

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (and Christingles)

Have you ever tried to explain a Christingle to someone? By the time you have told them that we stick cocktail sticks into an orange, they have often gone from astonishment to mild concern. The whole thing does sound slightly bonkers! Perhaps one of the reasons for the Christingle's enduring appeal is the simplicity of what it explains: the wonder of God's creation, our salvation brought by the death and resurrection of Christ, the generosity of God's provision and the enduring light of Christ. We can see and hold each part of the story (and enjoy eating parts of it too!).

We are familiar with the words of Simeon in today's Gospel reading that Jesus is the 'light for revelation to the Gentiles'. Jesus declares himself to be the light of the world (John 8.12). How do we understand this?

When we leave church today, I hope that we will take our Christingles with us. Perhaps it will be safest to extinguish the candles, but the image of the lit flame, dancing in each breath of air, will stay with us.

Remember that as a follower of Jesus, you are filled with the Holy Spirit; have courage that the Christ-light is shining through you to share with those you meet.

Rev Sarah



WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL

THURSDAY 3-5PM



Free refreshments in a warm space.

NEXT SUNDAY 05.02.2023 3rd Sunday before Lent

SERVICES: 10.30am Sung Eucharist in the Hall.

READINGS: OT Isaiah 58: 1-9a (b-12)
NT 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-16)



GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-20

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St Thomas, Exeter

29th January 2023

Candlemas

10.30am in the Hall

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist with Christingles

Hymn Numbers

321 Love divine, all loves excelling

448 Sing we of the blessed Mother

118 Faithful vigil ended

Hall committee meeting.

Wednesday 1st February

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 2nd February

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots.

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall.

Friday 3rd February

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.



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**

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 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.

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.

Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they 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 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.

Post Communion

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**

NOTICES

Knit and Natter. On Thursdays from 10.30am-12noon at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

House Group Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for Zoom details.

Our proposal is to stay in the Hall until Palm Sunday.

In the interests of safety we suggest that people should **not work alone in the Church.**

Food Fight (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

Simon James, social prescriber at St Thomas Medical Centre, is asking for volunteers on behalf of the **ExwickTwo's Company Befriending Service.** His telephone number is 01392 676638 For more information see

<https://linkinglives.uk/project/exwick/>

We need a volunteer urgently to be responsible for **Hall party and regular users bookings** from Easter onwards and someone to be responsible for a team opening and closing the Hall after parties. These roles can be combined or split We mostly operate this system through emails. If you are interested please see Ian for details. It is important that these roles are filled **as the Hall is a significant source of income for the Church.**

