



# THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 03 February, 2019

## PRESENTATION OF CHRIST AT THE TEMPLE

SUNG EUCHARIST

*Please use this service sheet in conjunction with the white service booklet*

### WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN

A very warm welcome to our services today.

Please join us for refreshments after the 10:30 service.

#### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 781

(*Everton*)

1. Son of God, eternal Saviour,  
source of life and truth and grace,  
Son of man, whose birth among us  
hallows all our human race,  
thou, our head, who, throned in glory,  
for thine own dost ever plead,  
fill us with thy love and pity,  
heal our wrongs, and help our need.
2. As thou, Lord, hast lived for others,  
so may we for others live;  
freely have thy gifts been granted,  
freely may thy servants give.  
Thine the gold and thine the silver,  
thine the wealth of land and sea,  
we but stewards of thy bounty,  
held in solemn trust for thee.
3. Come, O Christ, and reign among us,  
King of love, and Prince of peace,  
hush the storm of strife and passion,  
bid its cruel discords cease;  
by thy patient years of toiling,  
by thy silent hours of pain,  
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,  
shame our selfish greed of gain.
4. Son of God, eternal Saviour,  
source of life and truth and grace,  
Son of man, whose birth among us  
hallows all our human race.  
Thou who prayedst, thou who willest  
that thy people should be one,  
grant, O grant our hope's fruition:  
here on earth thy will be done.

[Somerset Corry Lowry, 1855-1932]

#### THE COLLECT

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.

#### FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the Book of 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? 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.

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-18

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.

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN A&M 2 (Ratisbon)

1. Christ whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
sun of righteousness arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
dayspring from on high, be near,  
daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
3. 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.

[Charles Wesley, 1707-1788]

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Alleluia, alleluia. This 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 Luke.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 Phanel, 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 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.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 113

(*Lourdes*)

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day  
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,  
the child and his parents are left on their own.

(*cont'd.*)

*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

They go to the temple, obeying the law,  
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognise there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The old who have suffered and waited so long  
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,  
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

The candles invite us to praise and to pray  
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

[Elizabeth J. Cosnett, *b.* 1936]

COMMUNION MOTET

Let us light a Candle - Robert Willis

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 467

(*Carlisle*)

1. The Son of God proclaim,  
The Lord of time and space;  
The God who bade the light break forth  
Now shines in Jesus' face.

2. He, God's creative word,  
The church's Lord and head,  
Here bids us gather as His friends,  
And share His wine and bread.

3. The Lord of life and death  
With wondering praise we sing;  
We break the bread at His command,  
And name Him God and King.

4. We take this cup in hope:  
For He, who gladly bore  
The shameful cross, is ris'n again,  
And reigns forevermore.

[Basil Bridge, *b.* 1927]

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. Amen.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 396

(*Pastor Pastorum*)

*This hymn can be found in your service booklet*

## PERSHORE ABBEY & BENEFICE BULLETIN & DIARY 03 FEBRUARY 2019

As a Kingdom People we are a church that seeks to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording

Email: [vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk)

Wardens: Mr Bill Newman (01386 640497) Mrs Suzanne Clarke (01386 553293)

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham  
Alveston House, 11, Broad Street, Pershore, WR10 1BB (01386 552071)

Email: [office@pershoreabbey.org.uk](mailto:office@pershoreabbey.org.uk) Website: [www.pershoreabbey.org.uk](http://www.pershoreabbey.org.uk)

The Office is open for visitors on Monday - Friday between 1100 & 1300

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

All those who are celebrating their wedding within the Pershore Benefice, those who are being baptised, those who are in need and those who have recently died.

We also pray for those whose anniversary of death occurs today or in the coming week.

### NOTICES AND EVENTS

CHORAL EVENSONG TODAY, 03 FEBRUARY (Candlemas) 17:00 The choir will be singing: Preces and Responses: John Reading in A (d. 1692), Psalm 122, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: Samuel Arnold in A, ( 1740-1802), Anthem: When To The Temple Mary Went. Johannes Eccard (1553-1611) Congregational hymns. We welcome you to join us and support the choir in this ancient, contemplative and beautiful service which has its origins in the old Latin Services of Vespers and Compline. Our augmented choir enjoy singing this service with a variety of settings and responses on the first Sunday of each month and we would love to see you there. *Michael Pegg*

CONCERT AT THE ABBEY: The Mayor of Pershore's next charity concert is next Saturday, 9th February at the Abbey and features the acclaimed Flowers Brass Band. Tickets are available for £12 from the Town Hall, the Library and Blue and all proceeds from the event will go to the local Prostate Cancer Support Group.

EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY continues on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 on February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 8, Ashdale Avenue. Enquiries to Philip or Margaret.

PARISH SHARE 2019: Following the Fairer Share Scheme survey, which we undertook last summer, we have been informed by the diocese that our Parish Share will be £118,548. This is an increase of 2.7% on last year's Share, which is in line with the 2.7% increase in the overall Diocesan request. The Finance Committee will be looking to hold a stewardship event this year to help us prayerfully respond to this request and to look at how we can best respond to God's generous love for us with our time, talents and resources. *Claire*

BOOKSTALL: Many thanks to the welcomers and helpers on the bookstall. Due to illness, holidays, family commitments etc. we have some vacancies. Have you got 2 hours you could spare to welcome visitors and operate the bookstall? This needs to be a regular commitment but not necessarily weekly - perhaps once a month? With grateful thanks and looking forward to growing the team. Please contact Toni. *Toni Harris.*

MARCH HARE CHARITY QUIZ Saturday 16th March 19:00 for 19:30 at Birlingham Village Hall, Supporting the unit for Blind Children Mtandi Primary School, Tanzania. Teams of 4 - 6 cost £8pp to include a Fish & Chip\* supper, Bar and Raffle. For tickets please contact Steve Arbery \*A vegetarian and gluten free option will be available. Please inform me when booking. (The Friends of Masasi & Newala Charity No.1009963)

A FISH & CHIP SUPPER with quiz will take place on Saturday February 16th 18:45 - 19:00 at St Andrew's Centre. Tickets £8.00 available from Julie Newman. Soft drinks, tea and coffee provided or please bring your own. Teams of 4 or just come along and make up a team on the night.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CARERS Meet on the last Tuesday of each month at The Riverside Centre, Pershore. More information from Maureen Oliver.

SNOWDROPS & BULB TEAS AT BIRLINGHAM The snowdrops are already coming out in the churchyard at St James' Church, Birlingham WR10 3AB. "Bulb Teas" will be available in the Village Hall every weekend in February between 11:00 & 16:30. Midweek group visits can be arranged by contacting Caryl Mills.. The annual Bulb Sunday Service will be held on Sunday 17 February at 15:00 at St James'.

LENT 2019: Please make a note of the following services and events in your diaries:  
5th March Shrove Tuesday 13:00 start: Lunchtime pancakes and launch of Churches Together in Pershore Lent charity at St Andrew's Centre. Please note change of time for this event. 6th March Ash Wednesday: Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 0830 Abbey, 1100 Wick, 1930 Abbey. Please get your palm cross ready to bring to church to make the ash.

Lent groups: We are hoping to run an ecumenical course based on the BBC Broken series. Tuesdays 19:30-21:00 at Pershore Baptist Church, starts 5th March.

Thursday 13:30-15:00 at St Andrew's, starts 7th March.

Lent soup: This will be on Thursday lunchtimes at St Andrew's Centre. Please note change of venue and time from previous years.

More details will follow shortly. *Claire*

ROBIN STEPS DOWN: For many years Robin Hancox has been fulfilling the roll of Day Verger at the Abbey, which has meant doing all sorts of jobs that most people never see, although we would notice if they weren't being done! Robin is now stepping down from that role to focus on our work at St Andrew's. A huge thank you to Robin for all that he has done. We have been busily finding people who can take on the jobs that Robin has done so ably but we still need some help. If you think you can help with any of the following, please get in touch with me, Bill Newman or Suzanne Clarke. Training will be provided. Thanks, *Claire*.

Bill Newman would like someone to assist him with adjusting the various heating and lighting timers, putting the floodlights and heating on in the Abbey, and doing the fire alarm and lighting tests.

We need someone who is able to carry out minor repairs around the Abbey. This is someone who can potentially spot when something needs looking at but who can also respond to Churchwarden requests.

The fabric committee need someone who can make VAT Grant claims so that we can get any VAT back on the numerous repairs that take place.

PARISH COFFEE MORNING: Please come along to our next Parish Coffee Morning between 10:00 & 12:00 next Saturday, 9th February, at St Andrew's Centre. Invite your friends and neighbours. Open to all, everyone welcome.

ABBEY VOLUNTEERS' COFFEE MORNING: We will be holding a special coffee morning on Saturday 16th February to say "Thank you" to our many volunteers for their help at Pershore Abbey. Please drop in to St Andrew's Centre between 10:00 & 12:00 noon for coffee and cakes. Invitations will be sent by email (or via the letter rack). With over 180 people to contact, there's a chance that some could get lost! If you are a volunteer and don't hear by the end of January, please contact Sara Speed.

REIMAGINE CHURCH CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 9TH MARCH David and I have been to this conference in previous years and found it very good. This year the topics will be around: leadership, mission, inclusive evangelism, church growth and innovation. Key-note addresses by John Bell of Wild Goose Resource Group and others. 09:30 - 15:30 at Carrs Lane Conference Centre, opposite Moor St. station, Birmingham. This event is organised by the Methodist church but is open to all. Suggested donation of £5. We will be driving to a convenient station and getting the train in. If you would like to join us or would like further information, please contact us on *Helen Oldham*

A CHURCH SERVICE FOR ALL: Come-everything is ready. The invitation is for everyone to join the World day of Prayer. This year written by the women of Slovenia one of the smallest and youngest countries of Europe. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. The World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world. The service is on Friday March 1st at 14:30 at Pershore Baptist Church. *Hilary Roffey*

PERSHORE CTIP FOODBANK: Thank for donations since Christmas they are greatly appreciated. However we are currently short of washing powder (small boxes), washing up liquid and household cleaner/sprays. *Lynne Raymer*

## ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick, (St A) St Andrew's,  
(St A U) St Andrew's Upper Room (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore

### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TAKE PLACE EVERY MONDAY TO SATURDAY IN THE ABBEY

08:00 Silent Prayer                      08:30 Matins and Eucharist                      17:00 Evening Prayer

*Everyone is very welcome to attend these services*

### SERVICES AT THE ABBEY - SUNDAY 03 FEBRUARY CANDLEMAS

08:00            Eucharist  
10:30            Sung Eucharist with Candlemas procession  
17:00            Choral Evensong

#### Monday 4 February

09:15 Musical Explorers (St A)  
10:30 Bells (St A)  
14:00 Pershore U3A History Group (St A)  
18:30 Weight Watchers (St A)  
19:30 Bells (A)

#### Tuesday 5 February

11:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)  
14:00 Funeral of the late Mary Pannett (A & St A)  
18:30 Pershore Civic Society meeting (St A)

#### Wednesday 6 February

11:00 Communion at Wick  
11:30 Lunch Club - enquiries 554299 (St A)  
10:30 Site presentation with DAC (A)  
11:00 Eucharist (Heathlands)  
13:30 Pre-School Visit (A)  
14:30 Diocesan Evangelism Meeting (St A)  
16:00 Burial of Ashes of late Mary Pannett  
(A grounds)  
20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

#### Thursday 7 February

09:15 Weight Watchers (St A)  
09:30 Vicar & Wardens' Meeting (St A U)  
11:00 Eucharist (Ganderton Court)  
13:15 Art Club with Becca (St A U)  
14:15 Intercessory Prayer (A)  
19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

#### Friday 8 February

09:30 Babies and Toddlers (St A)  
11:00 Eucharist (A)  
13:00 CTIP Food Bank (St A)  
14:30 Organ Practice – MP (A)  
18:00 Choir Practice (A)

#### Saturday 9 February

10:00 Parish Coffee Morning (St A)  
10:00 Set up for concert (A)  
19:30 Mayors Charity Concert - Flowers Band (A)

#### Sunday 10 February

17:30 Youth Group led by Suzanne Clarke (St A)

### SERVICES AT THE ABBEY ON SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2019 FORTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

08:00 Eucharist  
10:15 Junior Church and Upper Room Group (St A)  
10:30 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church & Upper Room Group  
17:00 Service of Wholeness and Healing