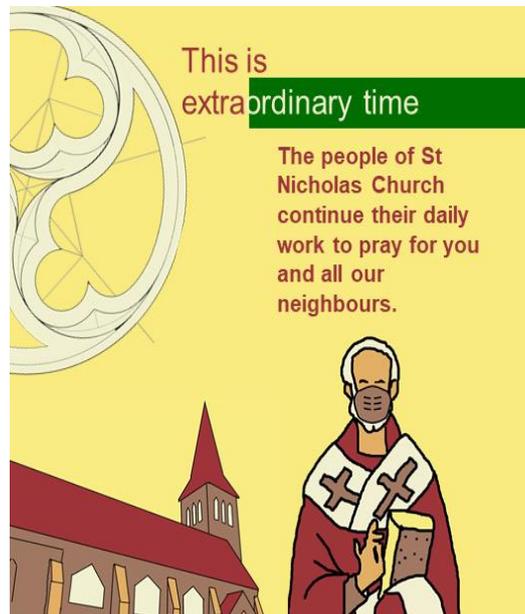


Worship at St. Nicholas, Sutton
for Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas), 31 January 2021
Collect, hymns & readings



Collect (prayer of the week)

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.**

Hymns

Opening *King of glory, King of peace*
Gradual *We hail thy presence glorious*
Faithful vigil ended

Readings

Malachi 3.1-5 *The Coming Messenger*

3See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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.* ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ 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 *Exaltation through Abasement*

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore 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. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40 *Jesus Is Presented in the Temple, The Return to Nazareth*

²² 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 ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.* ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon* took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant* in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Praying as a milestone is passed

The UK tragically passed 100,000 COVID-19 deaths on Tuesday 26 January. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected and grieving.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued an open letter to the nation. They are calling on the nation to come together to pray from **1 February at 6pm**. Here is a link to the statement: <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/coronavirus-archbishops-invite-nation-pause-pray-and-remember>

The Dean of Southwark, the Very Revd Andrew Nunn has provided a prayer:

'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'
'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal.'
(Revelation 7.13, 14)

God of love,
who hold us in life as in death,
as we commend each one of those who have died
to your eternal and tender care
comfort all who grieve,
hold us in our sorrow
and give us that sense of hope
which brings us all
to resurrection life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I encourage you to make a habit of daily prayer, whether *A Way of Daily Prayer* (attached, or on website under Useful Information-Service Sheets); Common Worship *Daily Prayer* <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>; or *Book of Common Prayer*.

Bible readings for Morning and Evening Prayer:

Sunday 31 January, Presentation (Candlemas)

MP Exodus 13.1-16, Romans 12.1-5

EP Haggai 2.1-9, John 2.18-22

Monday 1 February (Ordinary Time begins today)

MP Hosea 9, 1 Corinthians 12.12-end

EP Genesis 18.1-15, Matthew 27.11-26

Tuesday 2 February

MP Hosea 10, 1 Corinthians 13

EP Genesis 18.16-end, Matthew 27.27-44

Wednesday 3 February *Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865*

MP Hosea 11.1-11, 1 Corinthians 14.1-19

EP Genesis 19.1-3, 12-29, Matthew 27.45-56

Thursday 4 February

MP Hosea 11.12-end of 12, 1 Corinthians 14.20-end

EP Genesis 21.1-21, Matthew 27.57-end

Friday 5 February

MP Hosea 13.1-14, 1 Corinthians 16.1-9

EP Genesis 22.1-19, Matthew 28.1-15

Saturday 6 February

MP Hosea 14, 1 Corinthians 16.10-end

EP Genesis 23, Matthew 28.16-end