our progress from Christmas to

Easter. Perhaps we, too, in our waiting for the Kingdom which is to come wonder sometimes whether God will keep his promises.

Perhaps we might, too, sometimes turn to a religion simply of Observances and Rituals that could risk obscuring what it really is Christians believe in. Which is why it is always important to read, mark and inwardly digest what it is we are celebrating in any given feast or festival in the Church's year.

Candlemas today, as it did two thousand years ago, marks the point at which the old and the new meet. It is the beginning of the end and the end of the beginning. The bringing together of God's Kingdom already come to Earth with God's Kingdom of Heaven.

And, if you like, we are part of the new temple, the body of Christ, by which, and in which, and through which, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit intends to bring it all about. Amen.

## **SEASONAL PROVISION FOR CANDLEMAS.**

### *Invitation to Confession:*

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

### *Introduction to 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.

### *Extended Preface for use with Eucharistic Prayer E:*

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 splendor.  
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations,  
While Anna spoke of him to all who looked for 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.

*Blessing:*

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins, that  
you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace which are the  
marks of Jesus in his disciples;  
and the blessing . . . .

## **WEEKLY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

### **Church and Christian Ministry:**

- For all members of the Parish Development and Evangelism Team,  
based at Church House Guildford.
- In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer – the Anglican Church in Brazil.

### **National and World Affairs:**

- For our government and nation at this time of crisis.

- For those whose role it is to administer the delivery of Covid vaccinations around the UK, especially in our Village Hall.

### **Community and Family:**

- For those who live in Restwell Avenue.
- For the work of the Archdeacon of Surrey, Paul Davies, and for our Rector, Roy, with his added responsibilities as Area Dean of Cranleigh.

### **The Sick and those in Need:**

- Tony Black, Ray Corver, Stefan Godier, Stella Goldsmith, George Hill, Helen and David, Philip Jones, Amy and Dennis Loveless, Libby O'Brien, Brian Pettyfer, Jean Quallington, Jean Sandow, Bert and Eileen Steed, Maureen Steele, Dennis and Rosemary Talbot, Marion Tomkins, Darcy Wigfield, Angela Wild, Henry Young and Nicholas.  
*(and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin and John Davies, Norman Edsall, William and James Mason, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Ella Tomlinson, Jacky Williams, Bill and Tracy Wood, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Lorna Thompson, Sami Bennewith)*

And as the Coronavirus death toll passed 100,000 this week, our Archbishops have asked us to use this prayer:

Gracious God,  
as we remember before you the thousands who have died,  
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.  
Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair,  
and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope  
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen.

## **The Departed:**

- All we have known and loved, and especially Joyce Armin, Doris Cooper, Daniel Gibbin, Michael Hart, Jack Sieber, Mac Walker (*and from Dunsfold and Hascombe: Revd Norman Edsall*).

## **WEEKLY NOTICES:**

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR . . . .** We are delighted to announce that Nicola Craven-Smith, who has been our Interim Church Administrator since September, has now been appointed to the permanent post. Congratulations Nicola! We look forward to welcoming her properly into the Church Office when we are able to re-open. In the meantime, she will continue to work from home, and is contactable as in the details on the back page.

**POST-PANDEMIC QUESTIONNAIRE . . . .** Thank you to all those who have already responded to the questionnaire that The Rector sent out earlier in the week. A reminder that completed questionnaires need to be returned by next Sunday.

**RECTORY FETE 2021 . . . .** It is hoped to hold a Rectory Fête on Saturday 10th July. With this in mind, and with many of us having spare time on our hands, and perhaps sorting out all those cupboards we haven't looked at for some time, we could put aside some items for the fête, such as bags, scarves, jewellery, and of course new items for the regifting stall. There is also the craft stall and I know many of you are knitting and making things. We could have a bumper craft stall. If anyone has more ideas for what we could do please do not hesitate to contact me on 275643. Sandra Keeping

**CHURCHYARD MOWING . . . .** The team did a grand job last year, despite lockdowns etc. We're hoping that they will feel able to do the same this

season - I regard it as socially distanced exercise - but as usual there have been departures for various reasons. We need new volunteers to join in, particularly from our newer and younger parishioners. The commitment is two periods of two hours each between March to October, and I look forward to hearing from anyone interested by the middle of February, when the rota will be sent out.

Malcolm Keeping [malcolm.twooaks@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.twooaks@btinternet.com) 01483 275643

### **JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR COFFEE AFTER 11AM SERVICE EACH WEEK . . . .**

Are you missing meeting up with friends over coffee after Church? After the success of last week's trial, we will be making it a regular feature to meet on Zoom when the 11am Service ends, for a chat and a catch up! The scheduled Zoom Meeting will be open from 11.45 onwards. **Meeting ID: 830 2040 3902 and the Passcode: 'Coffee'**

### **'CONGREGATIONAL COFFEE' ON THURSDAY MORNING EACH WEEK . . . .**

While we are not able to meet in person, you can meet members of the Ministry Team and other friends online (Zoom) over a cup of coffee each Thursday Morning at 10am. **Meeting ID: 819 9819 4645 and the Passcode: 'Thursday'**

**MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER . . . .** Members of the Ministry Team say Morning Prayer each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8am. In normal times we meet in Church, but during this lockdown we are meeting on Zoom. If anybody else would like to join us, the Zoom codes are: **Meeting ID: 546 358 461 Passcode: 'MP'**

**TRAI DCRAFT:** Sue Knight is offering Traidcraft goods for sale by appointment or would be willing to deliver to Cranleigh on receipt of an order. She will have catalogues or you can go on line at [traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk) to see the whole range and if she has to order it in, this usually takes about a week. You can pay for any orders by BACS or she will accept cheques. Call Sue on 275032 or 07950 025137.

## **KEEP IN TOUCH:**

**Rector - Revd Canon Roy Woodhams**

*(Day off: Monday)*

Tel: 01483 800655. Email: [roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Curate - Revd Tim Clifford Hill**

*(Day off: Monday)*

Tel: 01483 276267. Email: [tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:tim@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Part time Curate - Revd Rutton Viccajee**

*(Works Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)*

Tel: 01252 910212. Email: [rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:rutton@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Administrator - Nicola Craven-Smith**

*(Works Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30-2.30)*

Tel: 01483 273620. Email: [nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:nicola@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Young People's Minister - Gabrielle Clarke**

Tel: 07427 748408. Email: [gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](mailto:gabrielle@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

**Church Website:** [www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk](http://www.stnicolascranleigh.org.uk)

and on **Facebook**.