

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE
TEMPLE**

Saint Peter's Brighton Beach



President:
Rev'd Jonathan Chamberlain
Vicar

Deacon and Preacher:
Rev'd Chester Lord
Assistant Priest

Organist:
Andrew Kerr

Cantor:
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**Sunday 12 February 2023
10AM
SUNG HOLY EUCHARIST**

THE EPIPHANY

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest.

(Christopher Wordsworth)

The arrangement of the Sundays of Epiphany in the Revised Common Lectionary deliberately draws out these aspects.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Please switch off all mobile phones

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING HYMN

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

2. He comes with help and mercy
To those who suffer wrong,
To raise the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong,
To give them songs for sighing
Their darkness turned to light,
Whose souls condemned to dying
Were precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth:
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.

4. Kings shall fall down before
Him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

5. O'er every foe victorious
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,

All-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His Name shall stand forever,
That name to us is Love.

The presiding priest greets all in the name of the Incarnate Lord

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The deacon says

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

The grace of God has dawned upon the world

through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.
Let us confess our sins.

Pause for reflection

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The presiding priest pronounces the Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself
and cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE KYRIE

The Kyrie is sung:

Lord, have mercy (*3).

*Christ, have mercy (*3).*

*Lord, have mercy (*3).*

THE GLORIA

The Gloria is sung:

**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 OF THE DAY

The presiding priest introduces the Collect

Let us pray that the love of God will be a light to the world. We pray the prayer of the day together:

Silence is kept

**Almighty and everliving God,
we humbly pray that,
as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple,
so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus
Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

please sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

3.1-4

Thus says the Lord, 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.

For the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God.

PSALM 24

Please repeat response after cantor, then sing as indicated

Response

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it:
the world, and those who live in it.

- ² For he has founded it on the seas:
and established it on the rivers. **Response**
- ³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?:
And who shall stand in his holy place?
- ⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts:
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
- ⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD:
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
- ⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him:
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **Response**
- ⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors:
that the King of glory may come in.
- ⁸ Who is the King of glory?:
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle. **Response**
- ⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors:
that the King of glory may come in.
- ¹⁰ Who is this King of glory?:
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory. **Response**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

2.14-18

Since God's 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Luke

2.22-40

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus 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 favor of God was upon him.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Rev'd Chester Lord

Anthem

THE CREED

The Nicene Creed is said, introduced by the deacon

Let us stand and together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

please kneel or sit

The deacon says

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

After each prayer

...Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere

the spirit of adoration ...

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:

Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds...

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become

the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:

Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:

Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,

and all who suffer ...

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:

Father, protect in your love our neighbours,

our families and this community of which we are a part ...

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship

with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,

the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph

and all the faithful departed.

In your unfailing love for us and for all people,

hear and answer our prayers through your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Peace

The presiding priest says

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with those around you

During the hymn a collection is taken up

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food;
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
the world sees her oppressed;
by schisms rent asunder
by heresies distressed:
yet saints their watch are keeping,

their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore:
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed;
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest!

5 Yet she on earth has union
with God the Three-in-One;
and mystic, sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, grant to us the grace,
like them, the meek and lowly,
in heaven to seek your face.

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 was revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel,
that all peoples might find him,
the light of the world.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations,
while Anna spoke of him
to all who looked for your 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

... in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The priest says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

The presiding priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The Agnus Dei is sung.

The presiding priest says

The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith
with thanksgiving.

All who are baptised, of all Christian denominations, are welcome to receive Holy Communion here at Saint Peter's. This includes children from the age of 6 at the discretion of their parents. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this to the priest, by the crossing of the arms on the chest.

Communion motet.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding priest says

please stand

Let us pray.

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh,
that, as his body in the world,
we may bring your presence to all people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Father,
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen.

Announcements.

DISMISSAL HYMN

1. Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
Feed me now and evermore;
Feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing waters flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

The presiding priest pronounces the Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May God the Father,

who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives
with his joy and peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.