



28th January 2024
 Presentation of Christ in
 the Temple: Candlemas

St James' Church
 www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297
Off duty: Tuesday – Friday

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 Charity register number: 1128877

A Walk in the Sunshine

Our car park is small, but space is available at Mount Pleasant Health Centre for those who can walk a little. Unless you are unable to walk or you are bringing someone who has limited mobility, please do not park in the church car park on Sunday mornings.



This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am
 Online: Mon, Wed
 In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 29th January Mark 5: 1 – 20
 11.00 am Funeral of Charlie Sandercock
 7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 30th January Mark 5: 21 – 43

Wed 31st January Mark 6: 1 – 6a
 12.00 noon Holy Communion

Thu 1st February Mark 6: 7 – 13
 7.30 pm Fr Brian's house group

Fri 2nd February Mark 6: 14 – 29
 2.00 pm Craft group

Sat 3rd February Mark 6: 30 – 34
 10.00 am Baptism rehearsal

Next Sunday: 4th February

2nd Sunday Before Lent Luke 2: 22 – 40
 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.00 am Parish Eucharist
 4.00 pm Celebrate Together

TODAY

4.00 pm Annual homelessness service, St Petrock's

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

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.

10.00 am Music

Entrance hymn 117 **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**
Offertory hymn 373 **Lead Us, Heav'nly Father, Lead Us**
Recessional hymn 416 **Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining**

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-5

Thus says the Lord God: 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.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since the 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.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph 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 Phaniel, 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.