



Welcome to All Age Communion 29 January 2017 – The Presentation of Christ

A Note to Adults and Parents

Please take this service away and read through it afterwards.

To help adults and children to worship together at Holy Communion we are, on the fifth Sundays of the month, trying a simpler service. It is still fully and legally Anglican! It uses one of two new Eucharistic prayers that have been approved for use in addition to the original eight prayers A-H. It deliberately omits many of the optional liturgical texts. On the first and third Sundays of the month we are using the vestry for some children's teaching from the sermon until the administration of communion.

Often, by simplifying something, even those of us who are older learn something, so this is not a children's service but a service for all of us. I hope the notes will be of help to parents who are encouraged to sit with their children and help them take part in the service. We are also providing copies of 'My Communion Book', a simpler version of the service that parents can use with their children on all occasions.

During the year I hope that the PCC will give consideration to admitting baptised children to communion prior to confirmation. This had been agreed in principle under a previous vicar, and I think it appropriate to address it fully. If the PCC thinks it right, it will mean that children will be able to take a full part in our central act of worship, the Eucharist.

I welcome constructive feedback, positive or negative as to whether the changes we are trialling are helpful. We all share a commission to pass on our faith to the next generation, and we all have a part to play.

A Note to Children

Today is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. 'Feast' means it is a **BIG** celebration in the Church's year, like Christmas or Easter. Today we remember when Joseph and Mary took Jesus, as a baby, for a special blessing.

A theme in this service is 'light'. The Bible tells us 'Jesus is the light of the world'. Nicholas is offering a prize for any children who can give him the answers to these questions before next Sunday:

1. How many times is the word 'light' used in the service (the words we say) and in the hymns (the words we sing)?
2. Why do some people call this celebration 'Candlemas'?

¶ The Gathering

Hymn

Like a candle flame
flickering small in our darkness.
uncreated light
shines through infant eyes.

Men: God is with us, alleluia

Women: God is with us, alleluia

Men: Come to save us, alleluia

Women: Come to save us

All: Alleluia!

Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark
set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame
of his holy fire.

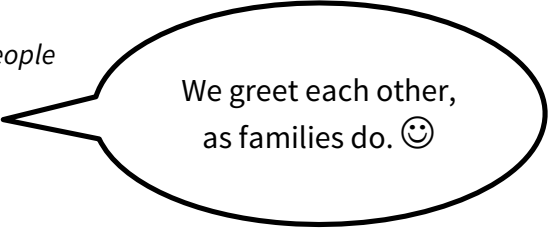
Graham Kendrick 1988 Make Way Music

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All: and also with you.



We greet each other,
as families do. 😊

cf. 1 Timothy 1:2

Words of introduction.

Prayer of Penitence

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

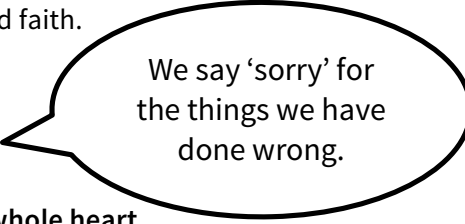
‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.’

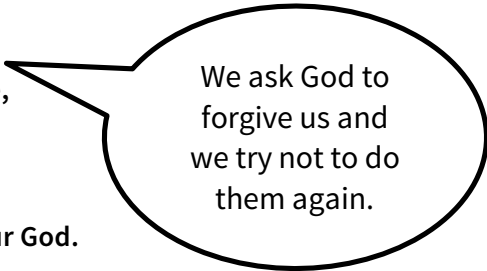
cf. John 8:2

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

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**



We say ‘sorry’ for
the things we have
done wrong.



We ask God to
forgive us and
we try not to do
them again.

cf. Micah 6:8

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer
with the words 'Let us pray'.*

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

All: Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn

Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!
watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

1981 Dudley-Smith, Timothy

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

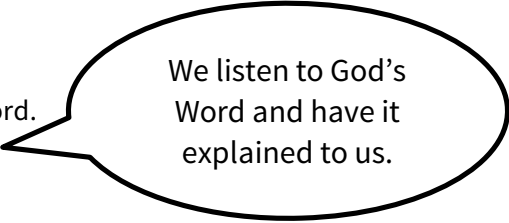
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



We listen to God's
Word and have it
explained to us.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

**All: 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

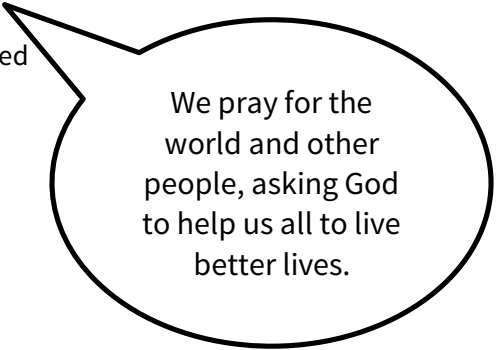
These responses may be used
Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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



We pray for the
world and other
people, asking God
to help us all to live
better lives.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

What can you see happening during this hymn?
If adults would like to bring the children to the front for a
better view please do. 😊

Hymn

Restore, O Lord,
the honour of your name,
in works of sov'reign power
come shake the earth again,
that all may see,
and come with rev'rent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
in all the earth your fame,
and in our time revive
the church that bears your name.
And in your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
where we are hard and cold,
in your refiner's fire:
come purify the gold.
Though suff'ring comes
and evil crouches near,
still our living God
is reigning, he is reigning here.

Repeat verse 1

Graham Kendrick/Chris Rolinson 1981 Thankyou Music

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

All: Holy, **Holy, Holy**

It is always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful,
holy and strong.

You made us
and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

All: Holy, **Holy, Holy**

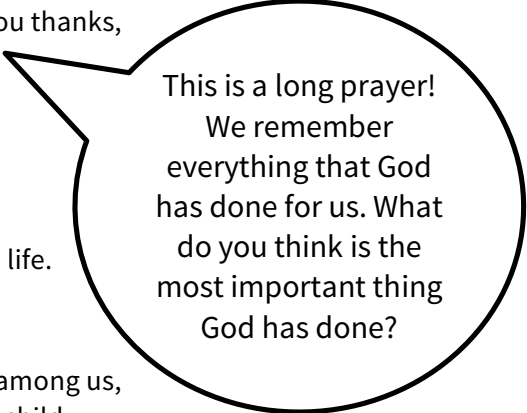
You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

All: Holy, **Holy, Holy**

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:



This is a long prayer!
We remember
everything that God
has done for us. What
do you think is the
most important thing
God has done?

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

All: Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

All: Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

All: Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

All: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

All: Amen, Amen, **Amen.**

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen, Amen, **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

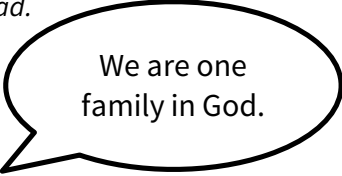
All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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



We are one
family in God.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All: Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



The president and people receive communion.

*Authorized words of distribution are used
and the communicant replies:
Amen.*

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.

All: Amen.

¶ The Dismissal

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.*

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.

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.

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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.

All: Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.



We go out to share God's love in
the world by what we do and say



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