



**Richmond
Team Ministry**



Sung Eucharist

11:00am

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
'Candlemas'
1 February 2026**

*Team Vicar: The Rev'd Joe Moore
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Churchwardens: Mary Ricketts & Fiona Morgan
Director of Music: Gina Kruger*

**The Church of St John the Divine
Richmond Team Ministry
St John the Divine • St Matthias • St Mary Magdalene**

**RTM Parish Office
020 8940 0362
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WELCOME to St John's this morning on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas!



The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas, draws the season of Christmas to its quiet, prayerful close. Forty days after his birth, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, faithful to the law and trusting in the promises of God. What seems an ordinary act of obedience becomes a moment of revelation. In the child carried into the Temple, God's light enters the heart of the world.

Simeon and Anna, elderly, patient, and attentive, recognise what others might miss. They see in this child the fulfilment of hope long carried, the consolation of Israel, the light to enlighten the nations. Candlemas is therefore a feast of meeting: heaven and earth, old and new, promise and fulfilment, light and shadow. It is also a feast that does not shy away from cost. Simeon speaks not only of glory but of sorrow, of a sword that will pierce Mary's heart.

As we bless candles today, we celebrate Christ as the light who comes among us-not to dazzle or overwhelm, but to dwell, to illuminate our waiting, and to lead us onward. Candlemas invites us to carry that light into the unfolding year, trusting that God is still faithful to what has been promised.

***This act of worship is livestreamed on our Facebook page,
please do 'follow' us on Facebook:
St John the Divine, Richmond Team Ministry.***

Follow us on Instagram: stjohnsrichmondtw9

The clergy in the Richmond Team Ministry are always happy to meet for pastoral conversations about faith or to offer spiritual counsel. If you would like to speak with a member of the clergy, do be in touch directly or through the RTM Parish Office.

Prelude

Mary's Song Alec Rowly

Please stand to sing the **Introit Hymn** when the bell rings.

I 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 succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and 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 bow 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 for ever,
his changeless name of love.

JAMES MONTGOMERY (1771–1854)

based on Psalm 72

A&M 99

The Gathering

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

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

A welcome is given by the presiding priest.

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.

The Penitential Act

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.' Let us therefore bring our sins into his redeeming light and confess them in penitence and faith:

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Refrain

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. Refrain

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. Refrain

The Collect

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

Silence is kept.

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 Liturgy of the Word

Please sit for the readings and the psalm.

First Reading

A reading from the prophecy of 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24. 7-10

The Psalm appointed for the day is led by the choir, and the congregation are invited to join in with the sung Response.

Response: The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

8 'Who is the King of glory?'
'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

10 'Who is this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.'

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews(2.14-end).

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand to sing the **Gradual Hymn**

**I 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)

A&M 2

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
A seasonal sentence is sung.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2.22-40).

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit.

The Creed

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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Kneel to pray.

Lord, in your mercy or: Lord, hear us.

Hear our prayer or Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. The peace of Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*We greet each other with a sign of peace, and then sing the **Offertory Hymn***

**I O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldest reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**4 These, though we bring them in
trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is
dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of
tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for
our fear.**

**5 O worship the Lord in the beauty
of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory
proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense
of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his
name.**

J.S. BEWLEY MONSELL (1811–1875) A&M 103

We would love you to give financially to the life and work of the Richmond Team Ministry, please scan the QR Code below with your smart device. There are also card readers and cash plate at the back of church. Thank you!



Preparation of the Altar

The Offertory

The Altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of **them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. You celebrated your new gift of baptism in signs and wonders at the Jordan. Your voice was heard from heaven to awaken faith in the presence among us of your Word made flesh. Your Spirit was seen as a dove, revealing Jesus as your servant, and anointing him with the oil of gladness to preach the good news to the poor. Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

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 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 searches the hearts of all your people and brings to light the image of your splendour. 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.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

The Great Amen is sung.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Giving of Communion

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Agnes Dei

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

The Church of England welcomes baptised members of all Christian traditions to receive Communion. If it is your usual practice to receive Communion, you are very welcome to do so here. Everyone is invited to come to the altar rail for a blessing if you do not wish to receive Communion. If you would like to know more about Baptism or Confirmation, please do speak to the clergy.

During the distribution of Holy Communion the choir sing:

When to the Temple Mary went Robert Cockcroft

Prayer after Holy Communion

We say together:

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.

The Notices

Information about our life together is shared.

The Dismissal

Post Communion Hymn & Candlemas Procession

During the singing of this hymn candles are lit and the choir and altar party move to the Font. The congregation turn to the Font.

I Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Christ, be our light!

**Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

**Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.**

Make us your living voice.

**3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

**Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to
belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**
BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957)

The president blesses the lit candles and a selection of those which are to be used throughout the year, saying:

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis, the Song of Simeon, is sung.

Father; here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.
**Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.
**Help us who have received the bread
of life, to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.

Here we have greeted the light of the world. **Help us, who bear these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

Here we stand near the place of baptism. **Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion. **Help us, for whom Lent is drawing near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name. **Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.**

The Blessing

**The Lord be with you
And also with you.**

Christ, whose glory fills this place with the light of his love, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fugue on the Magnificat J.S.Bach

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN FOR REFRESHMENTS AFTER OUR WORSHIP!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

2.30 pm

The Barn Church
St Philip & All Saints
41 Atwood Avenue
Kew TW9 4HF

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LENT BEGINS WENESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY!

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on 18th February**, and we warmly encourage everyone to mark the start of the season as we turn again towards God in prayer, reflection, and hope. There will three opportunities to receive the impositions of ashes:

Outside Richmond Station 7:30am-8:15am – Rev'd Joe will offer 'Ashes to Go' to those on their way to work and passers by.

Said Eucharist with Ashing at St Mary Magdalene 10am – Rev'd Dr Hannah Swithinbank, Assistant Curate in the Kew Benefice, will lead this reflective service.

Team Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene at 7:30pm – A Team act of worship to begin Lent at which Rev'd Anne will preside and Rev'd Joe will offer a reflection.

LENT BOOK AND LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS 2026

As we look ahead to Lent 2026, we are delighted to commend our parish Lent Book for the coming year: 'Easter in Disguise', published by Bloomsbury, by Liz Dodd.

Liz Dodd is a well-known Christian writer, retreat leader, and spiritual director, with a particular gift for helping us notice God at work in the ordinary, the overlooked, and the quietly transformative moments of life. She has written widely on prayer, discipleship, and the rhythms of the Christian year, and her writing is marked by warmth, theological depth, and a gentle attentiveness to lived experience.

In 'Easter in Disguise', Liz invites us to approach Lent not simply as a journey towards Easter, but as a season in which resurrection life is already breaking through—often in unexpected and disguised ways. Through scripture, reflection, and prayer, the book explores themes of hope, transformation, loss, and renewal, encouraging us to look closely at our own lives and communities for signs of God's redeeming work. It is reflective without being heavy, honest without being bleak, and deeply rooted in the promise that new life is always nearer than we think.

To accompany this book, we will be offering two Lent Groups:

- Rev'd Anne will lead a daytime Lent Group on Mondays at 10.00am at St Matthias, beginning on Monday 23rd February.
- Rev'd Joe will lead an evening Lent Group on Tuesdays at 7.45pm at St John's, beginning on Tuesday 17th February.

Both groups will run for six weeks and will be open to all. If you are planning to come along, please do email us to let us know:

- Rev'd Anne: anne.crawford@richmondtteamministry.org
- Rev'd Joe: joe.moore@richmondtteamministry.org

We also encourage everyone to get hold of a copy of 'Easter in Disguise' in advance - available from bookshops and online - so that you can make the most of the reflections and discussions throughout the season.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 6:30pm

For 20 minutes

richmondteamministry.org



Said Eucharist

at 7pm on Tuesdays

All are welcome!

richmondtteamministry.org

COME BACK TO ME

A Journey of Return for Lent

Inspired by the prophet Hosea

“Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God.”

— Hosea 14.1 —



SUNDAYS IN LENT

Lent 1 — Sunday 22 February 2026

When You Come Back Hungry

Lent 2 — Sunday 1 March 2026

When You Come Back Afraid

Lent 3 — Sunday 8 March 2026

When You Come Back Thirsty

Lent 4 — Sunday 15 March 2026

When You Come Back Able to See

Lent 5 — Sunday 22 March 2026

When You Come Back Broken

Palm Sunday — Sunday 29 March 2026

When You Finally Come Back

— ST JOHN THE DIVINE, RICHMOND —

A sermon series at the 11am Sung Eucharist

All are welcome