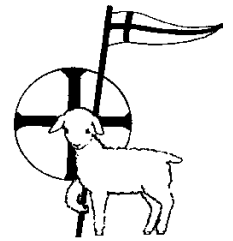


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 31st January

The Presentation



Rembrandt van Rijn
Simeon with the Infant Christ Child in the Temple, 1669
Nationalmuseum, Stockholm

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas. The significance of candles as a celebration at this service was brought to me vividly when I was living in Wells, Somerset and working as school chaplain to the Cathedral School. We would all gather in the beautiful nave of the cathedral, in darkness, holding candles that would be lit and blessed. The choristers would lead then us in this candlelit procession to the Quire singing the Nunc Dimittis, the words of Simeon, commemorating Christ's entrance to the Temple. Here we would continue the service with the Eucharist. In this painting by Rembrandt, we see an image of Simeon as an old man, witnessing the Christ child with awe and reverence. This is the child he and Anna, the widow, have been awaiting with longing for the redemption of Israel. We too know something of longing and hope for better days.

Here are the words of introduction to our service today:

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

With my prayers this Candlemas for you all. *Juliette*

Today's Service – online via Zoom

9.30am Parish Communion

President: The Revd Mark Hayter

Preacher: The Revd Dr Graham Southgate

Music: Stuart and Heather Robinson

Hymns: King of Glory King of peace; A man there lived in Galilee; We hail thy presence glorious

Next Sunday, 7th February

9.30am Parish Communion

President: The Revd Joanna Naish

The Second Sunday before Lent

Online via Zoom

Preacher: The Revd Juliette Hulme

Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31; John 1.1-14

Services online

Holy Communion (Common Worship) is streamed live via Zoom on Sundays at 9.30am and on Wednesdays at 10.00am, and on Fridays at 8.00am (BCP) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84966332040> Password: 039012

The daily Office is streamed via Zoom Monday to Friday – full details on the website.

In Memoriam

We give thanks for the life of Jenny Malet, who died in hospital earlier this month, and of Hugh Barstow, former resident of Albany House. Please pray for their families and friends in this time of loss.

Church open for private prayer

Although currently closed for public worship, the church remains open for private prayer and contemplation daily between approx. 9.00am and 4.00pm.

The Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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.

The Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

The Gospel: 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.

For your prayers

Please pray that the Coronavirus vaccination programme will be successful in stemming the spread of the virus, for all who are suffering in any way as a result of the virus, and for those who are anxious or lonely. Please pray for all frontline workers at this difficult time.

In our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray this week for the schools run by the Anglican church in the Diocese, for the pupils and their teachers, and for adequate resources.

Advent boxes

Thank you to those of you who took Advent Boxes in aid of Safe Passage UK. We'd like to send the money to her charity very soon, so if you still have yours, please contact Judy (Parish Administrator) to arrange collection.

Coffee Time!

Coffee Time continues on Zoom on Fridays starting at 10.00 am. All welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81306923058?pwd=U2VBWDhodkppZDKrdEhuUEc0aFpYdz09> Passcode: 567559
or phone 0203 481 5237 Meeting ID: 813 0692 3058 Passcode: 567559

If you need support

As always, the Revd Juliette Hulme (Parish Priest) is available to give pastoral and spiritual support (see over)

Tisbury Neighbourhood Response is providing an emergency service for people shielding who have no local support network, or who may be falling through the net due to mental health issues, and need urgent assistance with essential shopping, keeping warm or coping with loneliness and anxiety. The TNR helpline is 01747 684010.

Useful phone numbers with trained listeners (calls to these numbers are free):

The Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Silverline (age 55+) 0800 4 70 80 90

Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 01225 775276 [weekends and out of hours 01793 610610]

Giving to the church

Thank you very much to those who continue to give regularly to the church. If you haven't committed to regular giving, why not consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme or setting up a standing order? Details from Paul Naish, email sjtgiftaid@gmail.com tel 01747 870731 mob 07587 072900. Cheques payable to Tisbury PCC.